

Outgoing president report: September 2014 – September 2016

Patrick T. Katabua
African Real Estate Society (AfRES)

Just as the previous year, this past year has been a time of continued growth and success for our organization. When I took over from Dr Moses Kusiluka in 2014, the Society had just passed a new constitution and appointed several new officers. We all owe much gratitude to former presidents Victor Akujuru, Akin Olawore, Prof Francois Viruly, all whom have been actively involved with the society. Without their enthusiasm and hard work, our organization simply would not function. A big thank you to Prof Karl Werner Schulte for his continuous generosity and participation in advancing and promoting AfRES. Many thanks also to the other members of the AfRES board for their wisdom and generous support during the past two years.

Our journal, *Journal for African Real Estate Research* continues to be in high demand, thanks to the ingenuity and industry of former Editor Prof Samuel Azasu, and current Editor Dr Komu, as well as the entire editing committee.

One goal for the past two years was to continue the excellent administrative work done over the last several years. We have made a number of important decisions in the Executive Committee. During the past year, AfRES has moved from being a generic “club of practitioners and academics”, to a non profit organization with registration being finalized in the next couple of weeks. This classification better fits our profile. There are no disadvantages to this transition financially or from an organizational point of view. In the contrary, it is to our advantage as it gives us a more professional corporate identity.

One ongoing and serious issue of concern is the Society’s financial viability, considering that the cost of our annual meetings have risen sharply and will likely continue to go up. There could thus be a need to review the membership fees, its amount and how it is collected. Overall, our dues are still much lower than the ones of comparable professional associations, and long-term survival of our organization depends on successfully addressing these financial issues.

I am very pleased to announce that, the youth league is fully operational and jam-packed with innovative ideas. This will ensure that there is a continuous succession plan for this valuable society.

As always, it is the AfRES Vice President who takes on the role of President for the following year, with the first responsibility of the year being the organization of the Annual Meeting. Vice President Emmanuel Martey worked tirelessly to put together last year’s conference in Kumasi from the other side of Africa.

I gladly report that we held a well-attended 2014 Confernece in Capetown and a well attended conference in Kumasi in 2015.

More good news. Among several interesting proposals for the 2017 conference, the Executive Committee selected Johannesburg as the host of 2017 conference, after a nine year absence. The due date for the submission of abstracts is approaching and will be communicated via email and website.

Another way to promote AfRES and improve the visibility of our organization are the continued activities of our Chapters. Many thanks to each chapter heads for their ongoing support. We are always on the lookout for new representatives to promote AfRES and connect AfRES with other regional, national, and international organizations.

Another goal for the ongoing year was to continue to improve the organization's communication with its members. I hope that you were satisfied with the 2-3 newsletters that we had over the few months. I thank EA Vishesh for his timely and continuous reminders regarding the newsletters.

A last goal during the past year has been to continue the work of including and supporting our youthful members and female contingency. These have been well represented through board membership, and future AfRES influencer.

I am very pleased to report that despite the medical conditions and power disruptions, Sisay and his team have managed to book us a world class, historic, majestic and remarkable venue for this conference. Planning for the Johannesburg conference are under way, and Prof Aly, Dr Kola will be presenting a couple of slides during our AGM.

And there is more. The presence of IREBS, RICS ensures that we entrench our relationships with fellow societies and share best practices

I pledge my support to the new AfRES leadership and the Executive Committee, who will continue to plan to work on a variety of important issues during the coming years, including the above-mentioned financial concerns, maintaining our corporate identity through a professional website and the ongoing awareness of our Society. I invite all of you to participate in this search and to forward any ideas and suggestions you might have. Please know that your input is valued and appreciated.

In closing, please welcome our incoming AfRES officers: President Emmanuel Martey and Vice President to be confirmed by East African Chapter. Emmanuel has already been very active behind the scenes. We wish all of them good luck. Keep calm and carry on!

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Katabua