

## **Report on Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty, Washington DC, March 25-29, 2019**

**By Christopher Mulenga, University of Lusaka, Zambia**

The 2019 annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty themed **Catalyzing Innovation** was held on the 25– 29 March 2019 at the World Bank headquarters in Washington DC, USA. The conference presents latest innovative fit for purpose land administration tools, research and practice on the diversity of land reforms, and other interventions in the land sector around the world. The conference was attended by 1,500 participants from government ministries around the world, academia, civil society and the private sector.

The Network of Excellence for Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) project in conjunction with the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) sponsored the trip and all expenses were paid for. The people sponsored by NELGA/ NUST Node to attend this conference were Mr. Charl-Thom Bayer, Former NUST Head of Land and Property Sciences Department, Ms Ase Christensen (Lecturer at NUST), Mr. Sam Mwando Lecturer from the department of Land and Property Sciences (DLPS) at NUST, Dr Romie Nghitevelekwa from University of Namibia, Dr Anthony Mushingwe from Copperbelt University in Zambia and Christopher Mulenga from University of Lusaka, Zambia. The above-mentioned participant's either chaired a session or presented papers and/or posters as follows:

**Mr. Charl-Thom Bayer** chaired a session on 28th March 2019 from 10:30 to 12:00 hrs under the theme "CAPACITY BUILDING: LESSONS FROM EXPERIENCE".

**Dr Romie Nghitevelekwa** – Presented a paper on Wednesday 27th March 2019 entitled "**Urban Expansion and the emergence of informal land markets in Namibia's communal areas**". This was presented under the theme "OVERLAPPING JURISDICTIONS AT THE PERI-URBAN FRINGE".

**Dr Anthony Mushingwe** – Presented a poster entitled "**Land Invasion and Urban Development in Zambian Cities: Form, Causes, Effects and Possible Solutions**". This poster was presented under the theme "LAND POLICY AND POLITICAL ECONOMY"

**Ms Ase Christensen** – Presented a poster entitled "**Land Governance in Namibia: Challenges and Opportunities**". This poster was presented under the theme "LAND POLICY AND POLITICAL ECONOMY"

**Mr Sam Mwando** – Presented a paper on Wednesday 27th March 2019 entitled "**An exploratory sequential mixed methods approach to understanding the correlation of land use regulations on residential property values in Windhoek, Namibia**". This was presented under the theme "PROVIDING POLICY ADVICE THROUGH APPLIED RESEARCH"

**Mr Christopher Mulenga** – Presented a paper on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 entitled "**Rural Land Use Planning: The Integration of Shared Resources Mapping for Improved Communal Tenure Security – Experiences from Zambia**". This was presented under the theme CAN PARTICIPATORY LAND USE PLANNING HELP SECURE TENURE? Mr Mulenga also had a rare privilege of been appointed to chair this session as the one who was supposed to chair never showed up. The session chaired by Christopher highlighted pertinent issues on the engagement of the local communities in both land use planning and land governance projects if tangible progress and results are to be achieved.

**Mr Christopher Mulenga** – Presented a poster entitled "**The Dichotomy of Tenure Arrangements and Its effects on Land Acquisition and Compensation: Evidence from Zambia**". This poster was

presented under the theme “LARGE SCALE LAND ACQUISITION: AGRICULTURE, EXTRACTIVES, INFRASTRUCTURE”.

**Ms Menare Royal Mabakeng** – presented a paper on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 entitled: **“Information is power only if used for-Improving Tenure security in informal using participatory data collection: The case of Informal settlements in Gobabis Namibia”**. This poster was presented under the theme “BUILDING CROWD-SOURCED DATA INTO FORMAL SYSTEMS”

We are so grateful to both NUST and the NELGA project for according us such a rare opportunity to attend and participate in this important and world class conference. This conference provided us a good platform for networking with other professionals and academia staff from across the globe. The World Bank conference gave us an opportunity for joint research opportunities, exchange programs, updates on any upcoming conferences in other parts of the world, for instance the upcoming third conference on **Land Policy in Africa (CLPA-2019) to be held in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire from 4th to 8th November 2019**.

The plenary sessions were very interactive especially during the question and answer sessions where most of the attendees were very active. The topics presented by the team sponsored by NELGA/NUST received a lot of participation and the attendance was awesome to a point where some participants had to stand due to lack of space as some conference rooms were filled to capacity.

The poster presentations also provided an avenue of interaction in an informal setting with the people interested in a particular poster.

#### **Lessons Learnt in this Conference**

The conference brought out a lot of trajectories in terms of presentations and the wide knowledge of topics presented. I learnt a lot from this conference and my capacity to do research at international level has tremendously increased because of such exposure. Due to such exposure am now geared to share what I learnt in this conference with both my students and colleagues at University of Lusaka (UNILUS) in Zambia. This will help us develop the passion for doing research work and help our University to embrace new avenues of teaching and carrying out research. The overall organization of the conference is worth replicating at our University as we aim to have international recognition.



From Right to Left: Mr Sam Mwando, Dr Romie Nghitevelekwa, Dr Anthony Mushingi and Mr Christopher Mulenga on Opening Day of the Conference



Photo 2: With Dr Edward Chikhwenda from Malawi plenary session



Photo 3: Mr Chris Mulenga during



Photo 4: With Other NELGA/ADLAND/Professional Participants including Professor Michael Kirk, Dr Pamela Duran