

Chinese fund to build 20,000 houses for Civil and Public servants in Kenya

Nairobi Sept 26.

By Olem Edward

Housing sector received a boost following the decision by China Africa Development Fund (CADFund) in conjunction with China Civil Engineering Construction Company and Suraya Property Group limited to build 20,000 houses for Civil Servants, Public Servants and Social housing.

The Fund entered into a memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Kenya during the official launch of China Africa Development Fund Regional offices for Eastern Africa in Nairobi.

The agreement which is also set to benefit the police was signed in the presence His Excellency Mr Liu Xianfa, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Mr Chi Jianxin, Chairman of the China Africa Development Fund and the Cabinet Secretary for the National Treasury Mr. Henry Rotich.

Addressing the occasion, the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development Mr. James Macharia hailed the event as an affirmation of strong cooperation between The People's Republic of China the Kenya Government.

He said that Kenya had witnessed more and more investment from China, and especially from the year 2006 during the Beijing summit when the Government of the People's Republic of China

pledged more investment and greater cooperation with the continent of Africa.

“I can hereby say without fear of contradiction that today, China is the largest single trading partner of Sub-Saharan African countries and that my Ministry is one of the few ministries which have immensely benefitted in terms of project funding and technical assistance from this cooperation”, said he.

The Cabinet Secretary enumerated projects such as the Standard Gauge Railway, The Thika Super Highway, and, three World Bank Funded programmes in the Kenya Informal Settlements projects in Eldoret and Mombasa as some of the projects made possible with assistance from China.

He remarked that a survey undertaken in 2013 indicated that Kenya required nearly 200,000 new housing units annually, as opposed to the current number of 50,000 houses being developed.

He called upon investors to make use many available opportunities in Slum Upgrading programmes, Provision of Social Housing, Mixed Use Development Projects, Provision of Housing for the Disciplined Forces and Provision of Housing for the Civil Servants where the Private Sector can engage with the Government through Public Private Partnership and Joint Venture Contractual Arrangements.

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