



2019 CONFERENCE ON
LAND POLICY IN AFRICA

LAND POLICY CONFERENCE

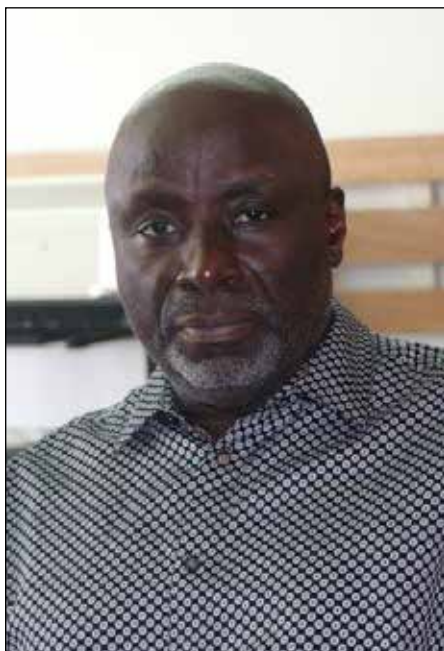
Bulletin

#CLPA2019

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Winning the fight against Corruption in the Land Sector: Sustainable Pathway for Africa's Transformation

Ali Mufuruki: Optimization and innovative use of land crucial for Africa's economic transformation



Ali Mufuruki, CEO Infotech Investment Group LTD, Tanzania

Africa needs to rethink how it uses its land resources to ensure there is optimization and innovative use which will help spur the economic transformation of the continent, says Ali Mufuruki, Chairman and CEO of Infotech Investment Group LTD of Tanzania.

"..too much has been invested in trying to correct historical wrongs and dislocations that occurred because of violence, climate, and accidents over the year. In our efforts for restitution we seem to have thought that the solution to our problems is parcelling out land to individuals because naturally human beings like to accumulate, and the bigger the better," said Mr. Mufuruki.

"Subdividing land to a billion people may not be useful as not everyone who wants land has the ability to turn it around economically. Some people just need housing. With the new distributive elite within

our countries, land has become nothing more than just an instrument of political and social control," said Mr. Mufuruki.

He said Africa has overlooked the fact that there is more to land 'than having a piece of paper saying you own the land'.

"How can we be land rich and still be poor. Is land distracting us from addressing the real issues," he asked, adding the problem of land corruption would not be solved by giving land titles to the people only.

The African Land Policy Centre stresses the importance of documenting all bundles of land rights on land parcel to secure the rights of those that have a claim on the land. These rights include ownership, land resources, shelter etc. The documentation argument extends to communal lands and goes a long way towards preserving the rights of women.

Credit Mufuruki

With better land governance, Africa can stop spending \$35 billion annually on food importations

As a rich continent with vast agricultural and land resources, Africa should be able to feed all her people without any problems, Benjamin Laag, Counsellor for Economic Cooperation at the German Embassy in Abidjan, said in remarks at the ongoing 2019 Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA2019).

Laag said due to technological improvements in agriculture, as well as in geospatial sciences and other relevant land sectors, the tools were available to implement policies to ensure fair and sustainable land policies are enacted and implemented in every country on the continent. He stressed that with good land governance, as well as effective land adminis-

tration and sustainable land management for the African continent which spends over US\$35 billion annually importing food from the West.

He indicated that the German government has supported Africa's efforts to address land corruption in its bilateral and global programs on land and has also supported transparency initiatives such as the Land Matrix and Land Portal, as well as financing Transparency International's program on Land and Corruption in Africa.

"We need African solutions to African challenges. And in this regard, Germany appreciates the huge effort that the AU is making through the African Land Policy Center and other AU institutions, to pro-

mote and implement the AU agenda on land," he said.



Benjamin Laag, German Embassy, Abidjan

ECA, AUC and AfDB launch the agriculture and food security joint thematic working group in Abidjan

The Joint Secretariat Support Office (JSSO) of the ECA, AUC and the AfDB launched the agriculture and food security joint Thematic Working Group (TWG) on the margins of the Conference on Land Policy in Africa holding in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The purpose of this initiative is to enhance the strategic partnership to accelerate Africa's transformation and will serve as a platform for information and knowledge sharing.

The Thematic Working Group for agriculture and food security will focus its work mainly on supporting African countries and regional econom-

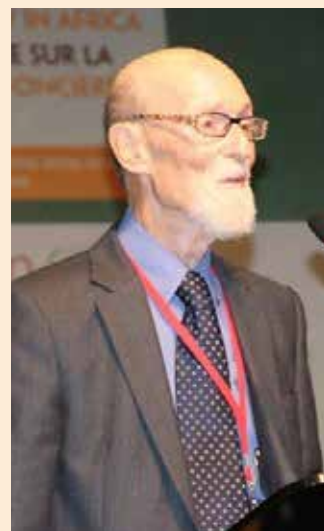
ic commissions (RECs) to rollout the common Africa Agro-Parks (CAAPS) and Staple Agro-industrial processing zones (SAPZs) initiatives.

Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union Commission said: "By 2025, if we can have 70% of ending the hunger on the continent, it will be a great thing", and added that joint thematic working group that is bringing together ECA, AfDB and AU" is the best way forward to really achieve our objectives."



AU Commissioner, Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko

Conference in pictures



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