

Zambia Homeless and Poor People's Federation officially opened a House Model during Lusaka's 83rd Agricultural and Commercial Show.

People's Process on Housing and Poverty in Zambia and the Zambia Homeless and Poor People's Federation identified this year's show as an opportunity to showcase what organised poor communities can do.



**People's Process on
Housing and Poverty**

And

**Zambia Homeless and
Poor People's
Federation**

The set out objectives:

- Were to raise awareness on the housing issue and urban poverty
- Demonstrate the concept of building incrementally
- Demonstrate the use of low cost technologies by making use of alternatives such as hydro-form blocks and inter-locking soil blocks, burnt bricks etc.
- To showcase the income generating activities that federation members as well as the youth federation have ventured into.
- To network with other organisations that would be interested in partnering with the Zambia Homeless and Poor People's Federation and People's Process on Housing and Poverty in Zambia.
- To invite government to officially open the house model in order to engage them to look into the plight of poor people, to showcase what people are capable of doing in terms of addressing their housing and poverty issues as well create an opportunity to work with government.

*You wanted to get the
minister, you got him.
You wanted to talk to
him, you did that.
You wanted to make a
closer working
relationship, you did it.
Patience – Zimbabwean
Dialogue on Shelter
Acting Director*



*Everything went on well.
We are very much
thankful for Zimbabwean
and Namibian partners
who explained to the
minister.
Zulu – Zambian
Federation Member*

The Federation were able to meet these set out objectives. The Notable one being on Saturday 1st August 2009, the Honourable Deputy Minister of Local Government and Housing, Dr. Lwipa Puma came and officially opened the house model exhibition. The occasion was attended by the Director of Department of Infrastructure and Support Services Mr. Peter Lubambo, close to 200 hundred federation members from various compounds among them members from the Zimbabwean Homeless and Poor People's Federation members and Slum Dweller International (SDI) partners from Namibia and Zimbabwe.



*Yesterday I was very
happy and I am thankful
to all our visitors.
Specially Namibians and
Zimbabweans. I was very
very happy. I want to
thank you very much
because you helped us a
lot and specially with the
minister. I am very happy
because we Zambians
have never been close to
our minister so you
helped us a lot.
Joyce Longu – Zambian
Federation Member*

The opening of the house model gave the federation an opportunity to explain to the government their process, their struggles in terms of land access, housing, water and sanitation and other services that their communities so desperately need. It also gave the Zimbabwean federation a chance to share their experiences with regards to similar land struggles and housing issues and their relationship with their government and how they have managed to access land and construct houses with the help of their government.

Apart from expressing their plight the Zambian federation also shared what they have been able to achieve with the cooperation and support of local authorities in Kalulushi where 148 plots were allocated and houses are under-construction, similarly the allocation of 150 plots in Kitwe, 100 plots in Choma which are being re-demarcated to accommodate more families and Livingstone 50 plots on which 50 houses have been completed. They were able to showcase the advances they have made in tackling poverty through income generating activities.

The Federation built the house model to provide a window through which outsiders can see what poor can really do. The House model Exhibition has had a major impact in the sense that it has helped the communities through land negotiation with local authorities and government. They have succeeded in showcasing their ability of working together and building decent and affordable houses.

Other exhibits included hydro-form and inter-locking soil blocks that use less cement to save on cost yet are strong enough to build safe decent houses.

The youths exhibited their arts and crafts these included handbags, doormats beaded jewellery and wooden crafts these attracted a lot of attention from the general public who bought the items on display whilst others show interest in working with them.

Again interest was raised in the work that the youth federation are doing and that perhaps an exchange should be planned for the Zambian youth federation to share their initiatives with the Zimbabwe Youth Federation.

All in all it was felt that the show exhibition was a success, as there was an overwhelming response from the public enquiring about the federation process and its activities.

*At least the minister saw what the federation can do. I feel that this time the government will help us through our process. We just have to follow up on them so that we show them our commitment in doing our work. We should keep on knocking on their doors.
Theresa – Zambian Federation Member.*



