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My work is focused on Urban Housing Quality (deals with Adequacy of the Housing Environment). I began my career in this area when I was employed in the University of Nairobi's Housing and Building Research Institute (HABRI). The Institute's mandate was to improve the housing environment through low cost housing strategy. I continued to research in this area even after the Institute had been merged with the Department of Architecture. In this context I have done research and consultancy in housing quality indicators, building cost indicators, housing policy and appropriate building materials.

Housing quality is made up of the adequacy of the structure, the adequacy of attendant infrastructural services and the habitability of the neighbourhood. In this context I was contracted in 2011 by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and the United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA) to do the *Analytical Report on Housing Conditions, Amenities and Household Assets* of the Kenya Population and Housing Census of 2009. Further the quality of the structure is determined by the durability of building materials. Consequently I did my Doctoral research on artisanal dimension stone as a durable alternative for wall building in low cost housing initiatives.

In the area of services, water and sanitation is a crucial service in the context of urban housing adequacy. Therefore I have done comprehensive research and published in the area of urban water services. Quality of housing also is affected by affordability hence my interest in the interrogation of building costs. Another significant determinant of housing quality is the land tenure status and urban land use practices. This has inspired me to look at the urban land use status especially of Nairobi city in my research and publications.

Recently I have widened this research scope to consider African urbanism in the context of "urbanization of poverty" as earlier described by Piel (1997).

Below is a select list of my publications in this area:

1. Menya, A.A. and **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2016) Inter-agency collaboration for fire disaster management in Nairobi city, *Journal of Urban Management*, 5(1): 32-38, DOI: 10.1016/j.jum.2016.08.001
2. Onjala, J. and **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2016) Relational patterns of urbanization and economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa. *Development Southern Africa* 33(2): 234-246, DOI:10.1080/0376835X.2015.1120655.
3. **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2016) Water, sanitation conditions and implications for child survival in Kenya: A review of statistical evidence from the 1999 census of population and housing, *Water Practice & Technology*, 11 (1): 48-57, DOI: 10.2166/wpt.2016.007

4. **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2015) Application of artisanal dimension stone in the building industry: factor analysis of the regulatory environment in Nairobi, Kenya, *Architectural Engineering and Design Management*, 11(3): 198-212, DOI: 10.1080/17452007.2014.915511.
5. **K'Akumu, O.A.**, (2013) The production of artisanal dimension stone in Nairobi: A factor analytic study. *Journal of Urban Technology* 20(4): 99-118.
6. **K'Akumu, O.A.**, Jones, B. and Yang, J. (2013) Factor analysis of the market environment for artisanal dimension stone in Nairobi, Kenya. *Journal of Construction in Developing Countries* 18(2): 15-32.
7. **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2013) Privatisation of the Urban Water Supply in Kenya: Policy Framework for Pro-Poor Provision, in Harris, L., Goldin, J. and Sneddon, C. (Eds) *Contemporary Water Governance in the Global South: Scarcity, Marketization and Participation* (Hardback) – Routledge, Oxon, pp 149-165.
8. Masu, S., Gichunge, H. and **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2012) Component ratios of new building costs in Nairobi: A contractors' perspective, *Journal of Financial Management of Property and Construction*, 17(3); 222-234.
9. **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2012). *2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census*, vol. XI, *Analytical Report on Housing Conditions, Amenities and House*
10. **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2010) Asserting the nature of man as *zoon politikon*—the case for a political dimension of sustainable urban development. *City*., 14:1-2, 193-199
11. **K'Akumu, O.A.**, Jones, B. and Blyth, A. (2010) The market environment for artisanal dimension stone in Nairobi, Kenya. *Habitat International*, 34(1): 96-104.
12. Gichunge, H., Masu, S. and **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2010) Factor cost indices practices in the building industry for Nairobi, Kenya. *Journal of Financial Management of Property and Construction*.
13. **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2009) Reforming the statistical system of Kenya: policy implications for the development of building construction statistics. *Habitat International*, 33(1):120-124.
14. **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2008) Mainstreaming the Participatory Approach in Water Resource Governance: The 2002 water law in Kenya. *Development*, 51 (1): 56-62
15. **K'Akumu, O.A.**; Blyth, A., and Jones, B. (2008) Artisanal materials for sustainable construction in developing countries in Hughes, W. (ed.) *Proceedings of the Inaugural Construction Management and Economics 'Past, Present and Future' conference*, 16th–18th July 2007, University of Reading, UK, pp 65-74.
16. **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2007) Sustain no city: An ecological conceptualisation of urban development. *City*, 11(2): 223-230.
17. **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2007) The political ecology of water commercialization in Kenya. *International Journal of Environment and Sustainable Development*, 6(3): 290–309.

18. **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2007) Strategizing the decennial census of housing for poverty reduction in Kenya. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 31(3): 655-672.
19. **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2007) Construction statistics review for Kenya. *Construction Management and Economics*, 25(3): 315-326.
20. **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2007) Toward effective governance of water services in Kenya. *Water Policy*, 9(5): 529-543.
21. **K'Akumu, O.A.** and Olima, W.H.A. (2007) The dynamics and implications of residential segregation in Nairobi, *Habitat International*, 31(1): 87-99.
22. Oyugi, M.O. and **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2007) Land use management challenges for the city of Nairobi, *Urban Forum*, 18(1): 94-113.
23. **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2006) Sustainability prospects for water utilities privatization in Kenya. *International Journal for Technology Management and Sustainable Development*, 5(3): 271-280.
24. Opiyo, R.O. and **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2006) ICT application in the informal sector: the case of Kariokor Market MSE cluster in Nairobi, *Urban Forum*, 17(3): 241-261.
25. **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2006) Privatization model for water enterprise in Kenya. *Water Policy*. 8(6): 539-557.
26. **K'Akumu, O.A.** and P.O. Appida (2006) Privatization of urban water service provision: the Kenyan experiment, *Water Policy*, 8(4): 313-324.
27. **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2006) Evaluation of Housing Statistics in Kenya, *Habitat International* 30(1): 27-45.
28. **K'Akumu, O.A.** (2004) Privatization of Urban Water Supply in Kenya: Policy Options for the Poor, *Environment and Urbanization* 16 (2): 213-222.