



»We didn't talk politics. We talked development.«

Training and Study Tour to Germany for Elected Councilors and Appointed Officers from five Zimbabwean Urban Local Authorities to strengthen Good Urban Governance for better Service Provision

16 May 2015 - 09 June 2015

Lessons learnt from Housing Group:

"Sharing wives and bicycles."

Amaryllis: Multi-Generational Housing Cooperative, City of Bonn, 02 June 2015

Storyline:

"Germans are individualists - even more so, they seem to be quite lonely." This is one of the observations that the Zimbabwean delegation formulated right from the beginning. However, there are examples that testify the opposite. In 2005, eight people founded "Amaryllis", a multi-generation co-housing community in the legal form of a registered cooperative. The tenants of the apartments bought shares and became owners of the cooperative.

So far, three apartment buildings have been realized including 33 units at a total cost of 5 million €, out of which 4 million € were a soft loan. Currently 50 adults and 20 children are sharing common spaces like kitchen, meeting rooms or laundry facilities. "The idea is that the members commit themselves in the

social life of the cooperative, take over responsibilities and are willing to share facilities, e.g. their cars", explained Gerd Hoenscheid-Gross from the Amaryllis Management Board to the visitors from Zimbabwe. People who are interested in joining the cooperative have to apply first. The community then decides who will be accepted.

Amaryllis is based on self-management schemes where decisions are usually made by the residents' assembly. Amaryllis also runs the Villa Emma, a residential home for old people that need support in their daily life. In addition, further houses are planned. "This community idea faces an increasing demand", concluded Hoenscheid-Gross.

Images:



Voices:

"To summarize the idea of Amaryllis in four words: Sharing wives and bicycles..."

- Mr. Godfrey Magijani, Housing Director, Kariba.

"Amaryllis is a flower that has a power to recreate itself every year: Our recipe of success is the integrated social mixture."

- Mr. Gerd Hoenscheid-Gross, Amaryllis Management, Bonn.

"Yesterday while walking through the city centre of Euskirchen, you observed people that appeared lonely - today, we have seen the opposite."

- Mr. Bastian Beege, UWSSP, Harare.

"It all goes back to the common vision of people who create a coalition to make a vision work." - Mr. Muchaneta Munyeveri, Housing Committee Chairperson, Norton.