Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Afternoon,

Every Kenyan has the fundamental right to a warm, safe, secure home with access to clean running water, sanitation and electricity, irrespective of where they live in Kenya.

With increased urbanization, the need for better housing cannot be overstated. A large part of the population cannot afford mortgages or even to build a home. This is evidenced by growth of slums and shanties in the cities.

The Jubilee government notes with concern the serious challenge of inadequate housing in Kenya. It notes that too many Kenyans lack access to decent housing.

Through government agencies like the National Housing Corporation, the government is working at providing sustainable and decent housing for Kenyans.

As one of the election pledges, the government has made strides in solving this problem. This is being done efficiently providing and facilitating access to innovative housing solutions. We have so far built houses from Bombolulu to Pumwani, Nyari to Kileleshwa, Madaraka estate to Karanja road.... And uptake has been overwhelming!
Despite all these developments, we as a government realize that this hardly scratches the surface of the housing needs the country has.

Private Sector participation in developing especially the middle and low end housing market – where a vast majority of the population lives- is badly needed.

The need for long-term capital investment in decent and affordable rental homes to establish large-scale real estate markets that are lacking in Africa.

Government and investors need to partner so as to develop important policies that will spur housing development in the country.

The housing crisis is a problem all over Africa and we need to come together and seek common solutions for this.

Perhaps as we start to acknowledge rental housing as a legitimate option to solving the housing deficient not just in Kenya but across Africa, it will move the conversation from home ownership through mortgages and loans and spur us on to find more accessible. More efficient and more innovative solutions. The rental housing conversation is one that must be had and is certainly one that the Jubilee government and the ministry of lands, is keen on having.

Ladies and gentlemen, we should never limit ourselves when addressing any social problem not just housing, to just one solution or just one policy recommendation.
Ultimately the task of government and by extension society is to find a number of solutions that address our many problems. I commend Shelter Afrique for urging us to walk the road less travelled.

Thank you