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TITLE: RESEARCH IN BUILDING AND
BUILDING MATERIALS IN KENYA

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N.B. This report was also presented at the Meeting of
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1.00. INTRODUCTION AND SYNOPSIS.

- .01. Research and development in the building materials and construction industry is an essential component of human settlements development at the local and national levels in both developing and developed countries. The development of an indigenous building materials and construction industry is still an untapped resource especially in developing countries, where genuinely local firms small or large, are often in need of assistance. Similarly the necessary supportive research in building and building materials in these countries is inadequate and does not provide sufficient input for the purposes of the development of this important industry in developing countries.
- .02. Kenya is one such developing country in Africa where building and construction is one of the major sectors of the economy. Its share of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1976 was 6% and its contribution to capital formation was 42%. The current five year National Development Plan (1979-83) outlines the plan objectives regarding this sector including the roles of the various public and private agencies both in terms of the development of the building industry and the research and development regarding building materials. These are further discussed in the following sections of this paper.
- .03. Section 2.00 of the paper presents an overview scenario of the current status of research in building and building materials in Kenya. This scenario lists existing institutions; availability of indigenous research personnel and training facilities; sources of funds; laboratory and field equipment; collection and dissemination of information; and existing arrangements for semi-commercial trials and commercial development.
- .04. Priority areas for further and new research in the short- and long-term are stated in Section 3.00 of the paper. Existing and planned co-operation programmes in joint research projects are considered and presented in Section 4.00. While the last Section 5.00 of the paper briefly indicates the role of related national and international agencies regarding building and building materials research.

- .05. This country paper has been prepared by Mr. T. S. Chana, Director of the Housing and Development Unit, University of Nairobi, in collaboration with Mr. P. E. Kanye, Senior Superintending Architect of the Ministry of Works and Mr. G. Kariuki, Housing Planner of the Ministry of Housing and Social Services.