



## **‘Barack Obama’s Kenya connection: Postcolonial Planning Challenges in Kisumu, Millennium City**

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The UN Millennium Development Goals seek to reduce world poverty, including improving conditions for slum dwellers, and associated initiatives, such as the Global Land Tools Network and Global Campaign for Secure Tenure, aim to improve private property rights for the poor, endorsed by Hernando de Soto’s *The mystery of capital*. The paper will review the colonial and post-colonial planning regulatory framework in sub-Saharan Africa, with a case study of Kisumu (Kenya), one of the cities in the Millennium Cities Initiative. Its population has increased some tenfold since Kenyan independence in 1963, outpacing the town planning capacity of the municipality, and the paper will relate the colonial town planning legacy, particularly the segregated settlement pattern, to the current challenges, and the move towards a more ‘pro-poor’ approach through partnerships with civil society organizations