



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MIGIRI COUNTY GOVERNMENT
MINISTRY OF LANDS, HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
KEHANCHA MUNICIPALITY



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KENYA

**REPORT ON THE CITIZEN FORUM BY KEHANCHA MUNICIPAL BOARD ON THE OPERATION AND
IMPROVEMENT OF KEHANCHA FRESH PRODUCE MARKET AND BUSINESS SPACES WITHIN THE CENTRAL
BUSINESS DISTRICT**

INTRODUCTION

On March 28th, 2024, the Kehancha Municipal Board organized a Citizen Forum with the business community in Kehancha. The meeting took place at the Kehancha Municipal Office Grounds and aimed to address various concerns regarding the operation of businesses within the town, particularly the state of the Kehancha Fresh Produce Market, and the usage of spaces within the Central Business District (CBD). The forum was a platform for stakeholders to discuss the challenges they face and to chart a way forward on improving the business environment. The meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m., with an opening prayer led by Muchuma Nicholas.

OPENING PROCEEDINGS

After the opening prayer, the Municipal Manager, Mr. Simon Maroa, welcomed the members to the forum and clarified the main objectives of the meeting. He noted that the forum aimed to engage business owners and traders in addressing key issues affecting the operation of the Fresh Produce Market and the broader business environment within the CBD. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between the business community and the municipality to improve facilities and create a conducive environment for business growth.

Mr. Maroa outlined the key objectives of the forum:

1. To discuss the current conditions at the Fresh Produce Market and identify areas of improvement.
2. To gather feedback on how business operations within the CBD can be improved.
3. To explore ways of addressing security concerns affecting business premises.
4. To foster collaboration between traders, municipal authorities, and other stakeholders in enhancing business operations within Kehancha.

SPEECHES FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Following Mr. Maroa opening remarks, several leaders and stakeholders addressed the forum:

1. **Mr. Ngariba John Maroa, Chairman of the Kehancha Traders Association**, acknowledged the challenges facing traders, particularly the issues of security in the market and the trader's doing business along the streets within the CBD. He appealed to the municipal authorities to prioritize addressing these issues to improve business operations.

2. **Mrs Gati Vincent, a representative of the Women Traders' Group**, highlighted the importance of ensuring that the market is well-secured and that all traders are provided with equal opportunities to operate in a clean and safe environment. She also called for better coordination between market traders and municipal authorities.
3. **Mr. Peter Nyahiri, men representative**, gave an overview of the current state of the Fresh Produce Market, emphasizing the need for structural improvements to prevent theft and to optimize the use of available space.
4. **Mr. Julius Machugu**, expressed his full support for the improvement of market facilities and reassured traders that the county administration would continue to provide security and resources to improve the business environment in Kehancha.



A visit to the Kehancha Fresh Produce Market



DISCUSSION ON KEY ISSUES

The forum then moved into an open discussion, where participants voiced their concerns and suggestions for improvement. Several key issues were raised:

- **Market Conditions:** The state of the Fresh Produce Market was a central point of discussion. Many traders highlighted that the wall used by thieves to access the market and steal goods needed urgent attention. There were also concerns about overcrowding in certain sections of the market, making it difficult for traders to operate efficiently.
- **Security Concerns:** It was noted that security in the market was a significant issue, with traders expressing concerns about the attempted theft and break-ins. The traders called for increased security patrols and better lighting, particularly in the late hours when some businesses remained open.
- **Space within the CBD:** There was a call for proper planning to ensure that business spaces are optimized for trade while ensuring ease of movement and access.
- **Need for Improved Infrastructure:** Several participants called for improved infrastructure, including better drainage systems, roads, and public utilities within the CBD. This, they argued, would improve both the aesthetic and functional quality of the town.

RESOLUTION

After thorough discussions, the following resolutions were made:

1. **Fresh Produce Market:** It was unanimously agreed that the wall that has been used by thieves to gain unauthorized access to the market would be sealed within a month. This would help enhance security and protect traders' goods from theft. Further, efforts would be made to reorganize the market layout to ensure that all traders have sufficient space to display their produce and operate safely.
2. **Increased Security:** It was agreed that the Municipal Council, in collaboration with local security agencies, would enhance security within the market by increasing patrols and installing additional lighting in key areas.
3. **Infrastructure Improvement:** The forum recommended that the municipal government prioritize upgrading infrastructure, including drainage, roads, and public lighting, within the CBD to support business growth.
4. **Ongoing Engagement:** The forum pledged to continue engaging with the Municipal Board and other relevant authorities to ensure that the agreed-upon improvements are implemented in a timely manner.

CONCLUSION

The meeting concluded with a consensus on the way forward for addressing the issues affecting the Fresh Produce Market and business spaces within the CBD. The participants thanked the Kehancha Municipal Board for facilitating the forum and assured the authorities of their full support in the implementation of the resolutions. The meeting concluded at 12:45 p.m

APPENDIX I: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PREPARED BY

SIMON NOKWI MAROA

(Secretary)

DATE:

2-4-2024

SIGNATURE:



CONFIRMED BY

SAMSON MATIKO BOHOK

(Chairperson)

DATE:

2/4/2024

SIGNATURE:

