

RONGO MUNICIPALITY BOARD

Office of the Municipal Manager
Email: rongomunicipality@migori.go.ke
Website: www.migori.go.ke
Tel: 020 269 0780
Box 450-40404, Rongo



Report of the Rongo Municipality Citizen Forum event held in Rongo Municipality Grounds on 17/04/2024.

Report Prepared By.

David ORE

Municipal Manager- Municipality of Rongo



C.T.C

RONGO MUNICIPALITY CITIZEN FORA REPORT

The Citizen Fora held on 17th April 2024 at the Rongo Municipal Grounds was an important engagement between the Municipal Board and the public. The forum was attended by key board members, including Mr. Brighton Owuor Angienda (Chairperson), Ms. Faith Achieng Ooko (Vice Chairperson), Mr. Zachary Onyango Ojwang, Bishop Joel Okoth Nyauche, Mr. Jack Otieno Owuor, Ms. Margaret Roseline Omolo, and Ms. Winnie Anyango Ogola. The Municipal Manager, Mr. David Ore, served as the Secretary to the board and led the meeting. Additionally, the public was well-represented by various sectors including boda-boda operators, faith-based organizations, the association of lorries, the business community, the private sector, and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

The meeting began with **Welcome Remarks** from the Municipal Manager, who acknowledged the presence of the board members and the representatives of the public. Mr. Ore emphasized the significance of such forums in strengthening the relationship between the municipality and its residents, especially in addressing pressing urban management and governance issues. He reiterated that the municipality's vision is centered on sustainable development and improving the quality of life for all residents.

Following the opening remarks, the **Introduction of the Board Members** was done by the Chairperson, Mr. Brighton Owuor Angienda. He introduced the board members and outlined their respective roles in municipal governance. He stressed that the board was committed to listening to the public's concerns and incorporating their feedback into the municipality's policies and plans.

Urban Beautification Initiatives

One of the main topics of discussion was **urban beautification**, a critical initiative aimed at improving the town's appearance and overall quality of life. The Municipal Manager presented ongoing projects, including tree planting, landscaping along major streets, and the installation of streetlights to enhance security. Plans were also underway to create more green spaces and organize clean-up campaigns. These efforts, according to Mr. Ore, were not only aimed at beautifying the town but also at promoting environmental sustainability. Residents were encouraged to participate actively in these beautification projects, particularly in maintaining the green spaces that would be created.

Construction of Rongo Public Recreational Park (Phase One)

The forum also provided an update on the **construction of the Rongo Public Recreational Park (Phase One)**. The first phase of the project includes the development of walking tracks, children's play areas, and other recreational facilities. The board emphasized that the park would offer numerous social and health benefits, providing residents with a safe, accessible space to relax and engage in physical activities. The project is seen as an important step in urban renewal and in fostering a sense of community within Rongo.



A handwritten signature, possibly 'Ore', and the initials 'C7.C' are written next to the official stamp.

Removal of Illegal Structures

Another major issue discussed was the **removal of illegal structures** within the municipality. The board stressed the importance of regulating urban development to ensure compliance with the municipality's zoning laws and building codes. Illegal structures, they noted, posed risks to public safety and hindered orderly development. The Municipal Manager assured the public that the municipality would take firm action to remove unauthorized buildings, with enforcement measures set to intensify in the coming months. Residents were urged to comply with municipal regulations and report any illegal developments to the authorities.

Gravelling of Municipality Roads

The **gravelling of roads** within the municipality was also highlighted as a priority. Several roads, particularly in residential areas, were in poor condition, making navigation difficult, especially during the rainy season. The Municipal Manager presented a plan to gravel key roads to improve accessibility and enhance transportation within the town. Both major and minor roads would be addressed in the road improvement project, focusing on ensuring that all residents could move around the municipality safely and efficiently.

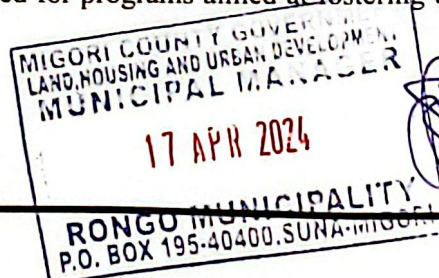
Preparation of Municipality Bylaws

Another significant issue discussed was the **preparation of new municipality bylaws**. Ms. Faith Achieng Ooko, the Vice Chairperson, led this discussion, explaining that the bylaws were necessary to streamline urban governance and address emerging challenges. The bylaws would cover land use, business licensing, waste management, and public health. The board emphasized the need for public participation in drafting these regulations to ensure they met the community's needs. Residents were encouraged to provide input on the proposed bylaws, particularly in areas that affected their daily lives.

Partnership in Sustainable Waste Management

Sustainable waste management was a key topic during the forum, with the municipality seeking to partner with the local community to implement waste segregation and recycling initiatives. The board acknowledged that waste management had been a challenge in the past, but with the active involvement of residents, there was potential for significant improvement. The business community and private sector were called upon to support the municipality's efforts by adopting environmentally friendly waste disposal practices. Furthermore, residents were encouraged to practice waste segregation at the household level to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills.

In addition to the main agenda items, other urban management and governance issues were raised by the public. Representatives from the boda-boda sector expressed concerns about **road safety** and requested designated parking spaces for motorcycles. Faith-based organizations called for **community cohesion and conflict resolution mechanisms**, noting that urbanization often leads to increased social tensions. They advocated for programs aimed at fostering unity and peaceful coexistence.



The **association of lorries** raised concerns about the regulation of heavy vehicles within the municipality, requesting clear guidelines on designated transport routes to prevent road damage and minimize traffic congestion. The **business community** urged the municipality to ensure **transparency in business licensing** and simplify the procedures for small and medium enterprises. **Persons with disabilities (PWDs)** voiced concerns about **accessibility in public spaces** and urged the municipality to prioritize the construction of ramps, accessible public transport, and other facilities that cater to their needs.

The forum concluded with **Closing Remarks** from the Chairperson, Mr. Brighton Owuor Angienda, who thanked the participants for their active engagement. He reiterated the board's commitment to implementing the discussed projects and policies, noting that the success of these initiatives depended on continued collaboration between the municipality and its residents.



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