



RONGO MUNICIPAL BOARD

Office of the Municipal Manager

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MINUTES OF CITIZEN FORA EVENT HELD ON 10th JULY, 2024 AT RONGO MUNICIPAL GROUNDS

Attendance

The meeting was attended by a wide range of stakeholders representing various sectors within the municipality. Participants included representatives from the Rongo Municipal Board, the Municipal Administration, the Ward Administration, Market Leadership, Market Traders, Civil Society Organizations, Youth Groups, Women Groups, and local residents who conduct business within the market. The diverse representation ensured that discussions reflected the perspectives and interests of the broader community and market stakeholders.

Confirmation of the Agenda

The Municipal Manager presented the agenda for the forum, outlining the key discussion areas that would guide the meeting.

The agenda focused on the following issues:

- Review of the condition of Rongo Modern Market
- Addressing trader concerns regarding space and protection against adverse weather
- Market cleanliness, drainage, and organized trading environments
- Promotion of gender-inclusive participation in municipal programs

The participants unanimously adopted the agenda as presented.

MIN/01/02/2025: Opening of the Meeting

The citizen fora Event of Rongo Municipality was convened at Rongo Municipal Grounds to provide an opportunity for traders, residents, municipal officials, and other stakeholders to engage in discussions regarding the condition of the market, trader welfare, environmental cleanliness, drainage systems, and inclusive participation in municipal governance.

The meeting was officially called to order at **10:00 AM** by the Municipal Manager, **David Ore**, who welcomed all participants and thanked them for attending the forum.

He emphasized that citizen forums are essential platforms for dialogue between the municipality and the public and that the views shared during the meeting would guide the municipality in improving service delivery and development planning. He further noted that the forum was organized in line with the **Constitution of Kenya (2010)** and the **Urban Areas and Cities Act (2011)**, which require municipal administrations to facilitate public participation in governance and development matters.

MIN/02/02/2025: Agenda Items and Deliberations

4.1 Review of the Condition of Rongo Modern Market

The meeting began with a review of the current condition of **Rongo Modern Market**. Municipal officials highlighted that the market plays a significant role in supporting local economic activities and providing livelihoods for traders and residents within the municipality.

However, several challenges affecting the market's functionality were identified during the discussions. Traders reported that some sections of the market require improvements, particularly in terms of infrastructure, drainage systems, and the organization of trading spaces.

During the discussion, **David Ore** addressed the participants and emphasized the municipality's commitment to improving the market environment.

He explained that the municipality is continuously reviewing infrastructure needs within the market and working towards enhancing facilities to support traders and create a conducive environment for business operations.

Participants welcomed the municipality's efforts and encouraged continued engagement with traders in planning and implementing improvements.

4.2 Trader Concerns: Space and Protection Against Adverse Weather

The forum then deliberated on concerns raised by traders regarding limited space and inadequate protection from adverse weather conditions. Traders explained that during rainy seasons, some sections of the market experience significant disruptions because stalls lack sufficient roofing and protection. This exposes traders' goods to damage and negatively affects business activities.

At a later point during the meeting, **Peter, the Market Chair**, addressed the forum and emphasized the need for additional covered stalls within the market. He noted that many traders operate under temporary structures that do not adequately protect their goods during heavy rains. He urged the municipality to consider expanding the number of stalls and improving roofing structures to safeguard traders' livelihoods. Municipal

officials acknowledged these concerns and assured participants that the feedback would be considered in future infrastructure planning initiatives.

4.3 Market Cleanliness, Drainage, and Organized Trading Environments

Discussions then focused on maintaining a clean, organized, and safe trading environment within Rongo Modern Market. Participants noted that market cleanliness is essential for protecting public health and attracting customers. Traders emphasized the importance of proper waste management systems, including regular garbage collection and proper waste disposal.

During the deliberations, **Elisha Odhiambo**, a community representative, shared his views on the importance of collective responsibility in maintaining market hygiene. He stated that both traders and municipal authorities have a role to play in ensuring that the market remains clean and organized. He encouraged traders to adopt good waste disposal practices while also urging the municipality to strengthen waste collection systems and sanitation infrastructure.

The discussion also addressed drainage challenges within the market. Traders reported that some areas experience water stagnation during heavy rainfall due to blocked or inadequate drainage channels. Municipal officers acknowledged the issue and indicated that the municipality would assess the drainage system with the aim of improving water flow and reducing flooding within the market.

4.4 Gender-Inclusive Participation

The final agenda item focused on promoting gender-inclusive participation in municipal development programs and decision-making processes. Participants emphasized the need to ensure that **women and youth traders** are actively involved in discussions concerning market management and municipal planning.

During the discussions, **David Ore** highlighted that the municipality is committed to promoting equality and ensuring that all community members have an opportunity to contribute to development processes. He encouraged women traders and youth representatives to actively participate in citizen forums and other municipal engagements. He further noted that inclusive participation strengthens governance and ensures that development initiatives reflect the needs of all community members.

The meeting also encouraged stakeholders to utilize the **Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)** to report challenges and submit feedback to the municipality

MIN/03/02/2025: Resolutions

Following the discussions, the forum reached several key resolutions:

- The municipality should prioritize improvements to the infrastructure of Rongo Modern Market.
- Additional covered stalls should be considered to protect traders and their goods from adverse weather conditions.
- Waste management and sanitation practices within the market should be strengthened to maintain cleanliness and improve public health.
- Drainage systems within the market should be assessed and improved to prevent flooding.
- The municipality should continue promoting gender-inclusive participation in citizen engagement forums.
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MIN/04/02/2025: Way Forward

Participants agreed that continuous dialogue between traders, residents, and municipal authorities is essential for addressing emerging challenges within the market. The municipality committed to reviewing the issues raised during the forum and incorporating them into its planning and implementation processes. Stakeholders also agreed to continue supporting initiatives aimed at maintaining cleanliness, organization, and cooperation within the market environment.

MIN/05/02/2025: Closure of the Meeting

There being no further business, the Municipal Manager thanked all participants for their valuable contributions and active participation in the discussions. He reiterated the municipality's commitment to addressing the concerns raised and improving service delivery within Rongo Municipality. The meeting was officially closed at **12:00 PM**.

Prepared by:

David Ore
Municipal Manager / Secretary to the Board

Approved by:

Brighton Angienda
Chairperson, Rongo Municipal Board