



RONGO MUNICIPAL BOARD

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REPORT ON THE CITIZEN FORUM RONGO MUNICIPALITY

Held on 20th January, 2025

| 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Rongo Municipal Hall

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Rongo Municipality convened a Citizen Forum as part of its commitment to promoting participatory governance and inclusive decision-making within the municipality. Citizen forums serve as important platforms that enable residents, stakeholders, and municipal officials to engage in constructive dialogue on matters affecting governance, development, and service delivery within the municipality.

The forum provided an opportunity for residents and stakeholders to express their views, raise concerns, and propose recommendations aimed at improving municipal management and development. Such engagements are essential in ensuring that the municipality remains responsive to the needs and expectations of its residents.

The meeting brought together members of the Municipal Board, the Municipal Manager, municipal technical staff, representatives of community organizations, business stakeholders, youth and women leaders, and residents from various parts of the municipality.

1.2 Constitutional and Legal Framework

The Citizen Forum was conducted in accordance with the Constitution of Kenya (2010) which promotes public participation as a fundamental principle of governance. Article 10 of the Constitution identifies public participation as one of the national values and principles guiding governance processes.

Additionally, the forum was guided by the Urban Areas and Cities Act (2011) which requires municipalities to establish mechanisms for engaging residents in matters related to urban governance, planning, and development. The County Governments Act (2012) further emphasizes the need for structured public participation processes.

1.3 Citizen Forum Calendar for FY 2024/2025

In accordance with the Constitution of Kenya (2010) and the Urban Areas and Cities Act, the Rongo Municipal Board continue to refer to the Citizen Forum Calendar for the Financial Year 2024/2025 to guide citizen engagement activities throughout the year.

To ensure residents were informed about the scheduled forums, the calendar was published on the official Rongo municipal website and further disseminated through public posters and notices placed in strategic locations within Rongo Municipality, including markets, municipal offices, and other public spaces.

Through these communication channels, residents were encouraged to attend and actively participate in the forums organized by the municipality.

1.4 Preliminaries

Before the meeting commenced, participants were received and registered to confirm attendance and representation from various stakeholder groups.

Participants were welcomed to the forum by the Municipal Manager who appreciated residents and stakeholders for attending the meeting and participating in discussions concerning the development of the municipality. The Municipal Manager emphasized that citizen forums are important platforms that allow residents to share their views and contribute to development planning.

1.5 Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was formally called to order by the Municipal Manager after confirming the presence of participants. In his opening remarks, he welcomed members of the Municipal Board, municipal staff, stakeholders, and residents.

He emphasized the importance of citizen participation in governance and encouraged participants to contribute openly to the discussions.

2. AGENDA ITEMS AND DELIBERATIONS

2.1 Clean Environment

Environmental cleanliness was identified as a key concern among residents during the forum. Participants emphasized the need for maintaining a clean environment within the municipality to promote public health, improve living conditions, and enhance the overall image of the town.

Residents expressed concern about improper waste disposal in markets and public spaces which contributes to environmental pollution and blocked drainage systems. The forum emphasized the importance of both municipal intervention and community responsibility in maintaining cleanliness.

Participants recommended increased environmental awareness campaigns and stronger enforcement of waste management regulations.

2.2 Strategies for Making Rongo Clean

The forum further discussed strategies aimed at improving environmental cleanliness in the municipality.

Participants suggested strengthening waste collection systems to ensure that garbage is collected regularly from markets, residential areas, and commercial centers. They also recommended the provision of additional waste bins in strategic locations.

The organization of community clean-up activities involving youth groups, community organizations, and residents was also proposed as an effective strategy for maintaining environmental cleanliness.

Public awareness campaigns were also recommended to educate residents on proper waste disposal practices.

2.3 Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure development was also discussed as a priority area for the municipality. Participants emphasized the need for improved road networks, drainage systems, and public facilities to support economic growth and improve living standards.

Poor road conditions in some areas were highlighted as a challenge affecting mobility and business activities. Participants also raised concerns about drainage systems which contribute to flooding during rainy seasons.

The forum emphasized that continued investment in infrastructure development is essential for the sustainable growth of Rongo Municipality.

2.4 Removal of Illegal Structures

The issue of illegal structures within the municipality was also discussed during the forum. Participants noted that unauthorized structures often obstruct roads, walkways, and drainage systems, thereby interfering with planned urban development.

The forum recommended strengthening enforcement of planning regulations to ensure that all developments comply with approved plans.

Municipal authorities assured participants that enforcement measures would be implemented fairly while observing legal procedures.

2.5 Bus Park Control and Management

Participants also discussed the management of the bus park within the municipality. Concerns were raised regarding congestion, disorderly parking, and lack of coordination among transport operators.

Participants recommended improved management strategies including designated parking zones, improved traffic control measures, and better collaboration between the municipality and transport associations.

Improved management of the bus park would enhance safety, order, and efficiency in transportation within the municipality.

Stakeholder Contribution

During the forum, stakeholders were also given an opportunity to contribute to the discussions.

One of the speakers was Mr. Samuel Onyango, a community representative, who addressed participants during the forum.

Speech Excerpt

"On behalf of the residents present today, I would like to thank the municipality for organizing this forum and giving us an opportunity to share our views on issues affecting our town. Citizen engagement forums provide an important platform where residents can contribute to decision-making processes.

We encourage the municipality to continue prioritizing environmental cleanliness and infrastructure development. Maintaining a clean town benefits everyone and contributes to better living conditions and economic growth.

We also appreciate the efforts being made to improve roads and drainage systems and hope that these initiatives will continue. As residents, we remain ready to support the municipality in ensuring that Rongo becomes a clean, organized, and vibrant urban center."

3. CONCLUSION

The Citizen Forum provided an important platform for engagement between the municipal administration and residents of Rongo Municipality. Participants highlighted key challenges and proposed practical solutions aimed at improving environmental management, infrastructure development, and service delivery.

The municipality acknowledged the contributions made during the forum and committed to considering the recommendations in future planning and development initiatives.

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