



RONGO MUNICIPAL BOARD

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REPORT ON THE CITIZEN FORUM FOR RONGO MUNICIPALITY – FY 2024/2025 HELD ON 28TH MAY, 2025 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM | RONGO MUNICIPAL HALL

PREPARED BY:

DAVID ORE
MUNICIPAL MANAGER
RONGO MUNICIPALITY

28th, May, 2025

FY 24/25 Public Fora Report

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The Public Forum for Rongo Municipality was convened to provide a platform for residents, stakeholders, and municipal officials to review progress from the First Quarter forum and discuss ongoing and planned initiatives for town beautification, infrastructure development, environmental cleanliness, and regulatory enforcement.

The forum brought together representatives from municipal departments, civil society organizations, youth and women groups, business stakeholders, and residents. Discussions emphasized collaboration between the municipality and the community to ensure sustainable and impactful development.

1.2 Constitutional and Legal Framework

The forum was conducted in accordance with:

- The Constitution of Kenya (2010) – ensuring citizen participation in governance and service delivery.
- The Urban Areas and Cities Act (2011) – mandating municipalities to engage residents in urban planning and municipal service delivery.
- The County Governments Act (2012) – promoting transparency, accountability, and public participation in municipal matters.
- This framework ensures that municipal decisions are inclusive, transparent, and citizen-informed.

1.3 Purpose of the Forum

The forum aimed to:

- Reviewed progress of deliberations of the previous Forum.
- Present updates on environmental cleanliness, infrastructure development, and regulatory enforcement.
- Share and discuss plans for town beautification and public space enhancement.
- Promote awareness of GRM and gender-inclusive participation.
- Collect citizen feedback and recommendations to guide municipal planning and decision-making.

1.4 Attendance

The forum was attended by a diverse group of stakeholders representing various sectors of Rongo Municipality. The attendees included:

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- **Municipal Leadership:** Municipal Manager, Chairperson of the Municipal Board, and Heads of key departments including Finance, Planning, Works, Environment, and Transport.
- **Ward Representatives:** Leaders representing all wards within Rongo Municipality.
- **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):** Representatives from local NGOs, community-based organizations, and advocacy groups.
- **Business and Trade Stakeholders:** Owners and representatives of local businesses, market associations, and informal sector participants.
- **Youth and Women Groups:** Active participation from youth associations, women's groups, and other community-based youth initiatives.
- **Residents and Community Members:** Residents from different neighborhoods who contributed feedback, raised concerns, and provided recommendations on municipal development and service delivery.

1.4 Preliminaries and Meeting Called to Order

The forum was called to order at 10:00 AM by the Municipal Manager, who welcomed all participants. Opening remarks emphasized the importance of public participation, transparency, and accountability in municipal governance and encouraged active engagement throughout the forum.

2. AGENDA ITEMS AND DELIBERATIONS

2.1 Measures to Attain Clean Environment within the Municipality

Discussions focused on the municipality's environmental initiatives:

- **Waste Management:** Improved collection schedules across wards, with increased frequency in markets and public spaces.
- **Community Engagement:** Youth groups, schools, and community organizations participated in regular clean-up drives.
- **Public Awareness:** Campaigns encouraged residents to adopt proper waste disposal practices and reduce littering.

Stakeholder Feedback:

- Residents commended progress but called for expanded coverage to all wards.
- Suggested establishment of recycling programs and monitoring teams.
- Recommended penalties for littering in public spaces to enforce compliance.

2.2 Town Beautification and Public Space Development

The municipality presented detailed plans for town beautification, including:

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- **Green Spaces:** Development of parks, gardens, and landscaped areas in public zones.
- **Street Upgrades:** Installation of streetlights, improved pavements, signage, and pedestrian walkways.
- **Market Enhancements:** Organized vendor spaces, drainage upgrades, and waste disposal facilities.
- **Community Participation:** Residents and business owners encouraged to actively maintain beautified areas.

Stakeholder Feedback:

- Residents welcomed beautification initiatives and stressed ongoing monitoring.
- CSOs recommended youth involvement in tree planting, clean-ups, and awareness campaigns.
- Suggestions included recognition programs for residents and businesses supporting town aesthetics.

2.3 Infrastructure Development

- Updates were provided on municipal infrastructure projects:
- **Roads:** Repair and resurfacing of key streets and access roads.
- **Drainage Systems:** Rehabilitation to prevent flooding during heavy rains.
- **Public Facilities:** Upgrades to municipal offices, bus parks, and community centers.

Stakeholder Feedback:

- Residents requested prioritization of roads leading to hospitals, schools, and markets.
- Recommended supervision of contractors to ensure quality and timely completion.
- Suggested feedback channels for reporting infrastructure challenges.

2.4 Removal of Illegal Structures and Bus Park Control

The municipality reported progress on:

- **Illegal Structures:** Transparent removal and sensitization on regulations to maintain orderly town planning.
- **Bus Park Management:** Designated zones, improved traffic coordination, and commuter safety measures.

Stakeholder Feedback:

- Residents emphasized fair enforcement and awareness campaigns.

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- Support for regulated bus park operations to reduce congestion and improve safety.
- Suggested periodic inspections and community reporting mechanisms.

2.5 Public Participation and Stakeholder Contributions

The forum provided a platform for residents and stakeholders to:

- Appreciate progress in environmental cleanliness and infrastructure.
- Support town beautification initiatives and public space upgrades.
- Offer recommendations for continued community involvement, including youth and women participation.

2.6 Awareness of GRM and Gender Considerations

A dedicated session focused on Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) awareness and gender-inclusive participation:

- Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)
- Citizens were informed about channels for lodging complaints: municipal offices, suggestion boxes, designated officers, and digital platforms.
- Timelines for resolving grievances were explained to ensure accountability.
- Residents were encouraged to report issues related to waste management, roads, infrastructure, or service delivery.

2.7 Gender Awareness

Women, youth, and vulnerable groups were highlighted as key participants in municipal planning.

- Access to public services, sanitation, and safe spaces were emphasized.
- Residents were urged to support gender-inclusive representation in committees and project monitoring teams.

3. RESOLUTIONS

Strengthen environmental cleanliness initiatives across all wards.

- Implement town beautification programs, including public green spaces, street upgrades, and market improvements.
- Prioritize infrastructure development, especially roads, drainage systems, and public facilities.
- Continue enforcement against illegal structures with public sensitization.

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- Enhance bus park management for efficiency, safety, and organization.
- Promote GRM usage and ensure gender-inclusive participation in all municipal programs.
- Encourage residents, CSOs, and community groups to actively support municipal initiatives.

4. ACTION POINTS

Action points arising from the forum will be assigned to respective municipal departments and communicated to stakeholders. These actions will guide implementation, monitoring, and reporting for the next quarter.

5. CONCLUSION

The Forum was considered a success for the following reasons:

- Reviewed progress of deliberations of the previous Forum.
- Engaged residents and stakeholders on environmental, infrastructural, and beautification initiatives.
- Promoted awareness of GRM and gender-inclusive participation.
- Collected citizen feedback for effective municipal planning and decision-making.

The forum was formally closed at 1:00 PM with a vote of thanks from the Municipal Manager to all participants for their constructive engagement and commitment to creating a clean, organized, and vibrant Rongo Town.

Prepared by:

Municipal Manager / Secretary to the Board

Approved by:

Chairperson, Rongo Municipal Board