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AWENDO MUNICIPALITY

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# **Report on Awendo Municipality Citizen Fora Event**

Prepared By.

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Municipality of Awendo

## **FY 24/25 3<sup>rd</sup> Citizen Fora Report**

### **Introduction**

In alignment with the Constitution of Kenya (2010), the Urban Areas and Cities Act (2011), and the County Governments Act (2012), Awendo Municipality convened a Citizen Forum on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to deliberate on matters relating to sustainable urban development, planning compliance, and environmental management.

The forum provided a structured platform for residents, stakeholders, and municipal officers to discuss the progress of urban planning initiatives, review the enforcement of planning regulations, and assess environmental management practices. The objective was to ensure that urban development aligns with statutory planning requirements, sustainable environmental practices are observed, and the Municipality promotes clean, safe, and resilient urban spaces.

This engagement also aimed at raising public awareness on planning and environmental regulations, gather citizen feedback, and strengthen collaborative efforts to manage urban growth responsibly.

### **Objectives of the Forum**

The specific objectives of the Citizen Forum were to:

- Update citizens on current urban planning, zoning, and environmental management initiatives.
- Address public concerns regarding unauthorized developments, waste management, and environmental degradation.
- Agree on measures for regulatory enforcement, public sensitization, and sustainable urban development practices.
- Strengthen partnerships between municipal authorities, stakeholders, and residents to achieve a well-planned and environmentally sustainable municipality.

### **Attendance**

The forum was attended by Municipal officials, including officers from the Planning and Environment Departments, ward representatives, community leaders, civil society organizations, and members of the public. Participants actively engaged in discussions, raised concerns, and provided recommendations on planning and environmental management matters.

### **Agenda**

The meeting followed the agenda below:

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1. Updates on urban planning policies, zoning regulations, and development control measures.
2. Presentation of ongoing environmental management initiatives, including waste management and greening programs.
3. Public participation session to discuss concerns, complaints, and recommendations.
4. Adoption of resolutions and agreement on action points to strengthen planning and environmental management.

### **Proceedings**

The forum commenced with opening remarks by the Board Chairperson who gave the chairman for the technical and planning committee and the Municipal Manager an opportunity to give highlights of the planning challenges within the municipal jurisdictions. The chairperson technical and planning gave the highlights emphasizing the importance of sustainable urban development and citizen participation in maintaining orderly and environmentally responsible communities.

The Planning Department provided updates on zoning regulations, development control procedures, and measures being implemented to monitor and regulate construction activities. Officers highlighted progress in ensuring compliance with approved development plans and identified areas requiring corrective action.

The Environment Department presented initiatives undertaken to improve waste management, reduce environmental pollution, and promote greening and sanitation programs across the municipality. The presentation included information on waste collection schedules, public awareness campaigns, and the enforcement of environmental regulations.

During the public participation session, citizens raised concerns regarding:

- Unauthorized developments and non-compliance with zoning requirements.
- Improper waste disposal and illegal dumping in open spaces.
- Limited awareness of planning and environmental regulations among residents.

Municipal officers addressed these concerns, provided clarifications, and assured participants that all feasible recommendations would be incorporated into enforcement, compliance, and sensitization strategies.

### **Resolutions**

Following deliberations, the forum resolved that:

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1. Development control enforcement should be strengthened to prevent unauthorized constructions and ensure adherence to zoning regulations.
2. Environmental cleanliness initiatives, including solid waste management and sanitation programs, should be enhanced to maintain a clean and safe urban environment.
3. Public sensitization campaigns on planning compliance and environmental protection should be intensified to improve citizen awareness and participation in sustainable urban management.

### Action Points

To operationalize the resolutions, the following actions and timelines were agreed upon:

Action Point	Responsible Unit
Conduct compliance inspections for urban developments	Planning Department
Implement enforcement of planning and environmental regulations	Planning & Environment Departments
Conduct public sensitization forums on planning and environmental regulations	Planning & Environment Departments
Implement greening and environmental improvement initiatives	Environment Department

### Closure

The forum was formally adjourned with the Municipal Manager expressing appreciation to all participants for their active engagement, constructive feedback, and commitment to sustainable urban development. Participants were assured that the Municipality would follow up on all agreed action points and continue to engage the public in planning and environmental management initiatives.

Minutes Confirmation

Plan. Mandela Nelson Akong'o  
Municipal Manger/ Secretary to Board



Florence Abich Oile  
Chairperson Awendo Municipality

