



MANDERA MUNICIPALITY CITIZEN FORA REPORT for Q4 FY 2023/2024 HELD ON 16TH MAY 2024 AT MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE HALL HQ.

INTRODUCTION

The Mandera Municipality citizen fora for Q4 of the fiscal year 2023/2024 was held on 16th May, 2024, at the Mandera Municipality Hall. This session served as a platform for residents and stakeholders to engage with municipal officials, providing a venue to share updates on infrastructure projects, environmental initiatives, public safety measures, and other essential services. Among the significant topics discussed were the bus park rehabilitation project, the municipality's achievements in greening efforts, updates on the finance bill and revenue collection, and other community proposals.

The session was chaired by Mr. Kullow Mohamed Sheikh and was attended by several key stakeholders, board members and community members.

ATTENDEES

In addition to the members of the public, the Board members and Municipality management team in attendance included;

1. Kullow Mohamed Sheikh – Chair
2. Abdia Hussein Abdi – V/Chair
3. Matker Mohamed Noor – Secretary
4. Mohamed Abdullahi Omar – Member
5. Famsahara Adan Maalim – Member
6. Ibrahim Hassan Malow – Member
7. Hussein Maalim – Member
8. Abdi Adan Baraka – Finance Manage
9. Abdiaziz Ali Alio – Environmental Officer
10. Said Haji Hassan – Civil Engineer
11. Hussein Adan – ICT Officer
12. Abdi Kahiye – Enforcement – in Charge
13. Suleiman Adan – Fire Officer



1. BUS PARK REHABILITATION PROJECT

The forum opened with an introduction from the chairperson of the Municipality Board, who emphasized the importance of these regular engagements in fostering transparency and community involvement. The key agenda items addressed began with the Bus Park Rehabilitation Project. The Municipal Engineer provided an update on ongoing work to rehabilitate the bus park, which includes fencing, drainage improvements, and cabro paving repairs to ease congestion and improve functionality. Community members expressed support for the improvements and suggested that periodic maintenance be scheduled to avoid deterioration. The municipality responded by committing to regular inspections and promising shaded seating areas for passengers.

2. GREENING INITIATIVE

The municipality's Greening Initiative was highlighted next, with the Environmental Officer sharing Mandera's recent success in the AIPH World Green City Awards. Mandera has been ranked among the top three cities worldwide in the "Living Green for Climate Change" category, and the municipality has been invited to attend the award ceremony in Utrecht, Netherlands, on September 24, 2024. The Environmental Officer detailed ongoing greening activities such as tree planting and landscaping projects, noting that these efforts are integral to the municipality's climate resilience strategy. Community members expressed pride in this achievement and encouraged the municipality to further expand its green spaces and involve local schools and organizations in environmental stewardship activities.

3. FINANCE BILL AND REVENUE COLLECTION

Updates on the Finance Bill and Revenue Collection were presented by the Finance Officer, who explained that Mandera Municipality has recently taken over full responsibility for revenue collection and has established a Huduma Center to centralize this function. The Finance Officer outlined the fees stipulated in the new finance bill, which include market fees, parking charges, and business permits, and invited residents to utilize the Huduma Center for payment processing. Some participants requested additional signage at the center for ease of navigation and clearer communication about how the collected revenue would be utilized. In response, the municipality pledged to enhance signage and offer regular updates on revenue allocation and spending to ensure transparency.

4. WASTE MANAGEMENT AND SANITATION

Waste Management and Sanitation emerged as another priority. The Environmental Officer discussed efforts to improve waste collection around high-traffic areas like the bus park and central market. Plans to increase collection points and introduce more frequent pickups were shared, with residents suggesting that the municipality establish recycling points at the market. The municipality expressed openness to this idea and plans to initiate a pilot recycling project at the central market.

5. STREET LIGHTING

Public Safety and Lighting were also discussed, with participants highlighting safety concerns in poorly lit areas, particularly around the bus park and central market, where theft incidents had been reported. The municipality acknowledged these concerns and committed to installing additional streetlights in vulnerable zones while working closely with local security agencies to increase patrols during peak hours.

6. PLENARY SESSION

Several additional proposals were raised by community members during the open forum. These included calls for more Youth Employment Programs, with suggestions for skills training initiatives that would allow local youth to participate in municipal projects, and a request for more Recreational Facilities to promote community well-being. The municipality responded by sharing plans to incorporate recreational areas in future urban development projects as part of its broader vision for sustainable and inclusive development.

KEY URBAN ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED

- **Infrastructure Development:** Better road networks, drainage systems, and pedestrian infrastructure.
- **Urban Zoning and Planning:** Addressing congestion, sanitation, and space allocation.
- **Public Health and Sanitation:** Urgent intervention for waste management and sanitary facilities.
- **Inclusive Economic Growth:** Equitable market expansion for informal traders.
- **Safety and Security:** Strengthening security measures to reduce crime.

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

The forum concluded with a summary of resolutions and a commitment to follow up on the actions discussed. The next citizen fora for Q1 2024/2025 is scheduled, and ongoing updates will be provided to keep the community informed on the progress of current projects. The chairperson thanked all participants for their insights and active engagement, reinforcing the municipality's commitment to community-driven governance and service excellence in Mandera.

