



**MANDERA MUNICIPALITY CITIZEN FORA REPORT FOR Q1 FY 2024/2025
HELD ON 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AT MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE HALL HQ.**

INTRODUCTION

The Mandera Municipality citizen fora for Q1 FY 2024/2025 was held on September 30, 2024, at the Mandera Municipality Hall. This forum allowed community members to engage with municipal officials, celebrate recent accomplishments, and discuss ongoing and upcoming initiatives. Key topics included Mandera's first-place recognition in the AIPH World Green City Awards, a comprehensive revenue enhancement exercise, preparations for Mazingira Day, the Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP) Phase 2, and development control concerns. A plenary session was conducted to identify priority areas that would guide future development and service improvements.

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 – Mem ber
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. VICTORY IN THE AIPH WORLD GREEN CITY AWARDS

The meeting commenced with introductory remarks from the chairperson, who thanked the community for its continued engagement and outlined the agenda. Highlights included Mandera's Victory in the AIPH World Green City Awards, where the municipality achieved first place in the "Living Green for Climate Change" category at an award ceremony held in Utrecht, Netherlands. This recognition celebrates Mandera's green initiatives, including widespread tree planting and park development. Attendees commended this achievement and requested further expansion of green spaces. The municipality responded by committing to enhance greening efforts and involve schools and local organizations in upcoming projects.

2. REVENUE ENHANCEMENT EXERCISE

The Revenue Enhancement Exercise was another focal point. This collaborative initiative, spearheaded by the County Government's Department of Revenue, Efficiency Monitoring Unit, Delivery Unit, ICT Department, Department of Economic Planning, and Department of Finance under the Governor's direction, aims to optimize revenue collection, close gaps, and improve service delivery. The Finance Officer highlighted enhancements at the Huduma Center, where streamlined payment processes have been implemented. Forum participants sought additional clarity on revenue allocation, and the municipality pledged to publish an annual revenue usage report to enhance transparency.

3. PREPARATIONS FOR WORLD MAZINGIRA DAY

The Environmental Officer shared details on the municipality's Preparations for World Mazingira Day, set for October 10, 2024. Activities will include community clean-ups, tree planting, and celebrations to honor the recent Green City Award. Community members were encouraged to participate actively, and the municipality assured attendees that the event would engage schools, local organizations, and residents to promote environmental conservation.

4. KENYA URBAN SUPPORT PROGRAM (KUSP) PHASE 2

Updates were provided on Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP) Phase 2. The Municipal Manager explained that this phase would focus on expanding urban infrastructure, improving drainage systems, and enhancing road networks. Early feedback from residents suggested that the municipality prioritize road repairs and drainage upgrades in flood-prone areas. The municipality committed to incorporating these suggestions into the final plans for KUSP 2.

5. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL ISSUES

Concerns regarding Development Control and Urban Planning were raised. Residents highlighted an increase in haphazard construction and unauthorized developments, which have led to congestion and infrastructure strain. The Urban Development Department acknowledged the issue and indicated that new regulations are in development to address these challenges. Community members were encouraged to report unregulated construction, and the municipality promised stricter enforcement of zoning and building codes to ensure orderly urban growth.

6. STREET LIGHTING

The forum also addressed Public Safety and Lighting needs. Residents requested improved lighting around essential areas, specifically at the public cemetery in Bulla Kamor, where lack of lighting has raised security concerns. The municipality committed to installing streetlights at the cemetery and other priority locations to enhance safety and accessibility.

7. WASTE MANAGEMENT AND SANITATION

Waste Management and Sanitation improvements were also discussed. The Environmental Officer announced the addition of new waste collection points around high-traffic areas such as the bus park and market to enhance waste management. Community members supported these actions and proposed youth group involvement in waste collection efforts. The municipality expressed interest in this partnership to promote community engagement and responsibility.

Key Priority Areas identified in the Plenary Session

During the plenary session, participants identified the following priority areas to guide future development efforts in Mandera Municipality:

1. Enhanced Public Safety Measures: Increased security, particularly around high-traffic areas like the central market and the bus park, including additional streetlights and regular security patrols.
2. Expansion of Green Spaces: Continued focus on the greening initiative, with plans to add parks and tree-lined walkways in residential neighborhoods.
3. Improved Infrastructure for Flood Control: Drainage enhancements in flood-prone areas to prevent property damage and ensure road accessibility during heavy rains.



4. Youth Employment and Community Engagement: Programs to provide skill-building workshops and employment opportunities for youth in municipal projects, as well as encouraging their involvement in waste management and environmental efforts.
5. Strengthened Development Control: Enforcing building codes and zoning regulations to manage haphazard developments and ensure sustainable urban growth.
6. Waste Management Improvements: Expanding waste collection points and introducing recycling efforts in partnership with community groups to promote sustainable practices.

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

The forum concluded with a summary of the resolutions passed and the municipality's commitment to these priorities. The next citizen fora for Q2 2024/2025 is scheduled, with regular updates to keep the community informed on the progress of key initiatives. The chairperson thanked participants for their active contributions and reinforced the importance of community-driven governance in Mandera.

