



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYANDARUA
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, PHYSICAL
PLANNING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT



ENGINEER MUNICIPALITY

ENGINEER MUNICIPALITY BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR
2023/2024

Foreword

The establishment of the Engineer Municipality in 2023 marked a significant milestone in the development of Nyandarua County. The municipality was chartered under the leadership of H.E. Governor Moses Kiarie Badilisha, who appointed the board in November 2023 to provide oversight and ensure the municipality's success. This report highlights the achievements, challenges, and outlook of the Board as we continue to lay the foundation for a thriving municipality.

Achievements

One of the primary roles of the Board has been to establish a robust framework for the municipality's operations. In line with the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011, the Nyandarua County Government, through a gazette notice dated 19th April 2024, officially transferred various functions to the Engineer Municipality. This move was pivotal and instrumental in operationalizing the municipality and aligning its activities with the county's broader development goals.

Key achievements during for the year;

Secondment of Municipal Staff: To support its operations, the municipality successfully received the secondment of staff from the county government, ensuring that essential services are delivered efficiently.

Establishment of a Municipal Office: The Board facilitated the acquisition of office space for the municipality, providing a centralized location for administrative functions and community engagement.

Needs Assessment: The Board conducted a comprehensive needs assessment in Engineer town, Ndunyu Njeru, Murungaru town, Weru town, Munyaka town, and Gathara shopping center to understand the challenges faced by the community. It was noted that economic activities in some towns were nearly dead, requiring the Board to devise strategies for their revival. Common issues identified across these areas included a lack of drainage systems, waste management and sewerage systems, insufficient floodlights, poor road conditions, encroachment on roads, and a lack of urban planning. This assessment has informed our planning and decision-making processes.

Challenges

Despite these successes, the municipality has faced significant challenges, particularly in solid waste management. The issue of waste disposal remains a major concern,

exacerbated by the ongoing transition of responsibilities from the Department of Public Health to the municipality. The delay in the transfer of the attached budget, assets, and staff has hindered our ability to address this challenge effectively.

The municipality has also faced the challenge of an inadequate budget to finance its operations, with only KES 3 million allocated for development and KES 6 million for recurrent expenditures. This financial constraint has significantly limited the Board's ability to implement essential projects and maintain municipal services at the desired level.

Additionally, the drainage system in Engineer town proved inadequate during extreme rainy weather at the beginning of the year, resulting in flooding that disrupted business operations and put residents at risk of waterborne diseases. The lack of casual workers within the municipality to assist in clearing the drainage system and managing waste has further compounded this issue.

The County Assembly of Nyandarua enacted legislation requiring each sub-county to manage its own waste. While this law was a positive step, it has also led to protests from residents of Kinangop Subcounty, who oppose the use of local public land for waste disposal. In response, the Board, in consultation with the county executive, has been exploring alternative solutions, including the reclamation of quarries within the sub-county for temporary waste disposal through public-private partnerships.

Performance Review

The Board underwent an induction program in June 2024 to equip members with the necessary skills and knowledge to fulfill their roles. This training has been crucial in enhancing our governance and oversight capabilities.

In terms of development, the municipality acquired four skip bins for use within Engineer town, improving waste management infrastructure. Additionally, the Board prepared and submitted its annual budget estimates for FY 2025/2026, which includes the development of an Annual Development Plan. These efforts are aligned with our commitment to securing county government funding and accessing resources under the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP) Phase II.

Future Outlook

Looking ahead, the Board is focused on several key priorities:

Establishment of Municipal Offices: The Board is committed to establishing permanent offices for the municipality that will accommodate all municipal staff. We envision the identified public land under the affordable housing project as a suitable venue for these offices, as well as a fire station and a social hall.

Strategic Use of Public Land: The identified public land is also considered suitable for the construction of critical infrastructure, including a fire station and a social hall, which will serve the community's needs.

Collaboration for Development: The Board is looking forward to working closely with prospective donors, the County Government, and the National Government on various projects, including the construction of the Engineer town infrastructure, upgrading roads within the municipality, and addressing waste management challenges.

Construction of Drainage Systems: The Board is prioritizing the construction of drainage systems within the four wards which are within the boundaries of Engineer Municipality namely; Gathaara, North Kinangop, and Murungaru wards. This initiative is critical to improving sanitation and preventing flooding in these areas.

Commencement of KUSP II: The Board is also keen on the commencement of the Kenya Urban Support Programme (KUSP) Phase II, which is expected to bring substantial funding and development opportunities to the municipality.

Completion of Strategic Documents: The finalization of the Integrated Development Plan (IDeP) and Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plan (ISUDP) is a top priority, as these documents will guide the municipality's long-term development.

Revenue Enhancement: The Board is committed to increasing the municipality's own-source revenue by improving infrastructure that facilitates revenue collection.

Bylaws Development: The board is keen to develop and enforce bylaws that promote public order and the provision of civic amenities, enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

Greening the Municipality: We are committed to greening the municipality and creating a conducive environment for businesses. Public involvement will be a cornerstone of this effort, with citizen forums providing a platform for residents to voice their opinions on all development matters.

Conclusion

As we reflect on the year 2023/2024 while significant progress has been made, much work remains to be done. The Board is committed to overcoming challenges and pursuing development opportunities that will transform Engineer Municipality into a vibrant, well-managed urban center.

We appreciate the continued support from H.E. Governor Moses Kiarie Bandilisha, the Nyandarua County Assembly, and the community as we work together to achieve our shared vision for the municipality.

Tabitha Wambui

Chairperson, Engineer Municipality Board

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