

KATHWANA MUNICIPALITY



Telephone:
Email: lands@tharakanithi.go.ke
Website: www.tharakanithicounty.go.ke

P. O. BOX 10-60406
KATHWANA

14TH MARCH, 2019

**MINUTES OF THE LAUNCH OF THE TARMACKING OF KATHWANA TOWN ROADS AT
KATHWANA MARKET AND UNVEILING THE APPROVED KATHWANA MUNICIPALITY
DEVELOPMENT PLAN HELD ON 13TH MARCH, 2019**



INTRODUCTION

The launch of tarmacking of Kathwana town roads was held on 13th March, 2019 at Kathwana Market. Gracing the occasion was H.E The Governor, Muthomi Njuki, The County Commissioner, CEC-Lands, Environment, Physical planning, Urban development and Natural resources, CO- Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development, The Municipal Board, The Municipal Manager among other invited guests.

KATHWANA MUNICIPALITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Governor expressed his gratitude towards the completion of the Kathwana Municipality Development Plan. Kathwana had been designated as the county headquarters for Tharaka Nithi county necessitating the preparation of the development plan.

The Governor explained that the plan will eliminate the challenges of development of structures without development control guidelines, uncontrolled rapid land subdivision which brought about disorder and informality



Furthermore, the plan derives positive aspects and strengths of Kathwana and purposes to facilitate the development of physical, social, and economic activities. More so, the development agenda as based in the plan seeks to ensure inclusion, socio-economic well-being, and environmental conservation.

The plan has been made to respond to the needs and aspirations of the people of Kathwana and Tharaka Nithi while addressing the challenges faces and exploring the opportunities that exist within and without our borders.

ENTERTAINMENTS



The Opening Ceremony was started with songs and dance addressed by Kathwana Self Help group among others to welcome the guests. In these opening remarks the group thrilled on defining the strengths and potentials of Kathwana Municipality and the benefits of the tarmacking of the roads within the market. The dances brought out the need

to embrace the development plan and safeguard the happening developments that are happening in the municipality for sustainable development.

Proceedings

Addressing the participants, the entire guest including the chief guest of Honour had speeches on Kathwana Municipality Urban Development plan and the Kathwana Municipality development agenda.

The Municipal Manager

Addressing the participants, the municipal manager said that Kathwana Municipality has recently begun to experience immense development pressure over the past few years due to the rising demand for housing, office and commercial developments. This is attributed to the fact that it has recently been designated as the headquarters for Tharaka Nithi County, availability of employment opportunities at the County headquarters, in private sector enterprises and in the business potentials accruable from trade in the markets and other secondary commercial centers.

To tackle all these challenges, the Urban Development Policy for Kathwana Municipality will provide a framework for coordinating all facets of development and actors. It aims to promote local economic development and investments in real estate, harmonious urban development and enhanced revenue generation leading to improved service delivery and efficient development administration and management. A key milestone in improvement of service delivery is the tarmacking of the 1.5Km road from Mate road to the County Headquarters and the loop around the market. He thanked all the facilitators and contributors such as University of Nairobi and Kenya Urban Support Programme and the County Government of Tharaka Nithi for the big milestone.

He invited the CEC- Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development to make a few remarks

CEC- Lands, Physical Planning and Urban Development

On his remarks the CEC- Lands, thanked the Governor's office and the County Government for hosting the day event. He also noted that there is a need to continue introducing new development agenda within the municipality to raise the standards of the municipality in offering services and development to its residents and investors.

He said the main aim of the Urban Development Policy Framework for Kathwana Municipality is to provide a basis for guiding physical and socio-economic development within the municipality, as well as guiding development control. The document has incorporated a development policy and a plan for the municipality as a guiding tool for harmonious development; a shared vision for a well-planned town to attract investors; plan for a well-articulated circulation system and to avoid haphazard traffic flows; measure for continued sustainable capacity building for the County planning department in order to address the physical development challenges of the town; measures for continued sensitization of the stakeholders to embrace planning and orderly development of the municipality for their own benefit.

Worth mentioning, Policies and strategies have also been provided to facilitate sustainable exploitation of Kathwana Municipality's potential for agriculture, energy, water, fishing, tourism, forestry and mining. The plans provide coordinating frameworks for Sectoral planning and address disconnect that has prevailed overtime between economic and spatial planning. The plan has provided a window for review after a certain time frame to take stock of the progress. It is my hope that you will engage the plan vigorously to see how best we can achieve the Kathwana Municipality vision.

On the tarmacking of Kathwana town roads, the CEC said the project was possible through the County Government of Tharaka Nithi through Kenya Urban Support Programme grants (KUSP) – World Bank received grants which aimed to support the establishment and strengthen the municipality to deliver improved infrastructure and services. This has supported the county to establish a well-defined transportation system with clear road network, improved the narrow roads to better the conditions that were impassable during unfavorable weather.

The Government of Tharaka Nithi through the department of Lands, Physical Planning, Urban Development, Housing, Environment and Natural Resources in collaboration with KUSP is upgrading 1.5 Km of the Kathwana roads to bitumen standards during the financial year 2018/2019 in Kathwana Municipality from C92 to county headquarter offices and a loop around the Kathwana market.

He finished by saying the project will benefit the community by creating employment, improving the value of land attracting potential investments which will lead to improved living standards within the municipality and county in general.

The County Commissioner

She urged the community to embrace the Kathwana Municipality Plan which will help to achieve a more compact urban form, to facilitate higher planned densities, mixed land use development, improved service delivery and to integrate land use and public transport planning in order to ensure more diverse and responsive environments while reducing travelling distances. The tarmacking of the market roads will help in movement and also help to attract investors in the area to put up new developments.

Guest of Honour – The County Governor

Addressing the participants, the Governor said that Planning is the core of any purposeful development in any part of the world. Developed countries lay their foundation for development on prior and proper land use planning. This involves laying and spatially designating various land uses. This ensures no conflicting developments and investors are able to have maximum utilization of their land and ensure they reap the optimum benefits of their investment. In that regard, his Government prioritized planning of the County Headquarters to ensure coordinated and controlled development.

He listed the benefits of the plan as:

1. Coordinated and controlled development
2. Increased land values
3. Enhanced competitiveness of Kathwana with other municipalities in the region
4. Creation of job opportunities
5. Enhance investment opportunities and safeguard investors
6. Promote economic competitiveness of the local community
7. Create public spaces
8. Increased county revenue

H. E the Governor explained that the plan has undergone all the due approval process. And as at from 13th March,2019, his Government will start receiving development applications within the municipality.

Residents and investors wishing to develop should present their applications to the Municipal Manager. A technical committee has been formed that will vet the plans as per the relevant laws and guide developers on their applications.

The Committee shall comprise:

1. Physical Planner
2. Public health officer
3. Surveyor
4. Engineer
5. Architect
6. Environment Officer

He stated an enforcement team will be conducting field visits to ensure that the developments adhere to the Kathwana Municipality plan hence the moratorium that he had placed on developments within the municipality had been lifted. he welcomed all investors to the Municipality and assured them of the government full support.

The Governor informed that the tarmacking of Kathwana town roads will have immense accrued impact in terms of economic benefits, job creation and enhanced communication

The upgrading of the Kathwana town roads will be a great way to boost the local economy. Nearby properties will benefit from improved transportation networks and increased customers for their businesses. This will further attract more people to the area, which will boost local tourism and supports local businesses. It will also be easier to enhance service delivery to the people of Tharaka Nithi county seeking services within Kathwana town.

The governor welcomed the contractor to the ground and assured them of support from the residents and the county government to ensure that the project is completed and will offer maximum benefits to the residents of Kathwana Municipality and the county at large.

Adjournment

The day ended well at 3.00 P.M with the launch of tarmacking of Kathwana 1.5 Km road by Bodhai Contractors.