

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF THARAKA NITHI



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OFFICER

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, PHYSICAL PLANNING, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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KATHWANA

REPORT MINUTES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING HELD AT KATHWANA ON 15th JANUARY 2019 TO CREATE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SENTINTIZE THE LOCAL COMMUNITY ON THE ROLE OF KUSP GRANTS

Members present

- **Note:** List of members present attached

Agenda

- Preliminary
- Opening remarks
- Community Training and sensitization session
- Questions and answers
- Closing remarks

Preliminary

The meeting started at 11:00 Am with a word of prayer led by one of the appointed community leaders who started the meeting with a word of prayer.

Opening remarks

The chairman of the market opened the meeting and requested the present members to introduce themselves. In his opening remarks he requested the sub county Igambang'ombe to introduce the present county staff.

The present county staff were; - the CEC in charge of urban development, the chief officer – urban development among other department staff.

In attendance was the contractor Bodhai contractor ltd who joined the meeting to hear contributions from the community.

The CEC – in charge of urban development briefly introduced the Kenya Urban support programme to the community.

Community awareness and sensitization session

The chief officer was requested by the CEC to introduce the **KUSP** programme to the community. He started by saying that the programme was approved by the World Bank Board in July 2017. It was declared “effective” on 11th January 2018. KUSP is a successor to the \$124m Kenya Municipal Programme (KMP) which closed, successfully, in May 2017.

She added that the fundamental aim of KUSP is to develop an urban management capability in counties, through their statutorily required urban boards for municipalities. She said that the KUSP has two grants to give the municipalities which qualify as per the set standards and conditions; - UDG and UIG – and stated that the **Urban Development Grant (UDG)** flows directly to eligible counties for urban infrastructure and service delivery in urban areas that have been pre-identified by counties through their planning, within KUSP.

She also said that, KUSP will provide eligible county governments with Urban Development Grants (UDGs) in order to finance investments in urban infrastructure, which have been identified as priorities by each county, with participation of citizens through their municipal board. UDG is structured to provide incentives for counties and urban boards to deliver plan-based urban infrastructure. She also added that the Investments can include both rehabilitation and construction of new infrastructure.

She thus said that the county government of Tharaka Nithi with its municipality set at Kathwana as the county headquarters qualified to benefit for the UDG grants and the Governor accepted by signing the agreement between the Kenya Urban Support Programme.

She noted that the County managed to qualify for **Kshs. 50,000,000** which has been budgeted for the construction and upgrading roads around Kathwana Market an approximation of 1.5 kilometers from the main road to Governors’ Offices and around the market.

Questions and Answers

Questions were raised by the community in order to understand the KUSP grants. Following were some of the questions raised; -

- ✓ If the road is going to be constructed, will the community be affected/in case of demolitions of community houses who will pay in case the expansion of the road extends to the individual entities /properties.
- ✓ How will the construction of the roads make sure that our waterline is not affected and if affected who is going to cater for the damages and repairs
- ✓ How is the community/local community being to benefit from the project? Will the contractor consider employing the local people for casual jobs /he /she will have to come with his staff?
- ✓ There will be dust emission and other waste from the construction site, how will this be handled and who is going to handle the issue.
- ✓ During the construction of the roads the main roads will be closed we will have to shift to diversions, will the diversion affect the local community adjacent the project by encroaching to their lands

Ans.

- ✓ The answers to the above questions was answered by the contractor, the chief officer, the CEC, among other staff from the department of urban development.
- ✓ It was noted that the KUSP conditions has minimal demolitions and doesn't fund a project which will affect more than 10 local communities.
- ✓ On the other hand, it was realized that the water line is along the roadside-the chief officer said that the department has already formulated a grievances resolution mechanism committee where the complaints about the construction of the road can be received in writing from the affected person/area, the issue will be recorded and the committee can thus come to the site of the complaints and the matter will be resolved.

Closing Remarks

The Sub County Igambang'ombe was requested to welcome the market Chairman to close the meeting and give remarks. He thanked all the participants for attending, listening and contributing to the meeting agenda and for appreciating the initiation of the construction works as a sign of development.

Adjournment

There being no other activity the meeting ended at 3:00 Pm with a word of prayer.