



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF BUSIA  
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, HOUSING  
& URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
**MALABA MUNICIPALITY**

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REF: CG/MM/ADM/2023/24/08

14/07/2023

**MALABA MUNICIPALITY**  
**MINUTES FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER CITIZEN FORUM MEETING FY 2023/24**  
**HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023 AT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICES GROUNDS**  
**AS FROM 10.00 A.M.**

**'THE MALABA WE WANT'**

**ATTENDANCE:**

- i. (See attached attendance list, overleaf).
- ii. Event in Photos.



Photo: citizen forum meeting in session





More images.

## **AGENDA:**

1. Preliminaries.
2. Main discussion:
  - i. Instituting proper solid waste management.
  - ii. Eminent infrastructural challenges:-
    - a) Street lighting
    - b) Drainage issues
  - iii. How to enhance connectivity:-
    - a) Blocked streets/roads/cul-de-sac.
    - b) Narrow roads.
  - iv. Regulation of open air cooking.
  - v. Regulation of open air trade.
3. A.O.B

### **MIN: MALABA/CF/01/2023/24: PRELIMINARIES**

The meeting was called to order by the Ag. Municipal Manager at 11.00 a.m. and a prayer made by a Christian Volunteer and a Muslim member.

### **MIN: MALABA/CF/02/2023/24: MAIN DISCUSSIONS:**

**Mr. Moses Imai**, opined that it would be prudent if street lighting was enhanced in Jairos market, Kocholia market, Lukolis market and all the way from Malaba OSBP to Kocholia along the Malaba-Bungoma Highway to guarantee a more secure Municipality and ensure more business operating hours in order to realize a 24 -hour economy.

He further stated that perpetrators of open air cooking were mostly traders from the neighbouring country, Uganda and therefore, whereas there are guaranteed rights for free movement and cross border trade as per the East African Protocol Accord, they should be sensitized of the provisions Kenyan Public Health Act, 2017 and its enforcement to follow immediately.

According to him, most of the connectivity issues can be attributed to poor planning or lack of spatial planning thereof, and he further observed that, the Malaba Water and Sewer Company should move and complete the project so that citizens can begin reaping the benefits from the facility.

Under A.O.B, Mr. Imai, noted that there were many pending land issues as inherited from the defunct Local Authorities e.g. Malaba Dumpsite land, and he therefore suggested that All County Government land should be titled and also whenever employment opportunities emerge in the Municipality, the immediate local community should be made adequately made aware so as they effectively apply and compete favourably.

**Ms. Rebecca Abosta;** alluded that whereas the subject is a legal matter, there was general uncertainty surrounding the Amoni Market Land subject and the traders were asking the County Government (Malaba Municipality) to address the concerns and guarantee traders a secure and better market environment.

She further stated under, A.O.B, that whereas it is not directly a Municipality function, the County Government of Busia, should move and complete stalled projects that were initially began e.g in Hospitals and Schools in the area.

**Mr. Joseph Etyang;** discussed that Malaba Municipality should quickly move and enact bylaws that would control solid waste management. He further advised that individual traders should exercise responsibility by having litter bins at each business premises.

He pointed that on its part, the Municipality should budget and purchase solid waste transportation vehicles and stop depending on one's from Busia Municipality.

He also observed that encroachment was rampant at Kocholia market and is therefore calling for a comprehensive exercise to address the land disputes and undertake proper demarcation and site planning of Kocholia market.

He finally prayed that the High mast light and Public sanitation block at Kocholia market should be completed and commissioned so that market can start have dignified sanitation facility and observe longer operating hours.

**Mzee Paul Omala;** identified that in Kamolo area, drainage challenges are occasioned by fast-flowing surface run-off from Amukura Hills that has damaged culverts at Kabosikipi, Onyunyur and at the Empowerment Centre, Njia Moja-Totokakaile Rd, Kalalaton-Machakusi road.

Mzee Omala further directed that maintenance of solar and electric streetlights should be undertaken periodically in order to have the facilities serve the public longer. On the same breath he also single out that it is time for Kamolo security base to be accorded a functional police station to avert security challenges in the area.

**Mr. Peter Okemer,** while addressing the subject of connectivity, he prayed that connectivity should generally be enhanced across all areas of the Municipality so that farm produce can make it to markets on time.

He also pointed that Jairos market, Milimani Business Centre, Osere Market, Awata, Okuleu business centres have sanitation challenges in areas of solid waste management and also do not have ablution blocks.

**Mr. Seferio Ikapolok**, said that, he believed with utmost certainty and clarity that it is the Malaba Juakali traders sector that are rampant in littering Malaba Town and should they act and operate prudently, and then the solid waste management issues would drastically improve.

He further, moved to deter the culprits that dump on vacant/undeveloped plots to stop that vice and direct the waste to the designated Malaba dumpsite.

He tasked the Municipal administration to sensitize the Community about the location of the dumpsite and consider solar street lights as opposed to the electric ones that have high operation costs.

He advised open air traders operating along the busy highway to detest from the practice so that to avert a situation similar to one recently reported at Londiani from happening in Malaba Municipality.

On the subject of connectivity, he alludes that most roads as initially opened and mapped had not envisaged current development trends and standards and therefore a strong regularization strategy should be mooted within the applicable legal framework to correct this historical challenge since most of the land is freehold (privately owned).

He was concerned that the budget allocation given to Malaba Municipality is not sufficient to address the eminent areas and therefore asked that the Malaba Municipality allocation be enhanced commensurate to the area of operation and taxes collected.

**Mr. Simon Ikamar;** observed that Soko mawe, Kamolo, Onyunyur areas require street lighting and need an infrastructural upgrade in order to catalyze and realise the potential of these fast and upcoming growth nodes.

He indicated that on the road linking Malaba to Onyunyur, a proper bridge needs to be constructed in place of the dilapidated ‘fly-over’ make-shift foot bridge.

Accordingly, he advised all plot owners, Land lords and developers to rehabilitate, renovate and construct structures that befit the newly acquired Municipal status in the town so that Malaba can attain glory in the areas of aesthetics and architectural best practice.

Generally, he directed that order can be restored through robust solid waste management at Malaba Bus park and have progressive bylaws enacted to address roaming animals should be enacted and implemented immediately.



Finally, in reference to the challenges faced by the defunct local authorities, he concludes that the discussion around operationalization of the new Municipality should be devoid of selfish interests and safe guarded from retrogressive politics so as to realize better results.

**Mr. Altaf Bachu;** stated that the Municipality needs to prioritize formulation of a 5 year Strategic Plan and Municipality Spatial Plan that should, in a participatory manner, prioritize the needs as raised by *Mwanainchi*.

In his opinion, the Municipality should prioritize opening, lining and budget for maintenance of drainages.

It is also his desire that distinct roles for County Government Departments and the Municipality should be clearly spelt to the Citizens and a commensurate budget/resources to undertake these functions be advanced so that the people can have an easy time, capacity and ability to direct specific issues to relevant authorities.

**Mr. Okal;** preached need for co-existence of all communities in Malaba Municipality which by standards of a Municipality, it is evidently a cosmopolitan society.

He advised that upgrading of Malaba into a Municipality also portends an increased responsibility on the part of the Citizens and therefore the discussions should shift and major on pertinent issues as opposed to ethnic, retrogressive and divisive agenda.

**Mr. Jimmy Njehia;** he is of the opinion that since the institution is new, care should be taken so that it commences by instituting rule of law and universally acceptable best practice.

He observed that since the main commercial activities are along the highway and revolve around the transport corridor (long –distance trucks), the Municipality should move and harness the income-earning opportunity to construct sanitation facilities at strategic locations (Kocholia, Amagoro, Ikapolok and OSBP areas) for use by the truck drivers.

He directed that the Municipality should liase with the Traffic Police Department to enforce the Traffic Act that requires all long distance trucks to have an-in-cabin litter bins so that to ensure truck drivers dispose off solid waste in a dignified manner and perpetrators are brought to book.

**Mr. Emeyo Anthony;** observes that the Municipal administration should develop a robust spatial plan that would address the emerging nodes like Lukolis and further opening and promotion of trade in all markets within the Municipality.

He called for collective responsibility when it comes to Environmental Conservation whereas he noted with concern that sand harvesting was causing environmental degradation in Osurette Valley.

He also pointed that drainage challenges along Kategoroit road was a major concern that reversed all efforts towards gravelling the road.

**Mr. Shabram;** he directed that The Municipality should liaise with the Kenya National Highway Authority (KENHA) to have relevant road signs erected at required points of the highway.

He desires that the Municipality should prioritize construction of a disaster centre to address the ever rampant emergencies along the highway and include a medical wing that would address first aids prior to referrals.

**Mr Joseph Epalat;** calls for more consciousness on the part of citizens' to safe guard water quality by discouraging digging of pit latrines within the new municipality.

**Mr. Franklin Wangula (Office of Member of County Assembly-Malaba Central Ward);** emphasized the importance of the Citizen forum in providing an opportunity for Citizens to be consulted, involved and ventilate on cross-cutting issues surrounding Governance and development of the Municipality.

Mr. Wangula called for tolerance and unity of purpose in pursuit of opportunities, oversighting Government development agenda and contribution of ideas in Governance among the Municipal residents.

He further confided of the commitment from the office of the Member of County Assembly, Malaba Central Ward towards partnerships that shall unite all the relevant stakeholders behind promoting development across the Municipality.

**Mr. Obella Oporu (Office of the area Member of Parliament (Teso North);** identified that as a way of positioning Malaba as a robust Municipality, there is need to identify more programmes that target youth empowerment and talent development through creation of fun days and festivals.

He further confided that the office of the area Member of Parliament is keen on partnering in areas that can leverage on the abundant talent in academia, sports and creative arts.

## **MIN: MALABA/CF/03/2023/24: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES, STRATEGIES AND CONCLUSIONS**

During the meeting the following key cross-cutting issues, strategies and conclusions were advanced:-

That;

1. Malaba Municipality is a semi-autonomous Government agency (SAGA) of the County Government of Busia, and therefore there is need to foster more and leverage on this principal-agency relationship which is complimentary in nature. In that all Municipality operations, policies and development programs are duly aligned to the County Government development agenda as outlined in the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).
2. Business opportunities in Malaba Municipality should adhere to the provisions of the Public Procurement and Disposal Act, 2015 which requires that thirty (30) percent of contracts are reserved for Youth, women and People-Living-with-Disabilities (PLWDs). The various sectors were grouping and formally registering as Community-Based-Organizations (CBOs) so that they tap and compete for these contracts.
3. The municipality should sensitize the public and as a matter of policy deliberately promote and advocate for accessible architectural practices that provide access ramps for PLWDs and mainstream equity and equality in all programs.
4. Solid waste management is an income earning opportunity that local entrepreneurs should tap into and leverage on the recycling value-chain.
5. Connectivity in the town to be enhanced through opening and upgrading of the bypasses from Malaba OSBP-Osasame-Ikapolok areas and also deliberately expand roads to prescribed sizes.
6. The Police department shall enhance patrols and the Citizens from Kamolo to formally make an application through the OCS Malaba Police Station requesting for a complete and functional Police station whereas all developers with long-standing-incomplete-buildings that act as hideouts for criminals have been called out to complete the structures.



7. The Contractor undertaking the Malaba Water and Sewer Project is almost done with the works (90%) and shall soon hand over the project to BUWASSCO to effect individual connections. However, the sanitation facilities shall be handed over in a few days' time for use by Kocholia, Okima and Amoni market users.
8. The Contractor undertaking the project for erecting two (2) high mast lights at Kocholia market and Malaba Primary has already had his dues settled and should therefore complete and operationalize the lights to enhance security and promote more business operating hours.
9. The Municipality has commenced documentation of all public land and therefore all stakeholders and members of the public with relevant information to aid in the process are welcome on board to assist in the process. Amoni market issue shall be adequately addressed through the relevant departments and agencies and therefore traders should proceed, operate and pay relevant taxes to the County Government as usual. Site planning process for Kocholia market should also be fast-tracked.
10. All staff recruitment in the Municipality is undertaken through the County Public Service Board which is an equal-opportunity-employer and therefore residents are encouraged to be on the look-out for advertisements and opportunities in their areas of interest and expertise. However, consideration for contracted cleaning services and menial work shall be reserved for local CBOs.
11. The Malaba Municipality shall commence, in a few days' time, implementation of development projects through its FY 2022/23 Budget as follows:
  - i. Construction of an Ablution Block at the Malaba OSBP in attempt to provide sanitation facility to the long-distance truck drivers.
  - ii. Construction and lining of drainage from Winkers Hotel area towards Malaba Railways station.
  - iii. Connection of the ablution block at Malaba Bus Park to Sewer system and water connection.
12. It is the desire of all citizens to see Malaba turn into a leading Municipality, a competitive investment hub and a globally-acclaimed boarder point in providing opportunities for income and better living standards for its inhabitants.

**MIN: MALABA/CF/04/2023/24: CLOSING PRAYER**

The meeting as closed at 2.00 p.m. by a word of prayer from a Christian and Muslim volunteers.

**Prepared by:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>SIGN</b>
<b>Plan. Brian O. Abwaku,</b>	<b>Ag. Municipal Manager, Malaba Municipality</b>	<b>14/07/2023</b>	

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