

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITIZEN FORA

Theme: Economic Empowerment through Sustainable Projects

Date: 18 February 2025

Venue: Tinga Market Centre



1. Opening Remarks

The forum was opened by the Chairperson of the Municipal Board, Ms Rebecca Onyinkwa, who emphasized the strong linkage between environmental sustainability and economic empowerment. He noted that sustainable projects should not only address environmental concerns but also create employment opportunities, enhance livelihoods, and expand the municipal revenue base. The Chair highlighted that green growth strategies—particularly in agriculture, small enterprises, and infrastructure development—can drive inclusive economic transformation within Nyamira Municipality.

2. Technical Presentation

The Municipal Economic Planning Officer, Hesborn Ogeto, presented an overview of ongoing and proposed sustainable economic initiatives within the Municipality. The presentation focused on promoting value-added agricultural production, strengthening market infrastructure, and encouraging environmentally sustainable business practices.

It was reported that Nyamira's economy remains largely dependent on small-scale agriculture and informal trade. Opportunities exist in agro-processing, dairy value addition, banana processing, and other locally viable enterprises. The need for improved aggregation systems, cold storage facilities, and better market linkages was emphasized as a strategy to reduce post-harvest losses and increase farmer incomes.

The presentation also outlined ongoing market infrastructure improvements, including sanitation upgrades and roofing enhancements, and highlighted plans to modernize trading spaces to meet public health and environmental standards. Additionally, the Municipality is exploring green revenue streams, such as structured waste recycling enterprises and environmentally compliant business licensing.

3. Issues Raised by Participants

a) Value Addition and Agricultural Support

Farmers and traders expressed concern over limited access to aggregation centres and storage facilities, which often forces producers to sell goods at low farm-gate prices. Participants proposed establishment of centralized collection points and cold storage facilities to improve bargaining power and reduce spoilage. There were also calls for technical training on food processing and packaging standards to access broader markets.

b) Market Infrastructure

Traders raised concerns about inadequate sanitation facilities, drainage challenges, and insufficient shelter in some market areas. They emphasized the need for transparent and equitable allocation of trading spaces to avoid conflict and ensure fairness. Participants noted that improved market conditions would enhance public health and attract more customers.

c) Youth and Women Empowerment

Youth groups and women's associations highlighted limited access to affordable credit and business development services. They requested structured support in the form of financial literacy training, incubation programs, and facilitation of linkages with financial institutions. There was strong interest in green enterprises, including recycling, urban farming, and renewable energy services.

d) Revenue and Sustainability

Participants sought clarification on how environmentally sustainable initiatives would translate into increased municipal revenue and job creation. There was a general consensus that economic empowerment strategies must be measurable and inclusive.

4. Municipal Responses

In response, the Municipal Manager, Ernest Mokuu, committed to undertaking a feasibility assessment for aggregation centers and cold storage facilities in collaboration with the County Government and development partners. Plans to prioritize market sanitation and infrastructure upgrades in the upcoming budget cycle were reaffirmed.

The Municipality further committed to collaborating with financial institutions and relevant county departments to facilitate access to credit and training for youth and women entrepreneurs. It was emphasized that sustainable enterprise promotion would be integrated into the broader Local Economic Development (LED) strategy.

The Municipal Manager clarified that environmentally sustainable initiatives, such as structured waste recycling and improved market systems, would expand the tax base and enhance own-source revenue while promoting job creation.

5. Resolutions

The forum resolved to prioritize modernization of market infrastructure in the FY 2025/2026 budget. It was agreed that a youth-focused green enterprise support program should be developed and operationalized. Participants further resolved that sustainable economic initiatives must be integrated into the municipal planning and performance framework to ensure accountability and measurable outcomes.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the need to align economic growth with environmental stewardship and social inclusion.

Prepared by:

Steve Masese

Signature _____

NYAMIRA MUNICIPAL MANAGER
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF NYAMIRA
LAND, HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT
P.O. Box 434 - 40500 NYAMIRA

