

KARURI MUNICIPALITY

MINUTES OF BUSINESS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING

Date: 5TH June 2025

Time: 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Venue: ST. Martin De Porres Catholic Church Hall.

Chairperson: Municipal Manager, Karuri Municipality

Minute Taker: Secretary, Karuri Municipality



Reference: Forum as part of broader effort to ensure Business community and stakeholders input on county fiscal policies and Municipal Engagement.

1. Background and Context

This meeting Seeks to gather feedback, address concerns and explore ways to enhance the business environment and economic growth in Karuri Municipality, the engagement seeks for the business community contribution in planning and informing the budget on areas of prioritization and of concern as partners in development. Recent business engagement specifically involving H.E. the Governor, have focused on economic empowerment, infrastructure development and the modernization of trade system with key discussions targeting Kiambaa and Karuri.

The Municipal Manager, chairing the meeting, appealed for calm and constructive engagement. He reaffirmed the commitment of the Karuri Municipality and the Kiambu County Government, under the leadership of H.E. Governor Kimani Wamatangi, to support micro, small, and medium enterprises (SMEs) through improved services, lower cost-efficient licensing, and sustained infrastructure investment.

2. Attendance

2.1 Karuri Municipality and County Government Officials

- Department of Municipal Administration and Urban Development – Staff
- Department of Municipal Trade and Licensing – Licensing Officers
- Department of Trade and Industrialization – Representatives
- Department of Finance – Representatives
- Department of Environment – Representatives
- Security and Enforcement Officials
- Karuri Municipal Board – Members

2.2 Business Community Representatives

- Karuri Market Traders – Chairperson and Local Traders
- Tuk Tuk Operators and Bodaboda Riders Associations – Representatives and Members
- Karuri Business Community Members
- Small-Scale Traders
- Informal Sector Operators
- Garage Mechanics and Auto-Repair Operators

3. Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by the Chairperson, the Municipal Manager, who welcomed all attendees and thanked them for their attendance. He reminded all participants that disruption of official meetings is unlawful, and urged all parties to channel concerns through legitimate, structured engagement.

The Chairperson acknowledged the legitimate concerns of the business community and reaffirmed the Municipality's commitment to addressing them. He highlighted the Kiambu County Government's ongoing initiatives under Governor H.E. Kimani Wamatangi's administration to create a conducive business environment across all municipalities.

4. Key Agenda

1. Public Private Sector Engagement focus and strengthening collaboration.
2. Discussion of challenges facing local businesses and solutions thereof.
3. Infrastructure and service delivery affecting businesses
4. Drainage infrastructure and flooding
5. Illegal structures, encroachment and makeshift stalls

5. Issues Raised, Discussion, and Resolutions

Issue 1 | High Levy Fees and Charges

Discussion

This was the most critical challenge raised facing businesses. Business operators — including market traders, bodaboda riders, tuk tuk operators, and small-scale traders, expressed strong dissatisfaction with the current levy and fee structure. Charges were high considering the high cost of doing business and the low profit and losses businesses are making in the current environment. Traders noted that fees had been increased without prior consultation, and that enforcement was proceeding before any engagement had taken place. Informal sector operators indicated that levies were consuming a significant share of daily revenues, threatening the viability of their enterprises.

Agreed Actions

- ✓ Finance Bill 2025 relief — 50% cut in public health fees for non-food businesses,
- ✓ The finalized Act introduced 12Month validity for business permit.
- ✓ Public Participation & Accountability — the 2025/2026 fiscal year forums, with a call for businesses to engage in future rounds.
- ✓ Land rates reduction and fees for photography/videography by youth were waived.
- ✓ Continuation of the levy review with business community representation.

Issue 2 | Roads infrastructure and street lighting development.

Discussion

The traders raised concern on the challenges of infrastructure affecting their businesses such as the roads, drainages, culverts and street lights. Modern market structures and more trading spaces to cater for the rising number of traders in the markets and doing business.

Agreed Actions

- ✓ Proposed roads rehabilitation works already schedules for grading, gravelling and compacting.
- ✓ Construction and rehabilitation of the markets already ongoing.
- ✓ Municipal Board to priorities this as part of the market infrastructure improvement agenda.

Issue 3 | unregulated food hawking in the bus parks and illegal liquor Joints.

Discussion

Rising number of food hawking and in the bus park unregulated or controlled raised concern form the traders, especially also involving foreigners.

Agreed Actions

- ✓ Municipal public health to ensure licensing and compliance.
- ✓ Enforcement officials to follow up on the issue for compliance purposes.

Issue 4 | Inadequate Drainage Infrastructure and Flooding

Discussion

Representatives from multiple business groups highlighted the persistent problem of stormwater flooding in the Karuri Markets and trading areas. The existing drainage channels are undersized, poorly maintained, and frequently blocked by silt and solid waste. During rainy seasons, flooding damages goods, makes premises inaccessible, and results in significant losses particularly for ground-floor traders, market stall holders, and informal sector operators.

Agreed Actions

- ✓ Department of Environment and Department of Municipal Administration to conduct a drainage infrastructure rehabilitation.
- ✓ A drainage expansion and improvement plan to be submitted to the Municipal Board for inclusion in capital expenditure planning.
- ✓ An emergency drainage clearance and de-silting exercise to be carried out.
- ✓ Regular drainage maintenance schedules already established.

Issue 5 | Illegal trading Structures in the Municipality

Discussion

Security and enforcement officials and licensed business operators raised concerns over the proliferation of unauthorised containers and makeshift structures within the municipality. Notably, these structures are frequently erected overnight, making it difficult for authorities to intercept them before they become established. The structures occupy public walkways and spaces without planning approval, obstruct pedestrian and emergency vehicle access, and create unfair competition for licensed traders who pay levies and comply with regulations. Their presence also compromises the orderly character and visual environment of the municipality

Agreed Actions

- ✓ Department of Municipal Administration and Urban Development to regularize appropriately all unauthorized trading structures.
- ✓ New market structure already being established shall host the market traders.
- ✓ Enforcement to be intensified, including increased overnight and early-morning patrols to deter overnight erection of structures.
- ✓ Relevant county by-laws on unauthorised structures to be applied consistently and without discrimination.

6. Closing Remarks

There being no other business the meeting was closed with a word of prayer from the bishop.

7. Confirmation and Signatures

These minutes are a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Business Community Engagement Meeting held on 5th June 2025 at the catholic Hall

CHAIRPERSON

Municipal Manager, Karuri Municipality

Signature: _____

Date:

SECRETARY / MINUTE TAKER

Secretary, karuri Municipality

Signature: _____

Date:
