

Meeting of Kiambu Municipality and County Government held on 14th October 2024 with Local Business Community and traders at Kiambu Community Social Hall.

Purpose of the Meeting

The meeting aims to bring together members of the local business community and Kiambu Municipality leadership to discuss key business issues, challenges, and opportunities for improving the business environment within the municipality, and Having their Views considered in the Finance bill for the financial year 2025-2026.

Objectives

1. To discuss challenges facing local businesses
2. To strengthen collaboration between business owners and municipal leadership
3. To explore solutions for improving the business environment
4. To address licensing and regulatory concerns.
5. To discuss infrastructure and service delivery affecting businesses
6. Registration of businesses
7. The new modern market construction and the temporally the relocation issue(s)



MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Between Local Business Community and traders and Kiambu Municipality Leadership on 14th October 2024

Date: 14 October 2024

Time: 10.00Am-2.00pm

Venue: Kiambu Community Social Hall

Meeting Chairperson: Municipal Manager Kiambu Municipality

Secretary/Minute Taker: MAUD Accountant

1. Attendance

1. Department of Municipal Administration and urban Development staff
2. Department of Municipal trade and licensing officers.
3. Department of trade and industrialization
4. Department of Finance representation
5. Department of environment representation
6. Security and enforcement officials
7. County executive.

Business Community Representatives:

1. Matatu welfare association and members.
2. Chairman Kiambu market traders and the local traders
3. Representatives form the chamber of commerce and industry
4. Representative from Tuk Tuk and the Bodada Boda riders and their members.
5. Local business community.

2. Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at Kiambu Community Social Hall by the Chairperson, who welcomed all members present and thanked them for attending.

- His key remarks highlighted the efforts by the Kiambu County Government and the Municipality to support micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through improved, efficient services and better infrastructure. These initiatives, led by Governor Kimani Wamatangi's administration, are designed to create a conducive environment for business growth in all Municipalities and entire of Kiambu County.

3. Purpose of the Meeting

The meeting was held to discuss business-related issues affecting traders and enterprises within Kiambu Municipality and to identify possible solutions in collaboration with the municipal leadership.

4. Issues Raised by the business community

- Business permits and licenses be made affordable and especially from small scale traders and also standardized.
- Paying of levies and permit be enforced leniently, adding that their businesses have not been making sufficient income to sustain them.
- Fees collected from Levies should be prudently utilized to improve the delivery of services in the sectors from which they are drawn.
- Maintenance and repair of drainage systems in markets, citing blocked drains and open manholes Kiambu town.
- On the new modern market, traders fear reduced visibility and foot traffic, and calls for designs unsealing off main entrances and temporally relocations management.
- Public participation on Kiambu county Finance Bill 2025/2026 participation forum where the issues shall be considered.

5. Presentation by the Kiambu municipal officials in Responses

- The Municipality through the County government has been actively engaging with the business community primarily focusing on policy reforms to lower the cost of doing business, enhancing digital registration, and improving infrastructure to support local traders.
- Finance Bill 2025 & Fee Reductions: The county Assembly passed the Finance Bill 2025, which introduced significant reductions in costs for local businesses. Key changes included a 50% cut in public Health fees for non-food businesses and a restructuring of businesses license validity to a full 12 months from the date of issue.
- Infrastructure & Markets: The government is committed to constructing modern markets to enhance trade and improve the working environment for traders.
- Alternative Space: To minimize disruption during renovations, the municipal government is providing temporary alternative locations for affected traders.
- Economic Support: The engagement highlighted the integration of traders into the broader economic empowerment agenda, aimed at increasing production and household income.

- Support for small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs); Municipality and the department of trade and investment facilitated business clinics during the 2nd Annual SME Conference and Exhibition, Focusing on easier license access, affordable financing, and training.
- Stakeholder Consultations: The Department of Trade holds regular meetings, such as the engagement with market traders, to plan for better infrastructure like boda sheds and, transport hubs.
- Relocation & Support: During New Modern market upgrades in Kiambu the Municipality has worked with traders on relocation, including distributing umbrellas to ensure business continuity.
- 2026 Trade Fair: Preparations are underway for the Kiambu County Trade Fair 2026, aimed at empowering micro and small enterprises (SMEs).
- Infrastructure Modernization: Ongoing construction of modern markets with a focus on providing organized, safe spaces for traders.
- Fire Safety & Support: Following the fire at Madaraka market, the Trade team engaged with traders to offer support and assessment.
- Public Participation & Accountability. The county has conducted public participation forums for the 2026/2027 fiscal year, allowing business stakeholders to influence budget priorities.

6. Action Items for Municipal Departments

- Streamline the issuance of business permits.
- Ensure timely construction and renovation of modern, hygienic market facilities.
- Provide adequate, accessible, and safe alternative trading space.

7. Closing Remarks.

All stakeholders were urged to work together with the Municipal and County officials in enhancing a conducive environment for business to thrive.

Chairperson: John Njoroge

Sign:  Date: 14 Oct 2024

Secretary: George Ngaruiya

Sign:  Date: 14 Oct 2024