

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MERU



MAUI MUNICIPALITY

CITIZEN FORA

Pursuant to the requirements of the constitution of Kenya 2010, the County Governments Act NO. 17 of 2012 Section 105, Public Finance Management Act 2012 Section 125(2) and The Urban Areas and Cities Act No. 13 of 2011 ; the COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MERU through MAUI MUNICIPAL BOARD wishes to invite the general public, civil society and Community Based Organizations, People Living with Disability (PLWD), groups, interested persons and stakeholders to give their views on Policy Formulation, Projects Identification and Implementation in Maui Municipality at the specified Venues on the stated dates as indicated below:

SCHEDULE FOR MAUI TRADERS MEETING

VENUE	DATES
Maui Basin Hotel	2nd Feb 2024

Written submission and memoranda can be addressed to the Municipal manager, Maui municipality, P.O Box 120-60200 Meru or Via Email address; mauimunicipality@gmail.com latest by 1st February 2024. The hard copies of these documents will be issued to the Maui Municipal manager.

THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF MERU



MAUI MUNICIPALITY

Maui Traders Citizen Forum Report

Date: Held on ~~November 13, 2023~~ *2nd Feb 2024*
Location: Maui, Kenya
Organizer: Municipal Manager, Maui

List attached

Purpose:

The Municipal Manager of Maui organized this forum to create a platform for open dialogue between the municipality and traders operating within Maui, addressing their grievances and concerns. The aim was to foster a collaborative environment to identify challenges and develop solutions for a thriving marketplace.

Attendance:

The forum brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including:

- Traders representing various businesses within Maui, not limited to the fruits market
- Representatives from local business associations
- Customers frequenting Maui for shopping
- Municipal officials responsible for licensing, sanitation, and security

Discussion Points:

The forum addressed a wide range of issues impacting traders and the overall business environment in Maui. Here are some key points discussed:

Outcomes:

- **Market Infrastructure and Maintenance:** Traders highlighted concerns about the deteriorating condition of market infrastructure, including overflowing garbage bins, leaking roofs, and inadequate lighting. This not only affects aesthetics but also raises hygiene and safety issues.
- **Business Licensing and Fees:** Discussions focused on the perceived complexities of obtaining business licenses and the burden of associated fees. Streamlining the licensing process and exploring potential fee reductions were suggested.
- **Competition from Informal Traders:** Many traders expressed concerns about the prevalence of informal traders operating outside designated market areas. This unfair competition was seen as impacting their customer base and overall income.
- **Security and Safety:** The forum addressed concerns regarding petty theft targeting both traders and customers. Additionally, inadequate security measures, particularly during late operating hours, were highlighted as a safety concern.
- **Limited Parking and Traffic Congestion:** The lack of designated parking spaces and congested traffic flow around the market were identified as deterrents for customers, impacting overall business.
- **Marketing and Promotion:** A need for improved marketing strategies to promote Maua as a vibrant shopping destination was expressed. This could involve increased collaboration between the municipality and trader associations.

The Municipal Manager acknowledged the challenges faced by traders and committed to working towards solutions. Here are some potential outcomes that might have been discussed:

- Prioritizing the renovation and maintenance of market infrastructure, addressing sanitation concerns, improving lighting, and implementing proper waste management systems.
- Reviewing business licensing procedures to simplify the process and potentially reduce associated fees, striking a balance between revenue generation and fostering business growth.
- Developing strategies to address informal trading, potentially involving designated areas with regulations or exploring formalization initiatives.
- Collaborating with the local police force to increase patrols within the market area and surrounding streets, improving security measures, particularly during late operating hours.
- Investigating the feasibility of establishing designated parking zones outside the market to improve traffic flow and customer convenience.
- Exploring marketing initiatives to promote Maua as a shopping destination, potentially involving collaborative campaigns between the municipality and trader associations. This could utilize local media or even social media platforms.