



COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

Urban Development Committee

Background

The Urban Development Committee (UDC) was constituted to consider all matters relating to urban development and regulations; and investment and urban planning policies. Due to the magnitude of the urban challenges and in recognition of the importance of strategic partnerships with competent agencies and authorities, the committee is keen to harness the knowledge and best practices that exist in the urban development sphere to inspire an era of urban regeneration.

The committee provides technical assistance in terms of information, research, policy analysis, and resource development for county governments across a range of policy issues targeting the growth of urban areas as engines of county economy.

Legal framework for the Committee's activities

The Constitution of Kenya sets the stage for the current urban governance through the Articles 174, 176 and 184, by enshrining the principle of devolution to the County governments and allowing further decentralization to the lowest level possible for effective delivery of services.

Correspondingly, various Acts of Parliament such as the Transition to Devolved Government Act (2012), County Government Act (2012) and the Urban Areas and Cities Act (2011) set criteria for the transfer of functions to the County and Urban levels. Some of the functions include:-

1. Ensuring that each county has a planning framework including planning unit for the delivery of its services which adhere to the National Government standards as well as the relevant statistics (CGA2012 s. 104-106),(CGA 2012s 117), (CoK Art.21 and 43).
2. Ensuring that each county prepares an Integrated Development Plan, county sectoral plan, county spatial plans and Cities and Urban areas plans including annual and operational work plans(CGA 2012 s. 107-111)
3. Ensuring that each county has determined the amount of resources required to implement its development plan among others.



Bird's eye view of Kisumu City

Opportunities

The committee offers a platform for Citizens to realize their dreams hinged on the expectation that the devolved system will inspire accelerated urbanization and development processes within the country. This is so because County headquarters become administrative/political centres and hubs of economic, social and cultural

activities.



View of Nairobi, capital city of Kenya.

Provides a platform for increased investments in infrastructure projects in the counties that would hasten the urbanization process, as envisaged in Vision 2030, Kenya's blueprint for becoming a middle-income country by 2030.



Proposed Konza City as part of the Vision 2030 goals

Resources

The committee develops and maintains a variety of resources on urban planning and development approaches that counties could learn from.

Status Briefs: The Urban Development Committee is finalizing the process of amending the Urban Areas and Cities Act 2011 to ensure conformity with the constitution with regards to the structure and functions of devolved system of government. This will ensure coordination of urban development programs at the County level

where the direct mandate for urban governance and management resides.

Our Approach

The Committee seeks to achieve its objectives and mandate through the following ways:

1. Development of a framework to guide and assist county governments in the establishment of institutional structures for the management of urban areas, as envisaged in Urban Areas and Cities Act.
2. Creating forums for sharing of emerging issues and best practices, including modalities for prioritization and promotion of urban areas as engines of socio-economic growth.
3. Providing platform for review and mainstreaming of on-going urban development programmes, within respective county integrated development plans (CIDPs).
4. Providing a framework for the review and mainstreaming development partner's engagement and support to county governments on urban development and management issues.

Our Impact

The overall impact of Urban Development Committee is to pay greater attention and coordinate all County efforts towards 'smart' urbanization, with a dedication to preside over an urban era that guarantees actualization of a vibrant and sustainable urban development.

The Urban Development committee has enabled the sharing of best practices

Success at County Level

Effective Storm water management in Kisumu City County.

