



RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER

AAK URBAN THINKERS CAMPUS ACTIVATION DAY

On 14th July 2023, we hosted the UTC activation day together with the Je, Una Mjengo? Campaign and the launch of the Mulika Mjengo project. The event was full of pomp and color with over 30 exhibitors showcasing their projects and products on Smart, Sustainable and Just Cities.





MULIKA MJENGO INITIATIVE



Scan Here

The Mulika Mjengo project is an initiative by the Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK) aimed at empowering the public to identify and report unsafe construction sites.

These are some of the Elements to be highlighted :

Active Construction Sites

Site board information:

- Name of area and land reference number
- Ownership details
- Project description
- Supervising consultants with registration numbers
- Contractors (main and sub-contractor)
- Statutory approval numbers



Personal Protective Equipment:

- Hard hats
- Safety glasses
- Earplugs
- Gloves
- Safety shoes or boots



Display of relevant licenses and approved drawings at the site office



Safety signage throughout the site

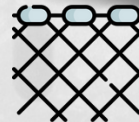


Fall protection systems:

- Guardrails
- Safety nets
- Personal fall arrest systems



Safety nets installed around multi-floor buildings



Existing Buildings

- Proper zoning for residential, commercial, and industrial areas
- Construction on well-drained land, avoiding marshy grounds
- No private development on public land or recreational spaces
- Safe and easy access to buildings
- Adequate parking provision
- No leaks, water damage, or signs of dampness
- Adequate permanent ventilation

- Structural integrity:
 - No visible cracks, leaning walls, sagging beams, etc.
 - Stable and well-maintained buildings
- Fire safety mechanisms such as smoke detectors, fire alarms, fire extinguishers and clear and unobstructed emergency exits
- Proper electrical wiring and management:
 - Safety features for people with disabilities
 - Measures to prevent the breeding and spread of disease-carrying vectors

To Mulika Mjengo visit: <https://shorturl.at/adrR5>



Je, Una Mjengo?



AAK has just made it so much easier for you to **obtain a Building Permit or Planning Approval** in Kenya by providing information on step by step procedures, duration for approval and fee charges for obtaining these approvals.

Scan Here to visit buildhub.aak.or.ke

1

Visit buildhub.aak.or.ke

For Planning Approval processes and charges select **"Planning Approval"** on the navigation panel

2


3


For building Permits processes and charges select **"Building Permit"** on the navigation panel


Select specific County from drop down menu


4




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MEETINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

AAK AT THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS (UIA) CONGRESS 2023



AAK exhibited and had a delegation at the UIA World Congress from 2nd to 6th July 2023. During the congress, AAK presented what we are doing to "Leave no one Behind".

These included the Inclusive and Integrated Infrastructure Framework for Kenya (3If), Grow A Classroom project to develop better learning environments for public schools, the Safari Green Building Index a homegrown rating tool for the tropical climate, the Je, Una Mjengo? campaign for professionalism in the built environment and Healthy Homes Guidelines for improving existing housing stock to be decent and safe spaces.

We received a lot of interest from various organizations whom we will engage on the next steps.

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DESIGNING AND COSTING OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS



On 13th July 2023, AAK took part in the National Symposium on Designing and Costing of AHP. AAK President Arch. Florence Nyole moderated a key panel on during the session and some of the critical issues raised were the need to reduce over-designing, leveraging affordable building materials, and the need to introduce sustainable standards. The Quantity Surveyors Chapter was tasked with preparing small price guidelines that will be shared with the Ministry.

MEETING WITH CECM BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN PLANNING, NAIROBI COUNTY



On 11th July, Architects met with the Nairobi County Executive Committee Member for Built Environment and Urban Planning, S. G. Mwangi, and the officers to discuss development control invoicing and payments processing challenges. From the meeting, it was agreed that AAK would compile the list of payments that are yet to reflect on the NPDMS portal.

FEEDBACK SESSION ON INCLUSIVE DESIGN AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT IN NAIROBI, KENYA



On 17th July, AAK Vice President took part in the feedback session organized by Global Disability Innovation Hub, Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa in partnership with Kounkuey Design Initiative. The aim of the project is to leverage the opportunity for Nairobi to be an inclusive city and to lead by example in terms of inclusive city design, for cities in Kenya and across the continent, as a key African commercial hub.

SETTLEMENT AND RIVERS STUDENT IDEAS CHALLENGE WORKSHOP



On 17th July, AAK Vice President Arch. George A. Ndege and the Chair of Landscape Architects Chapter Ruth Wanjiku took part in the feedback session organized by Global Disability Innovation Hub, Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa in partnership with Kounkuey Design Initiative. The aim of the project is to leverage the opportunity for Nairobi to be an inclusive city and to lead by example in terms of inclusive city design, for cities in Kenya and across the continent, as a key African commercial hub.

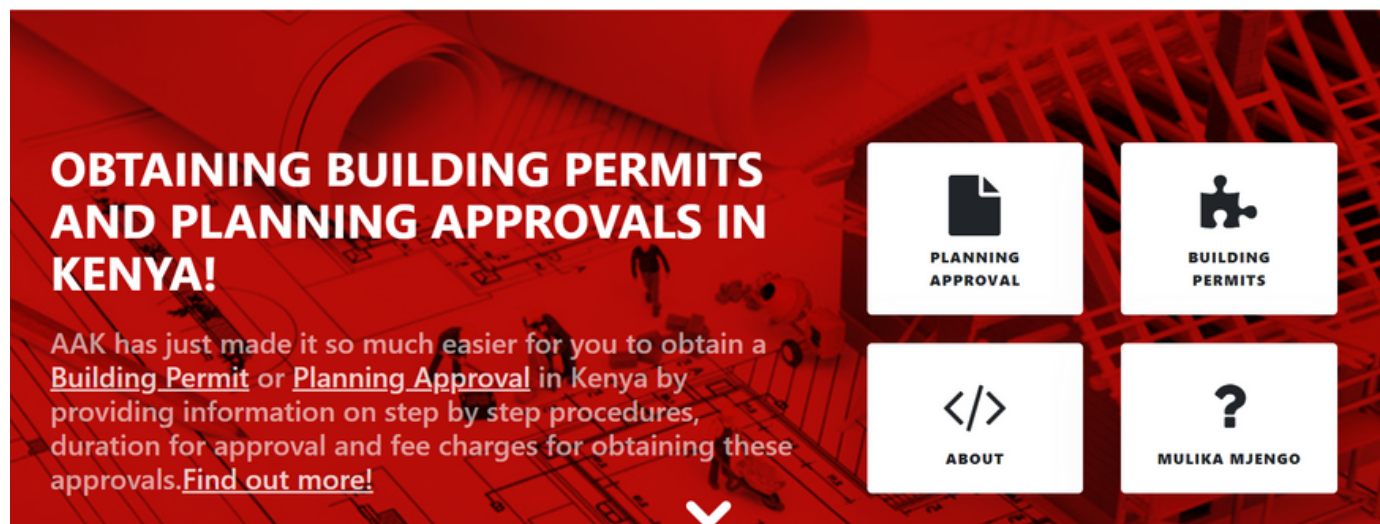
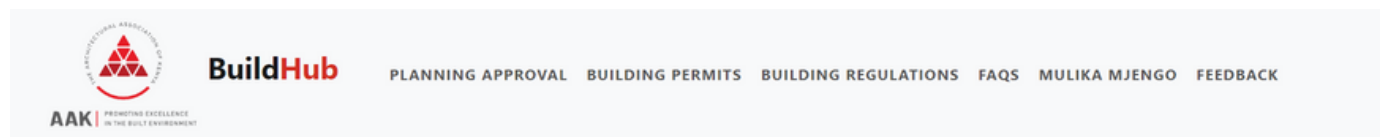
KISUMU CITY CAR FREE DAY



AAK exhibited the projects we have been undertaking including the Grow A Classroom project, Safari Green Building Index, IFLA Convention, 3IF, and the Healthy Homes Guidelines and Checklist at the Kisumu County Car Free Day held on 8th July 2023. It was an incredible event that brought together individuals from various sectors working towards creating a more sustainable and people-friendly city, including school-going children who were asked to express their vision for the city through drawings.



AAK BUILDHUB



Access to information on development approval, either a building permit or planning approval, remains a significant challenge in the country. This is despite the reality that each County's Processes for obtaining the documents differ, and no County has documented its processes. The lack of clarity in the processes involved in the application for these documents makes the application for completing an application unpredictable, long, and tedious.

Following this, AAK commissioned research on the above processes in select counties in Kenya with the aim of providing the public with the information. As a result, AAK has now made it much easier for you to obtain a Building Permit or Planning Approval in Kenya by providing information on step-by-step procedures, the duration for approval, and fee charges for obtaining these approvals.

The portal is still being updated and we have data on 33 counties so far. We have also uploaded all the relevant legal and policy frameworks to the Hub, making it a one-stop shop for all the information you need in the approval processes. Find out more: <https://buildhub.aak.or.ke/>

PICTORIALS



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