



# RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER

## HEALTHY HOMES GUIDELINES AND CHECKLIST

The Architects Chapter, in collaboration with the secretariat, successfully hosted the CPD event aimed at promoting affordable and healthy housing practices in Kenya. The session received significant attendance, with representatives from KEMRI, HfHI, HfH Ke, and the State Departments for Housing, Urban Development, and Public Works.

Several noteworthy recommendations emerged from the session, including the importance of establishing a multi-stakeholder partnership, empowering professionals to drive change, ensuring inclusivity in frameworks to prioritize

everyone's well-being, creating easily accessible knowledge hubs, adapting our culture to align with evolving times, and implementing prototypes to translate theory into practical application.

We also plan to host an artisans and contractors training session on the Healthy Homes guidelines and checklist. NCA expressed interest in collaborating with AAK in the training and requested that we apply for accreditation. We, therefore, aim to apply for accreditation for the year 2023-2024

# PARTNERSHIP

## AAK AND THE KILIMANI PROJECT FOUNDATION SIGN AN MOU ADOPTING KILIMANI AS THE INNOVATION CENTER FOR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT IN KENYA



The Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK) is thrilled to announce the signing of an MoU with the Kilimani Project Foundation, designating Kilimani as the Innovation Center for Planned Development in Kenya.

AAK and the Foundation have a long-standing collaboration on advocacy issues related to planned development. This MoU formalizes our partnership on joint advocacy and communication initiatives, including hosting Barazas and Stakeholder dialogues, conducting media campaigns, and driving effective outreach.

Through this collaboration, we aim to achieve sustainable growth and inspire other urban communities to actively participate in neighborhood development. AAK President, Arch. Florence Nyole, emphasized the intention to pioneer well-planned neighborhoods and create a sustainable urban area for Nairobi and other rapidly urbanizing areas in Kenya. This MoU is effective immediately, with a perpetual renewal, as we strive for more sustainable and people-centered urban environments.

# AAK BUILDHUB



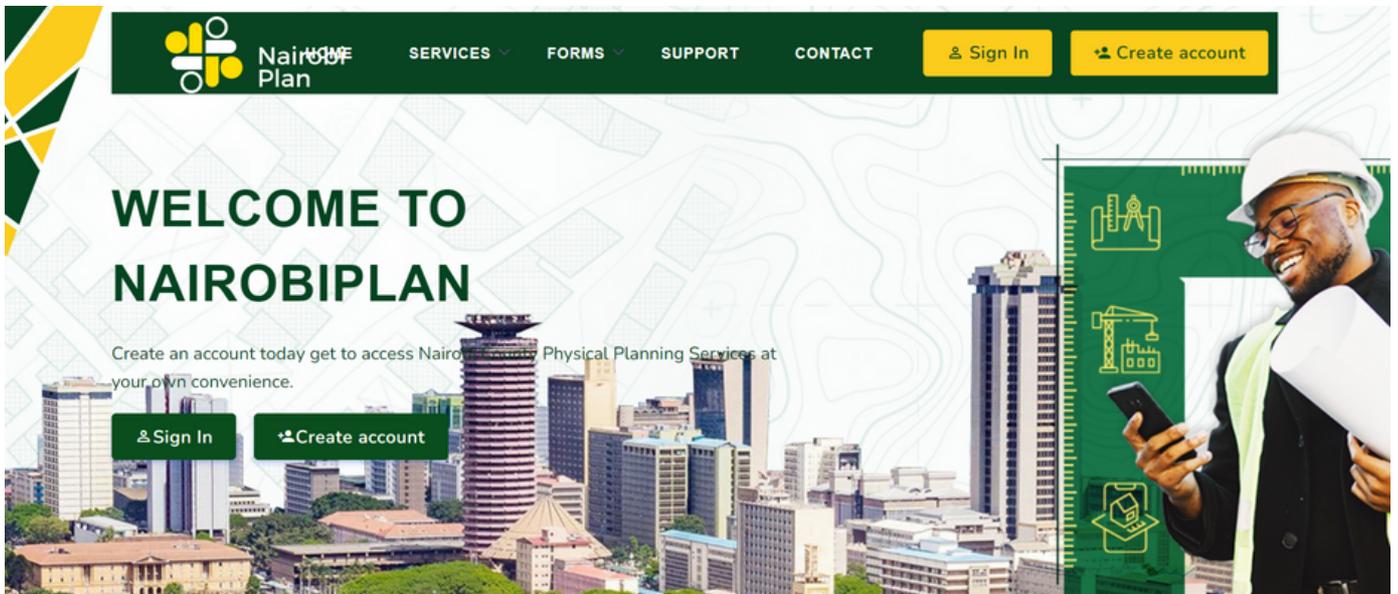
Access to information on development approval, either a building permit or planning approval, remains a significant challenge in the country. This is despite the reality that each County's Processes for obtaining the documents differ, and no County has documented its processes. The lack of clarity in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

# AAK SURVEYS

## THE NAIROBI PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NPDMS) USER EXPERIENCE 2023 SURVEY



The department conducted a comprehensive survey on the user experience of the Nairobi Planning & Development Management System (NPDMS). This initiative was prompted by numerous complaints received from our esteemed members regarding the system's functionality and efficiency. The findings revealed that members continue to experience a lot of challenges using the system.

Specifically, several experts mentioned difficulties and challenges during the migration from eDAMS, such as the need for human intervention, loss of previous applications, and longer processing times.

Other challenges experienced included delays in getting approvals, with some taking up to one year, 93.2% of the professionals end up making physical visits to the county, which defeats the essence of an online system, as well as the recurring concern over the inadequate communication channels.

Some of the recommendations members gave were the need to prioritize applications which are still stuck in the eDAMS system, the county should eliminate human interference in the system and take legal action against county officials who tamper with the system, the need for the county to regularly maintain the system to improve its efficiency and user-friendliness and the necessity of efficient communication channels.

Read more here: <https://aak.or.ke/download/the-nairobi-planning-development-management-system-npdms/>

# MEETINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

## AG. NAIROBI COUNTY SECRETARY, PLN. PATRICK ANALO



*The Research & Advocacy team together with the Ag. Nairobi County Secretary*

The department met with the Acting County Secretary of Nairobi County on Friday, May 26, 2023, at City Hall, to explore possible areas of collaboration. These included the results of AAK's survey on the user experience of the Nairobi Planning and Development Management System (NPDMS), highlighting challenges and providing recommendations. Other topics discussed were the need for effective zoning regulations, clean open spaces, and collaboration between the county and AAK for ongoing feedback, statistics sharing, professional meetings, and county staff participation in AAK activities.

## TOWARDS THE 2ND UN-HABITAT ASSEMBLY THE SECOND PUBLIC DIALOGUE

AAK President Arch. Florence Nyole took part in the second public dialogue towards the second Un-Habitat Assembly. Her key message was the need to emphasize the broader co-benefits of climate action to increase public engagement and support in addressing climate change. She further reassured AAK's commitment to contributing towards Climate Action in Kenya. Read the draft communique: <https://shorturl.at/hwJLN>.



## TRAINING ON MOBILISING SUPPORT

The department attended an intensive one-week training on Mobilising Support organized by KCDF and Change the Game Academy in Wote from 22nd-26th May. The modules sought to educate participants on the principles of mobilising support (MS) and how to integrate MS into organizations' advocacy activities.

The next steps are one-on-one sessions with assigned coaches and the second and third modules.



# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

01

## THE SECOND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS HABITAT ASSEMBLY

### UNITED NATIONS HABITAT ASSEMBLY

5 to 9 June 2023

#UNHA2



The second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly will be held from 5 to 9 June 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. The theme of the session is “A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises.”

Thematic debates and discussions during the Assembly will focus on the following topics:

- Universal access to affordable housing
- Urban climate action
- Urban crises recovery
- Localization of the SDGs
- Prosperity and local finance

The department will be part of the AAK delegation that will attend the assembly. The department will also attend the World Urban Campaign Partners get-together scheduled on 8th June.

02

## AAK URBAN THINKERS CAMPUS 8.0



The UTC is an initiative of the World Urban Campaign driven by UN-Habitat. The UTC is conceived as an open space for critical exchange between urban researchers, professionals, and decision-makers who believe that urbanization is an opportunity and can lead to positive urban transformations. It is also intended to be a platform to build consensus between partners engaged in addressing urbanisation challenges and proposing solutions to urban futures. Please find more information [HERE](#).

AAK has been approved by the World Urban Campaign to host UTC 8.0 this year. The theme for this year's UTC is Smart, Sustainable, and Just Cities, to be held from 21 - 23 June. The UTC working group has been constituted and the campus will entail 2 days of panel discussion and urban labs, and the last day will be an exhibition of built environment best practices in line with the theme.

**03**

## **GREEN EXPO AND NATIONAL DIALOGUE**

The World Environment Day is commemorated on 1st June each year. This year's theme is Solutions to Plastic Pollution with the slogan beat plastic pollution. The theme seeks to highlight science-backed solutions to tackle the problem of plastic pollution. NEMA and the National Steering Committee have organized an Expo and a National Dialogue to commemorate World Environment Day, to be held on the 31st of May 2023. The Association has been invited to exhibit practical solutions to plastic pollution as guided by the World Environment Day theme. AAK will be represented by Arch. Gideon Olawo, EDC chair, and Cynthia Nthenya, Assistant R&A Officer.

**04**

## **H.E. WILLIAM RUTO MEETING WITH PROFESSIONALS**

AAK has been invited to meet HE. President Ruto to discuss Affordable Housing and specifically the Housing Fund on 6th June 2023. We are therefore collating views from members to develop a memorandum to submit during the forum. In the submission, we will also give AAK's position on the Housing Levy. Kindly send your input by Friday, 2 June to [advocacy@aak.or.ke](mailto:advocacy@aak.or.ke).

**05**

## **KENYA URBAN FORUM**

Nakuru County will be hosting the Kenya Urban Forum, a precursor to the 12th World Urban Forum to be held in Cairo, Egypt in 2024.

The conference theme is "Strategic Pathways to Inclusive and sustainable urbanization in Kenya" with the tagline "The Future is Urban" AAK received an invite from the PS State Department of Housing and Urban Development to exhibit at the Kenya Urban Forum scheduled for 14th-16th June 2023.

**06**

## **DEVOLUTION CONFERENCE**

AAK received an invite from the Council of Governors to attend the 1st Biennial Devolution Conference, which will be reflecting on 10 years of devolution in Eldoret between 15th-19th August 2023.



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