



# RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER

## RELEASE OF STATUS OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2022

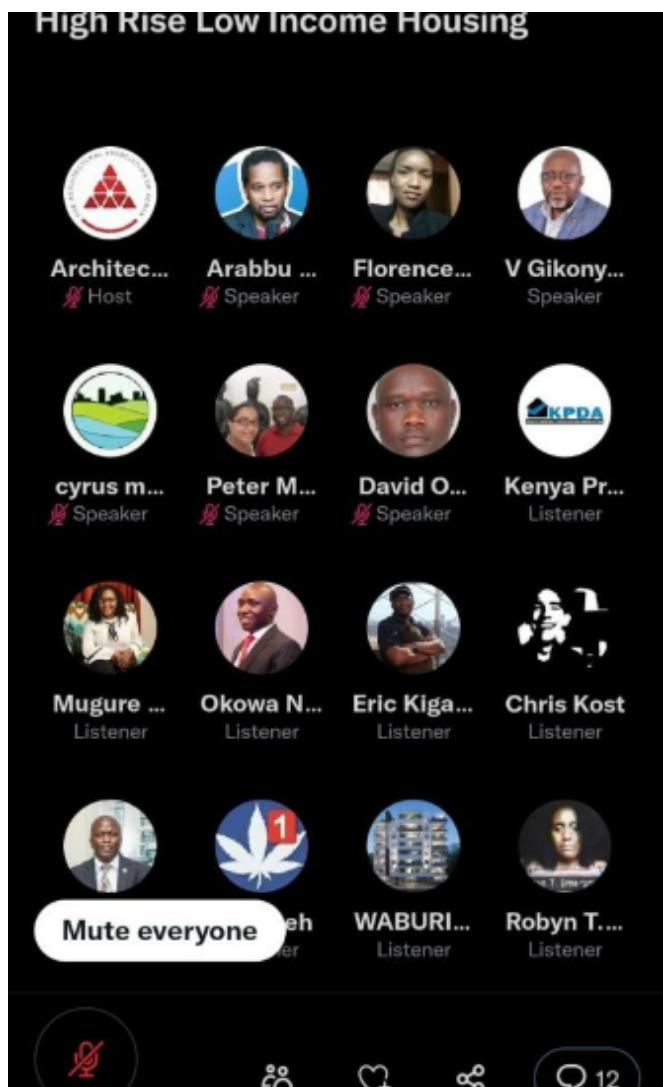
AAK successfully released the 8th edition of the SBE report on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at the Sarova Stanley hotel, Nairobi CBD. The release was well attended with representatives from the Nairobi County Government (NCG), the National Construction Authority (NCA), the National Housing Corporation (NHC), Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), Kenya Property Developers Association (KPDA), Kenya Green Building Society (KGBS), Technical University of Kenya (TUK), Mabati Rolling Mills (MRM) and the AAK Governing Council.

The report highlighted the state of the industry concerning land and property, infrastructure, systems, and processes. During the release, representatives from the Nairobi county government acknowledged the development challenges experienced in the county. They expressed the county government's commitment to finalizing the zoning regulations and incorporating building regularization as an action point over the coming years. Read more: <https://aak.or.ke/download/the-status-of-the-built-environment-report-january-december-2022/>

# COMMUNICATION & ADVOCACY

01

## TWITTER SPACE ON HIGH-RISE LOW-INCOME HOUSING



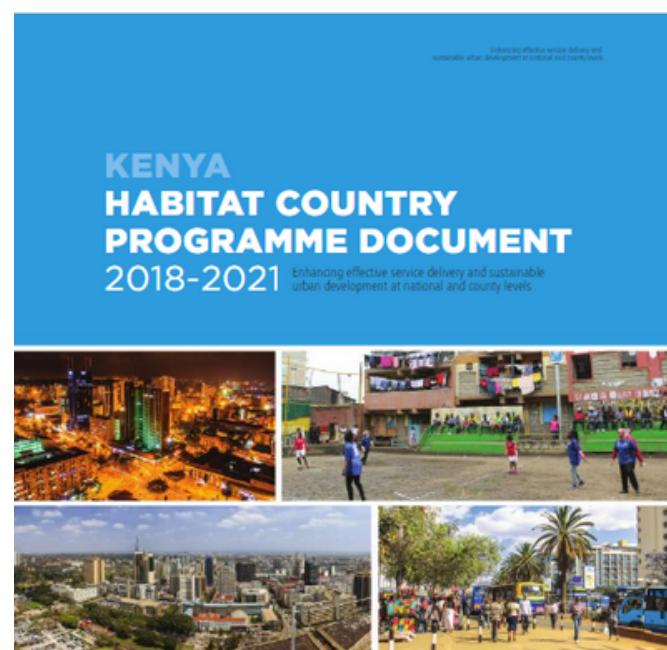
The department hosted a Twitter space dialogue on Thursday, February 09, 2023, to discuss the impact of changes made by the president during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Affordable Housing Project at Shuri Moyo estate: Cost increase; Design revisions; Precedence to private developers; Additional stress on existing infrastructure and services; Local environmental impact; Community concerns and Aesthetic visual landscape.

The space had a total of 4 speakers and 5 discussants with a total of 361 live attendees and 2342 replays.

02

## PROPOSED HABITAT COUNTY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT (HCPD) 2022 – 2026 NEW STRUCTURE

The department reviewed and shared comments on the proposed HCPD 2022 – 2026. This is the third one to be prepared in Kenya and the first one to be prepared within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). In addition, this HCPD derives from several other UN-Habitat and Government of Kenya documents. The current HCPD succeeds the 2018 – 2021 HCPD and, as a consequence, evaluates its precursor, taking lessons from the successes and challenges while seeking to complete projects commenced in its predecessor's period and proposing new programmes within the new framework of operation.



# 03

## AAK BUILDHUB

AAK | PROMOTING EXCELLENCE  
IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BuildHub

ABOUT PLANNING APPROVAL BUILDING PERMITS BUILDING REGULATIONS FAQS FEEDBACK MAIN SITE

## OBTAINING BUILDING PERMITS AND PLANNING APPROVALS IN KENYA!

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. [Find out more!](#)

PLANNING APPROVAL

BUILDING PERMITS

ABOUT

FAQS

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 28 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/>

# WORKING GROUPS

01

## DEVELOPMENT CONTROL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP



Stakeholders who took part in the 15th February workshop

NECC convened the technical working group to provide technical support in designing and implementing solutions for the abuse of change of use as a development control tool. This is based on the premise that 51% of the complaints NECC receives are related to poor development practices, hence the need to develop proactive ways of preventing the cases. On February 15, 2023, a stakeholder workshop was held to provide recommendations to the working group.

Some key recommendations included:

- The need to onboard the council of Governors since counties are the ones to develop and implement spatial plans.
- The committee should also push for automated development control systems.
- Subdivision and beacon-to-beacon construction are other factors that need to be investigated by the committee, among others.

02

## WORLD URBAN CAMPAIGN (WUC)

On Wednesday, February 15, 2023, the department also attended the WUC meeting. The WUC Steering Committee Members have made important decisions recently in consultation with UN-Habitat to make the WUC a more integrated campaign for all with a common target: Improve 1000 Cities 1 billion Lives by 2030. The following are the suggested activities that will assist to give WUC a background and a rationale for its operations:

- 1000 cities and 1,000,000,000 lives
- Urban Thinkers Campus
- City Changer Academy
- WUC roadmap to World Urban Forum (WUF)12

The activities will be centered on the following thematic tracks: #HousingForAll, #CityClimateAction, #SDGLocalization and #UrbanCrises.

Learn more:

[https://www.worldurbancampaign.org/\\_files/ugd/13b76e\\_1bc4989347cd41879a57c0f6c01cde82.pdf](https://www.worldurbancampaign.org/_files/ugd/13b76e_1bc4989347cd41879a57c0f6c01cde82.pdf)



The WUC working group session on Microsoft Teams on 15th February

# 03

## UN-HABITAT ASSEMBLY (UNHA) ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



## Towards 2nd UN-Habitat Assembly

A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective stakeholder partnership: achieving the Sustainable Development

Arch. J.N. Mwaniki will be representing the association in the UNHA organizing committee to plan for the second UNHA in line with the resolution of the first Public dialogue, and UNHA held in May 2019. The University of Nairobi will host the 2nd Public Dialogue to be held at the Chandaria Auditorium on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

The dialogue adopts the theme of the 2nd UNHA; "A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises". Central to this theme is the accelerated implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA). The specific theme assigned for the 2nd Public Dialogue is; "A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective stakeholder partnership: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises."

Arch. Florence Nyole will be participating in the citizen panel during the 2nd public dialogue discussing local innovative practices for accelerating the achievement of NUA and SDG 11.

# MEETINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

## OSA JAPAN AND FUJITA



*The Research & Advocacy team together with Fujita and Osa Japan team*

On Monday, February 06, 2023, the department attended a meeting with the OSA Japan and FUJITA team. With support from the Japanese Government, the team is currently studying the feasibility of developing a quality housing construction by adopting Pre-Cast Concrete "Thick Wall and Floor Structure" in Kenya. This is a key area of interest for AAK as we continue to advocate for affordable alternative construction materials. The department is working to find possible areas of synergy and collaboration with the team.

## THE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS OF KENYA (ICPAK) 31ST ECONOMIC OUTLOOK SYMPOSIUM

Arch. Florence Nyole represented the organization in the ICPAK 31st Economic Outlook Symposium held from 08 – 10 February 2023 at Lake Naivasha Resort, themed Rejuvenating the Economy for Inclusive Growth. Arch. Florence and Prof. Alfred Omenya participated in a panel on Urbanization - Re-orienting Counties as Fulcrums of Shared Development - Economic, democratic, Just and shared urbanization.



## NCA HIGH IMPACT CPD SEMINARS



The association will now be participating in the NCA High Impact CPD sessions as speakers. On Wednesday, February 15, 2023, Arch. Florence Nyole participated in one targeting women contractors. It discussed an engendered approach to construction site safety with the theme "Capacity Building for a Sustainable, Innovative & Resilient Construction Industry". Arch. Florence spoke on the Management of Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Risks, Accidents & Emergencies on Site (Site Safety Plan/Policy/WIBA, NEMA, etc).

# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

## 01 **HEALTHY HOMES GUIDELINES AND CHECKLIST TRAINING**



AAK, in partnership with HFHI, released the Healthy Homes Guidelines and Checklist framework. The framework provides for and demonstrates a pathway to achieving healthy and resilient housing at a household and community level in simplified form.

This year AAK will be conducting training in partnership with NCA on the guidelines in several counties in Nairobi, Machakos, Kajiado, Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nyeri, and Kakamega. We are also planning to tie this activity with the 2023 AAK Je, Una Mjengo? Campaign.

AAK is also completing a related assignment to prototype an ultra-low-cost and vector-proof housing solution that will be implemented by Habitat for Humanity and in collaboration with the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) in the coming months.

The team is working on a dissemination plan to ensure the information reaches wider audiences. Read the guidelines:

<https://aak.or.ke/download/aak-healthy-homes-guidelines-and-checklist/>

## 02 **3IF BY KDI**



The Association, together with Kounkuey Design Initiative and other partners launched the Integrated & Inclusive Infrastructure Framework (3iF) for Kenya (specifically for informal settlements) at the AfriCities9 in Kisumu in May 2022. The 3iF is a practical guidebook for infrastructural provision in informal settlements in Kenya.

The framework can be applied by actors in projects geared towards informal settlement upgrading. It plays a huge role as a guide in developing policy and plans, designing and implementing infrastructure upgrading projects, and ultimately reducing inequality and promoting shared prosperity.

We have now rolled out the second phase where we will focus on contributing to the production of 3iF academic output, organizing a 3iF design competition, including testing and application as well as promoting the framework among professionals and policymakers in the country. Read the 3iF: <https://www.3if.info/>



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