



AAK | PROMOTING EXCELLENCE
IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Article
Je Una Mjengo? Campaign 2022
Architects Chapter - Relevance of Architects in Attaining Healthy and Decent Homes

The Architectural Association in Kenya launched the Je Una Mjengo? Campaign 2022 on Tuesday, 7 June 2022 at the Mount Lenana Swiss Hotel Nairobi. The campaign aims to sensitize the public on safe buildings with an objective of creating awareness in and about the built and natural environment. The campaign is very timely as collapsing buildings in Kenya have become a major point of concern for all stakeholders in the construction sector.

A study conducted by National Bureau of Investigation in 2018 on 14,895 buildings classified 723 buildings as very dangerous, 10,791 buildings as very unsafe, 1,217 buildings fair and 2,194 safe. A 2020 study showed that Kenya has recorded 87 building collapses over the past five years in which 200 people lost their lives and more than 1,000 injured. Notably, 65 per cent of collapsed buildings were residential, 25 per cent were commercial and 10 per cent were mixed-use developments.

The study also revealed that 66 per cent of the building collapsed after completion while 34 per cent collapsed during construction. The reports highlighted poor workmanship as the main cause of building collapse and other causes being the use of substandard materials, non-compliance to building standards and regulations, inadequate structural design and overcrowding, and inadequate maintenance of structures.

The first series of the campaign was by the Architects chapter of the association through a CPD Seminar themed *Relevance of Architects in Attaining Healthy and Decent Homes*. The seminar, through a panel discussion moderated by Diana Machoka with panelist Arch. George Arabbu, Arch. Florence Nyole and Arch. Wycliffe Wabwiriri discussed the role of architects in attaining health and decent homes, the nexus between public health and housing, existence or lack of guidelines in ensuring decent and health homes and what they would like to see in the incoming government.

HEAD OFFICE

Architectural Association of Kenya,
Blue Violets Plaza, Kamburu Drive, off Ngong Road.
P.O. Box 44258 Nairobi, 00100
Telephone: +254-020-2420806, 2420582
Mobile: +254 721 691 337
Email: aak@aak.or.ke

www.aak.or.ke





AAK | PROMOTING EXCELLENCE
IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The recommendations from the seminar are the need for innovative and alternative housing solutions to cure the housing crisis, the need for more professionals to vie for electoral positions in government, architects should be more involved in the regulatory and policy reforms processes in the industry, architects should be moral in all their dealings and have a responsibility to protect the public from unscrupulous developers, the need to actualize solutions from competitions and research at academia and professional levels, and the need for architects to give back to the rural and low income areas by sensitizing and capacity building local artisans and citizens in communities on the basic tenets on construction.

The panelist implored the incoming government to focus on urban planning, tighten oversight on importation and sell of substandard construction materials, to work with stakeholders in the sector to develop or adopt guidelines on healthy housing focusing not only on the house but also the surrounding and vector proofing, to set guidelines to ensure that buildings are inspected before, during and after the construction for issuance of an occupation certificate to avoid shortcut taking and use of cheap materials and finally to involve private sector professional in government construction projects.

HEAD OFFICE

Architectural Association of Kenya,
Blue Violets Plaza, Kamburu Drive, off Ngong Road.
P.O. Box 44258 Nairobi, 00100
Telephone: +254-020-2420806, 2420582
Mobile: +254 721 691 337
Email: aak@aak.or.ke

www.aak.or.ke

