

UHDA NEWSLETTER



**UPPER HILL
DISTRICT
ASSOCIATION**

UHDA Newsletter

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Welcome Note

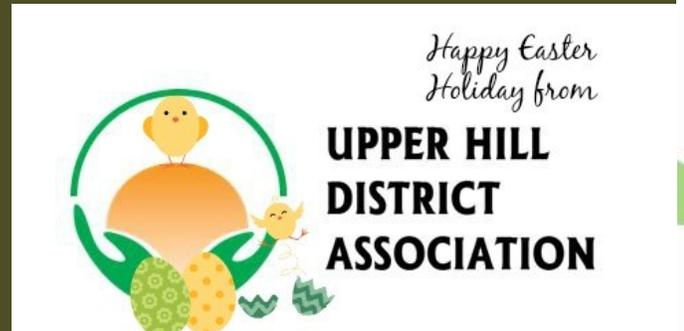
One of the advantages Upper Hill has over the rest of Nairobi is that it has room for growth and change. The country already recognizes the transition from residential to the now financial hub, however, we cannot afford to rest easy when there are growing threats of our organized little district.

Last year, UHDA organized a brainstorming session whose ideas we have been manifesting. One of the ideas included an activity which would bring together different sectors and organizations in Upper Hill for a good cause. We held an inaugural clean up in January which was followed by another in March. More details on this are on page 6.

In this edition, we have featured an excerpt of the UN Sustainable Urbanization Report. We feel that it is possible to achieve a sustainable Upper Hill by being more environmental conscious and adopting some of the principles outlined in the World Urban Campaign. This is why we have supported a concept bill on public open spaces. See page 7.

We are pleased to introduce our new members, Nairobi Upper Hill Junior Academy and Montleng Apartments Limited as our newest members.

We wish you a wonderful Easter Holiday. 



We want to hear from you.

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Sustainable urbanization

In the last quarter of 2011, the world population reached the seven billion mark. This historic event took place 12 years after the six billion mark. It took 123 years to double from one to two billion but 'only' 33 years to cross the three-billion threshold. Although demographic growth is slowing down in the whole world, the fact that it has taken the ever shortest time to add one extra billion signals, a major shift in both the pace and scale of global demographics

An important facet of this shift is the historic milestone achieved in 2007 when more than half of the global population was living in cities and towns, thus making urban centres the dominant habitat for humankind. This seemingly geographical shift has tremendous implications for the current and future dynamics of human development.

Cities and urban places in general now occupy the centre stage in global development. They no longer function as mere spaces for settlement, production and services. They now profoundly shape and influence social and political relations at every level; determining advances and setbacks in modes of production; and providing new content to norms, culture and aesthetics. Cities have become a major locus of power and politics consequently influencing vision achievement and dictating policy outcomes. They are also a major factor in environmental trends and sustainability processes. Urbanization is thus providing the setting, the underlying base, and also the momentum for global change.

The link between urbanization and socio-economic development cannot be disputed. Cities make countries more prosperous. Countries that are highly urbanized have higher incomes, more stable economies, stronger institutions and are better able to withstand the volatility of the global economy than those with less urbanized populations. As countries develop, urban settlements account for a larger share of national income.

However, when poorly managed, urbanization can be detrimental to sustainable development. We must urgently find ways to achieve economic and socially equitable growth without further cost to the environment. Part of the solution lies in how cities are planned, governed, and provide services to their citizens. Efforts to create jobs, reduce our ecological footprint, and improve quality of life are most effective when pursued holistically. By prioritizing sustainable urbanization within a broader development framework, many critical development challenges can be addressed in tandem such as energy, water consumption and production, biodiversity, disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation.

The time is now for Upper Hill to become a "city" with sustainable development. 

CONSTRUCTION OF UPPER HILL ROADS PHASE 2 COMMENCES

By Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA)

The construction of the Second Phase of Upperhill Road has commenced with two contractors selected to undertake the construction of approximately 25kilometers of Upperhill Roads. This was unveiled on 8th February 2017 during a consultative meeting between KURA and Upper Hill stakeholders. The meeting was informed that the Government had set aside Ksh 3.5Billion for the upgrading of several roads in Upper Hill in the next two years. These roads are expected to open up and transform Upper Hill into a modern up market financial hub of the region as envisaged in the Vision 2030.

Under the program, several roads have been lined up for improvement and new links created to clear up traffic in and out of Upperhill to ease the movement of people, goods and services. The first project is the Upper Hill-Mbagathi Way Link Road project which will be done at a cost of Kshs. 1.24 billion by Interways Works Ltd, whose works include rehabilitation of approximately 5 kilometers of roads within Kenya National Hospital and a 2 kilometers dual carriageway that links Upper Hill to Mbagathi Way. There will also be a link road from Matumbato Road (Geomaps) to the dual carriageway.

The second project comprises of dualling of Lower Hill Road, Masaba Road, Matumbato Road, Chyulu Road, Parts of Upper Hill Road and Link Road between Chyulu Road and Ragati Road-spanning a distance of 6.5 kilometers. The contractor, Tosha Holdings Limited is expected to complete the kshs2.25 billion works By December, 2018.



A section of Masaba road , which is part of Phase 2, undergoing expansion

Motorists who wish to join Mbagathi Way from Upper Hill area and vice versa will no longer have to pass through Ngong Road section as they will connect through the Link Road hence reducing the traffic.

Both projects which are funded by the Government of Kenya under Development Vote are running concurrently

and are expected to realize an exponential growth in the economy. Footpaths and cycle tracks (NMT) on each side of the road have been factored to cater for cyclists and pedestrians. All other amenities attributed to modern urban roads are considered (contd. next page)

During the forum the stakeholders raised concerns on the time and disruptions they are going to experience during the implementation of the project citing the previous Contractor in Phase One who took a long time to complete the works. They also raised issues on the available road corridors, disruption of service relocations and drainage. Eng John Mwatu, KURA's Design and Construction General Manager who represented the Director General, pledged that the works will be implemented effectively as lessons have been learnt from previous experiences.

"We have learned from our previous works and we are determined to ensure this will be a complete success", he said. The project team was unveiled and they were tasked to cooperate effectively with service providers and residents to ensure effective consultations are held at every stage.



Upper Hill

Upper Hill has been christened the capital's financial hub and is home to various multi-nationals and business enterprises such as hotels and commercial banks. The area is rapidly growing, characterized by skyscrapers coming up and most businesses seem to be shifting from the CBD and with this the demand for road infrastructure has gone up. This has prompted the government to prioritize expansion and rehabilitation of roads in this area, as it is bound to boost the economy that seems to be attracting investors. Dualing of Ngong Road Phase 1, which is currently at 23 per cent complete is also taking shape and with its expansion too, navigating will be easy and the gridlocks will be a thing of the past.



UPPER HILL COMMUNITY CLEAN UP



Second Cleanup on 24th March

Last year, we engaged the Nairobi City

County to clean our streets bi-weekly, unfortunately the move was encountered with several challenges, the primary one being shortage of workers. Consequently, we went back to the drawing board and on 20th January, we held an inaugural community cleanup. Partnering with Kibera Sub-County and Dagoretti North Sub-County, we mobilized over 500 people in both clean ups, the second clean up having been held on 24th March.

The community cleanups have helped raise awareness on the impact of littering on the environment especially in Upper Hill. Both cleanups which were scheduled for a maximum of 3 hours, collected over 30 tons of litter(equivalent to 5 garbage trucks) which

were properly disposed by Nairobi City County. Participants varied from different sectors in both public and private institutions and organizations. This gave participants a chance to mingle with one another which promoted social cohesiveness.

In both cleanups, we received overwhelming support from our sponsors who included; Africa Reinsurance Corporation, Crowne Plaza, West Breeze Hotel, CIC Group, Royal Ngao Holdings and Medihealth Group of Hospitals. Our participants included; NTSA, Teachers Service Commission, Mwalimu National, Loreto Convent Valley Road, NHIF, KWFT, Riley Services, Gimco Limited, Oxford University Press, KASNEB, Equity Bank, Kilimani Project Foundation, World Bank Group, Upper Hill School, Baha'i Faith, Walker Kontos, UAP Old Mutual, Kenya National Library Services, Lordship Africa, CBA and Mr. Environment Kenya.

We aim to hold three more cleanups and regularize them to quarterly activities in our future calendars.

The next cleanup is slated for 16th June.



First Cleanup on 20th January

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE CONCEPT BILL FOR PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Most property owners can relate to the frustra-

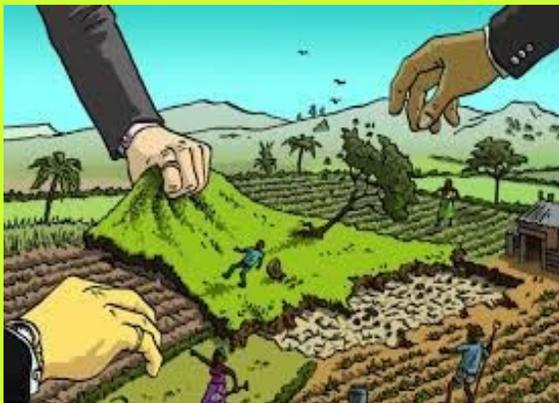
tion of having the frontage of their property encroached by informal traders or used as parking by boda bodas and cab drivers. This is because the frontage is considered as public land, rendering property owners helpless in controlling activities outside the property.

Nairobi Urban Renewal Limited, the brainchild behind installation of clean public toilets in Nairobi's Central Business District, have come up with a concept bill which addresses the above and other public open space

related issues. In this concept bill, public open space is defined as an area or part of land that is available for a designated function or simply for passage of citizens, which according to the Lands Act 2012, is rated as public land by the Act of Parliament and has been held in trust by the Government for the public.

Public land on property frontage in both commercial and residential areas, form part of public open spaces and therefore calls for collective interventions by the National and County Government, property owners, public and private sector organizations, to actively participate in protecting, improving, maintaining, monitoring and reporting on all public open spaces, being a preserved national asset for citizens benefit and for generations to come.

A few highlights of what the concept bill seeks to do include:



- ◆ Address political and judiciary issues affecting investigation and recovery process of grabbed land.
- ◆ Create new legislation and policies that will protect and empower property owners in sharing the responsibility of protecting, improving, maintaining, monitoring and reporting on the area around and in front of their property (property frontage).
- ◆ Create new legislation and policies that protect all public open spaces against political, institutional, foreign, community and citizen influence, exploitation and

destruction for selfish reason or gains

For more on this bill, click [here](#)



JAN- MAR HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY

- KPDA'S National Construction Authority Breakfast Meeting– Launch of the NCA Online Registration
- UHDA'S Inaugural Community Clean Up

FEBRUARY

- KURA's Public Consultations on Phase II & Missing Links

- Phase 2 Upper Hill Resident's Meetings
- KARA's 1st Governor Roundtable Meeting



MARCH

- UHDA's Community Clean Up
- WWF Earth Hour 2017
- KASNEB's Re-branding



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MENNO HOLDINGS LTD.



THE NAIROBI HOSPITAL



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