

MINUTES OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMU ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE DIALOGUE MEETING WITH DONKEY OWNERS AND OPERATORS – MKOMANI WARD

Date: 8TH January 2026

Time: 2:30pm

Venue: Municipal Board Room

Attendance

- Abdulswamadu Ali - Municipal Manager
- Mr. Ahmed Kombo – Principal Administrator
- Gabriel Ngige – Environmentalist
- Donkey Owners – Mkomani Ward
- Donkey Operators – Mkomani Ward

Agenda

1. Opening Remarks
2. Introduction of Participants
3. Discussion on Donkey Droppings Waste Management
4. Challenges Facing Donkey Owners and Operators
5. Partnership Opportunities
6. Way Forward
7. Any Other Business (AOB)
8. Closure

Proceedings

MIN 01/01/2026: Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by the Municipal representative, who welcomed all participants. The purpose of the meeting was outlined as a Public-Private Dialogue aimed at identifying practical and sustainable partnership solutions to manage donkey droppings in Mkomani Ward. Participants introduced themselves, including donkey owners and operators, and municipal officials.

MIN 02/01/2026: Key Issues Raised by Donkey Owners and Operators

a) Lack of Holding Space

Donkey owners highlighted a serious lack of designated space to keep their animals. As a result, many are forced to release donkeys to roam freely after work, contributing to the accumulation of droppings within the town.

b) Loss of Grazing Corridors

Participants noted that:

- Land previously designated as donkey grazing corridors during the spatial planning of Lamu Island has since been privatized.
- This has significantly limited access to grazing areas, forcing donkeys into Lamu Old Town and surrounding urban areas

c) Water Scarcity and Access

The donkey owners further reported that:

- Natural water pans located behind Lamu Town have dried up or been privatized
- This has left them with no alternative but to keep donkeys within the town to ensure access to water and feed

These challenges were identified as major contributors to the donkey droppings menace in Mkomani Ward.

d) Livelihood Dependence

Donkey operators emphasized that:

- Their livelihoods and those of their dependents rely heavily on donkey-based activities
- Any interventions should safeguard their income sources

They requested that municipal by-laws consider their economic realities to ensure continued operation.

e) Animal Welfare Considerations

Participants highlighted that:

- Donkeys are social animals
- Any proposed holding or boarding facility must be informed by veterinary guidance to prevent stress and ensure proper welfare standards

MIN 03/01/2026: Support for Municipal Initiatives

Despite the challenges, donkey owners and operators expressed strong support for the Municipality's proposal to establish a donkey holding/boarding facility.

They noted that:

- They are willing to utilize day and night boarding services at a reasonable fee
- The facility would significantly reduce free roaming and improve waste management

MIN 04/01/2026: Requests by Donkey Owners and Operators

The following requests were made to the Municipality:

- 1. Inclusion in Animal Feed Support Programs**
 - Consider donkey owners in animal feed distribution programs occasionally provided by the County Department of Livestock
- 2. Management of Holding Facility**
 - Be given an opportunity to operate or co-manage the holding site, citing their experience and understanding of donkey care

MIN 05/01/2026: Municipal Response and Resolutions

The Municipality responded and agreed as follows:

- **Priority Development of Holding Facility**
The construction of a donkey holding/boarding site will be treated as a priority project to support proper animal management and reduce waste in urban areas
- **Livelihood Consideration**
Future policies and by-laws will take into account the economic importance of donkeys to local communities
- **Liaison on Animal Feed Support**
While the Municipality does not directly distribute animal feed, the Municipal Manager will:
 - Engage the County Department of Livestock
 - Advocate for inclusion of donkey owners in relevant support programs

MIN 06/01/2026: Way Forward

1. Fast-track planning and development of the donkey holding facility
2. Engage veterinary experts to guide design and operation of the facility
3. Explore frameworks for involving donkey owners in management of the facility
4. Liaise with County Government on animal feed support and broader livestock welfare

MIN 07/01/2026: Any Other Business (AOB)

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned with appreciation to all participants for their openness and commitment to finding sustainable solutions.

Prepared by: Gabriel Ngige

Signature: 

Designation: Environment Safeguards Officer

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