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PROPOSED REHABILITATION OF NYAYO GARDENS-NAKURU TOWN

A proposal has been made for the rehabilitation and re-development of the most prominent green space in Nakuru – the Nyayo Gardens. This rehabilitation is expected to make the space more attractive given its centrality in the central business district (CBD), expand its greenery by introducing better specie of planted materials, expand its usability and accessibility by establishing four key spaces or “squares” and allow administrative space to ensure better in situ management of the gardens. The key attractions are:

1. **WANGARI MAATHAI SQUARE:** In honour of Hon. Wangari Maathai, the 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate a 5 metre bronze statue shall be erected coupled with a water fountain standing tall as show of the commitment of the County to environmental conservation particularly our forests. Nakuru County has the largest forest cover. The square shall also have a children’s play area as our commitment to educate them on conservation. A hedged maze for children shall be established.
2. **PUBLIC GATHERING SQUARE:** This space shall be landscaped to allow for small gatherings of people. There shall be a permanent stage/podium for public presentations by both public and private institutions. The space shall be neatly maintained with resilient grass cover.
3. **SOCIAL SPACE SQUARE:** In the study of the use of the space by the people it was found that many used it as informal gathering areas and rest space during lunch hour or simply a stroll in the garden for a few minutes before exiting for other activities. Social space square is meant to give a person who needs a leisurely rest to have space that is not noisy or full of activities. This area shall therefore have seating areas under shade of trees and a vending facility to allow for access to simple snacks
4. **GROUP MEETING SQUARE:** In our study we also found a constant use of the garden by groups of people either heading to the courts or localised consultations by groups of people having discussions or short meetings. Some were students attending colleges in the downtown area who meet there before classes begin. Again the space will be spaced to allow group meetings. Sitting areas shall be developed a three arbours built for this purpose.

NAKURU COUNTY SHOWCASE WALKWAY

As part of the attractions in the garden, a showcase walkway with a wall of pictorial informational display about Nakuru County shall be developed allowing visitors of the City of Nakuru to glance at what the County's major activities are for example:

- Geothermal Energy (Menengai / Olkaria)
- Pyrethrum Farming
- Lake Nakuru National Park
- Lake Elementaita Birds
- Floriculture Farms in Lake Naivasha
- Subukia Shrine
- Forestry in the Mau

GATES & MAIN WALKWAY

The main entrance shall be off Court Street with an iconic bronze statue of two flamingos standing three metres tall. The entire walkway across the garden to the opposite gate on Moses Mudavadi Rd shall be developed with wood and steel pergolas covered by climbers and other greenery. The garden gates shall be lockable and operate between 6 am to 6 pm.

RENOVATIONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH WAR MEMORIAL

The Nyayo gardens are also the home of the Commonwealth War Monument that is now dilapidated and in dire need of renovations and maintenance works. The monument shall be rehabilitated. The restoration works shall be authorised by the Commonwealth War Memorial Commission (local offices).

PERIMETER FENCE / JOGGING TRACK

In order to secure the gardens and manage its use better, there shall only be two entrances. The Main entrance shall be the gate on Court Street and the other on the opposite side on Moses Mudavadi Road. The fence shall be constructed with steel bars a live hedge planted on the inside to give it a green look. A one and a half meter (1.5) wide walking/jogging track along the perimeter fence shall be constructed to cater for those who visit the gardens for a little walk or jog.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

BUDGET

It is estimated that the entire budget for the re-development, renovations and improvement of Nyayo Gardens shall be approximately 80 million shillings. This includes the professional fees for all the above works and all materials labour and incidentals.

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