



THIKA MUNICIPALITY

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU

DEPARTMENT OF LAND, HOUSING, PHYSICAL PLANNING, MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT

P.O. Box 240-01000 Thika, Kenya

Tel: +254709877000 Email: thikamunicipality@kiambu.go.ke www.kiambu.go.ke

The WHO Global Network of Age Friendly cities and communities
Geneva, Switzerland

APPLICATION FOR JOINING THE WHO GLOBAL NETWORK OF AGE FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

On behalf of the Municipality of Thika, Kenya – Soon to be Thika Industrial Smart City, I would like to express our wish to become a member of the WHO Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities.

The Municipality of Thika, located in Kiambu County of Central Kenya, is a municipality which has been standing at the forefront of progress in Kenya in terms of being an industrial and educational hub for many years. Thika Municipality has a population of approx. 700,000 people, amongst them being many senior citizens over the age of 60 years.

We have been in the forefront in promoting special accessibility systems to the benefit of our older persons and persons with disability noting that the intersectionality of ageing and disability cannot be ignored.

The new smart city plan is of inclusive civic participation, leisure, accessibility to open green spaces and built infrastructures. We are very proud to report that mobility is of great importance to us proven by the establishment of non-motorized utilities with all roads and streets having marked pedestrian crossings, ramps and curb cuts to ease mobility.

We have also instituted a variety of social mechanisms for involving senior citizens in the implementation of our plans, not only as participants but as stakeholders.

It is central to our belief that for inclusivity to happen, rightsholders, stakeholders and the leadership must work together towards a common goal. To this end, we work with older persons' organizations led by MICOP Kenya whose CEO Mr. Michael Kanyingi Kimuhu is very instrumental in making age inclusivity in Thika real.

Looking at the successes and future plans of making Thika a great city to work and live in, I feel inspired and I am looking forward to having Thika as a smart city with an enabling environment, for each and every one of our resident senior citizens, to keep thriving in healthy ageing, dignity and comfort.

As part of making the forgoing happen, we are proposing to set aside about 100 acres of land where older persons and retirees can acquire land to build retirement homes according to their unique needs. This is intended to be an integrative space where sport, transportation, housing, health care and others like intergeneration spaces and infrastructures will be provided.

As the Municipality Manager of Thika, I am delighted and look forward to your positive consideration of our application. I believe that Thika can be a valuable contributor to the Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities, sharing practices.

Yours,



Hon Gathii Kanyi

Municipal Manager – Thika, Kenya