

Murang'a

MCAAs to visit Arusha for lessons about landfills

The Nairobi Metropolitan Services Improvement Project (NaMSIP) has bowed to pressure by Murang'a MCAs to pay for a benchmarking trip to Tanzania to find out how sanitary landfills work.

In a consultative meeting with NaMSIP officials last week, the MCAs said they did not know much about the Sh1 billion Mitumbiri Sanitary Landfill project in Maragua.

Two years ago, the government acquired 50 acres of land for a waste management project in Gikono. However, the project has been stoked with controversy, with locals afraid that the landfill would be used

by other counties within the Nairobi Metropolitan region - Kiambu, Machakos, Kajiado and Nairobi - to dump their waste.

The leaders' consultative forum was called after Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development CS James Macharia suspended activities related to the project citing lack of effective public engagement.

Kimorori MCA Amos Murigi said a benchmarking trip was necessary for leaders to learn more on the landfill technology before they could allay residents' fears.

County Speaker Nduati Kariuki said he had learnt of the

project's advantages, adding that members were willing to be educated. "This is a project by the national government that will help maintain cleanliness in our areas. Presently, Murang'a generates 250 tonnes of waste daily," said Nduati.

Health and Sanitation executive Joseph Mbai said the project would manage waste from Murang'a's 410 market centres.

He said waste management remains a challenge in Kenol, Kabati and Saba Saba, where the backyards of buildings have been turned into dumpsites. Public consultative meetings will start in Mitumbiri on Tuesday. **[Boniface Gikandi]**