

Annex 4:

Matrix of stakeholder submission

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEVOLUTION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
APPLICATION FOR CONFERMENT OF CITY STATUS TO THIKA MUNICIPALITY

MATRIX OF STAKEHOLDER SUBMISSIONS

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
1	National Lands Commission (NLC)	Support	- Confirmed that upon evaluating the application against Sections 5, 6, 7, 8 and the First Schedule of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, Thika Municipality meets the threshold criteria for conferment of city status. - Raised no adverse comment on the application. - Recommended that any pending boundary issues be deliberated and determined to ensure efficient management of the city upon conferment.
S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
2	Thika Residents Association	Support	- Expressed strong support for the conferment, noting that the Association has been actively engaged in stakeholder meetings and forums since 2016, to promote inclusive representation and development planning for the community, fostering collaboration among residents, businesses and stakeholders. - Stated that city status will help address the growing gap between rapid population growth and inadequate infrastructure, attract investment, create employment and improve public services for residents. - Recommended that the Committee approve the conferment and reaffirmed the Association's commitment to support implementation of the City Charter.
3	Kiambu County Poultry Farmers Co-operative Society Ltd	Support	Stated that city status will: - Increase demand for food products as more people migrate to the city, directly boosting farmers' incomes. - Attract investors to partner with local farmers in animal feeds production, abattoir operations and meat processing. - Create more job opportunities for the youth in the area as more industries are established. - Improve road infrastructure through city funding, enabling timely delivery of farm produce to markets.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
4	Thika Small Traders Association	Support	• Draw more students to colleges in Thika, improving agricultural training quality in the region. • Noted that the Association has no objection to the conferment of city status to Thika. • Recommended that stakeholders be directly involved in any changes arising from the elevation to city status, and that Thika Stadium be relocated to create space for a small traders marketplace. Concerns: • Inadequate drainage systems across the town. • Pothole-ridden feeder roads that hinder business operations. • Inadequacy of health facilities – hospitals need to be upgraded. • Water supply is currently rationed – the water reticulation network needs to be expanded. • Overcrowding in public schools, with a teacher-to-pupil ratio cited as 1:80 – more schools need to be constructed. • Insecurity – adequate security measures need to be put in place. Raised concerns that; (1) there is no hawkers market in Thika Township Ward and recommended that one be established as part of the city upgrade. (2) concern about empty spaces in the town and recommended that a policy be developed to govern their use. Recommended that the county government constructs modern structures on the spaces to serve small traders. (3) that 60% of people in Thika Town are small business traders and questioned whether these traders are considered in the Thika Smart City plan, particularly regarding those at the Thika main bus park stage who may be affected by the modernization of the bus park. • Recommended that solar-powered lamps be installed as part of the bus park modernization plan. • Further requested to see the final plan for the bus park before commencement, and to be briefed more about the plan. • Needed confirmation of whether small business traders are included and considered in the final Smart City plan.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			Stated that if all stakeholders are incorporated and considered in the final plan, the larger group of small traders has no objection to the elevation of Thika to Smart City status.
5	Kiambu Former Councilors Group	Support	The group affirmed that Thika Municipality meets and, in several respects, exceeds the statutory and constitutional thresholds under the Urban Areas and Cities Act (Cap 275) and the Constitution of Kenya 2010, demonstrating clear readiness for elevation to city status. Justification: - Population:- The 2019 Census recorded a population of approximately 279,429, surpassing the statutory threshold of 250,000. Projections indicate this will exceed 330,000 by 2027. - Economic and industrial hub: Beyond its population dynamics, Thika Municipality stands out as a critical economic and industrial hub, often referred to as the "Birmingham of Kenya" due to its long-standing manufacturing base. - Strategic location: Situated approximately 42km from Nairobi along the Thika Superhighway (A2), Thika serves as a vital gateway to Central Kenya, facilitating efficient movement of goods and services and strengthening regional trade. - Governance and service delivery: City status would enhance administrative autonomy, institutional capacity and improve delivery of essential services including water, sanitation, housing and urban transport, in line with the principles of devolved governance. - Education and innovation hub: Thika hosts Mount Kenya University, Greta University and Thika Technical Training Institute, alongside numerous tertiary colleges and TVETs, making it a dynamic "student city" with strong linkages to industry and innovation. - Other sectors: Health sector is well developed anchored by General Kago Thika Level 5 Hospital; national security infrastructure including the Thika Engineers Brigade; a growing hospitality and tourism sector including Blue Post Hotel at Chania Falls; well-established financial services with numerous commercial banks, microfinance institutions and SACCOs; and rapid growth in real estate and residential developments.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			- Alignment with national and global frameworks: The conferment aligns with Kenya Vision 2030, the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), and Sustainable Development Goal 11 on inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities. Potential impacts: - Economic: City status will position Thika as a more attractive destination for local and foreign direct investment, stimulate business expansion, create employment and expand the local revenue base. - Social: Improved access to quality public services including healthcare, education, housing, water and sanitation; strengthened community participation and social cohesion. - Governance: Deeper devolution, more robust governance structures, improved accountability frameworks and comprehensive urban planning and management systems. - Infrastructure: Thika to be positioned as a major logistics hub supported by ring roads, superhighways, bypasses, railway connectivity, proximity to aviation infrastructure, ICT investments and WASH projects. Recommendations: - Approve immediately the conferment of city status to Thika Municipality. - Facilitate adequate fiscal and institutional support to ensure a smooth transition. - Strengthen urban governance, planning and administrative capacity. - Promote inclusive stakeholder engagement, ensuring citizen participation throughout implementation.
6	Kiambu County Youth Assembly (KYA) Congress	Support	- Stated that the elevation of Thika to city status presents a significant opportunity to unlock economic potential, enhance governance structures and expand employment opportunities, particularly for the youth who constitute a large proportion of the population. Stated that city status will: - Support expansion of industrial zones and manufacturing parks, creating jobs for young people as machine operators, technicians, engineers and logistics personnel.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			• Position Thika as a center for youth entrepreneurship by attracting investors and business development services to support SMEs; and foster innovation hubs and youth enterprise incubation centers providing mentorship, training, workspace and startup capital. • Encourage development of technology parks, co-working spaces and digital innovation centers, enabling youth to engage in tech startups, software development, digital marketing and e-commerce. • Generate large volumes of employment in construction, engineering and urban planning as Thika invests in infrastructure modernization. <u>Recommendations</u> (a) youth representatives be formally included in the City Board or its advisory structures to ensure youth perspectives are incorporated into key urban development decisions. (b) establishment of a Thika Youth Innovation Hub providing incubation services, mentorship and technical support for young entrepreneurs. (c) development of new and expanded industrial zones targeting youth employment in agro-processing, light manufacturing and technology-based industries. (d) creation of startup financing programs, including revolving youth enterprise funds and innovation grants, to address the barrier of access to capital for young entrepreneurs. (e) introduction of youth procurement quotas in city public projects, allocating a percentage of city contracts in construction, digital services and supply of goods to youth-owned enterprises. (f) Expansion of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutions to meet the demand of skilled labor in the growing city. (g) establishment of a City Youth Advisory Council as a structured consultative body advising the City Board on youth-related issues including employment, entrepreneurship, education and digital innovation. Submitted that the successful transition of Thika to City Status requires a structured and coordinated implementation framework that ensures

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
7	Jirani Wema Community – Thika Landless Community Based Organisation	Conditional Support	effective governance, sustainable economic development and inclusive participation of all stakeholders. • Stated that the community fully supports the conferment of city status viewing it as a historic milestone. • Recommended that Thika's development be anchored on a Net-Zero Digital Smart Industrial City Model integrating environmental sustainability, digital transformation, social inclusivity and equitable economic growth. • Highlighted challenges including; (1) poor drainage systems leading to high flood risk and disaster vulnerability across Thika; (2) pollution from industrial emissions, dust and weak waste management; (3) high youth unemployment contributing to crime and drug abuse; (4) inadequate street lighting and poor access roads in residential areas increasing insecurity; (5) water shortages and limited community recreational and public spaces. • Raised specific concerns affecting their community: lack of access roads to residential premises; absence of street lighting exposing residents at night to petty crime and wildlife attacks, particularly by hyenas; and undeveloped community land that could serve as a playfield and multi-purpose hall. Recommendations – (a) Smart Green Infrastructure and renewable energy transition; that at least 90% of public street lighting be solar-powered within a clear timeline, and that smart and AI-enabled lighting systems, green building standards and smart grids be introduced. (b) Establishment of the Jirani Innovation & Youth Hub; establishment of a community innovation hub featuring AI, digital and entrepreneurial skills training, startup incubation labs, and sports and recreation facilities, to tackle youth unemployment and reduce crime. (c) Improved Local Infrastructure and Accessibility; 100% tarmacking of all feeder and access roads in their area, completion of the Muguga-Witeithie bypass, and deployment of AI-enabled public safety and surveillance systems.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			(d) A greening and climate resilience strategy (Forest Town Vision); involving planting of 100,000 trees over 10 years, urban organic farming, waste recycling and circular economy programs, improved stormwater drainage, and additional boreholes to address water shortages. At the public hearing, the community additionally: • Stated that city status will lead to infrastructure upgrades and upgrading of public facilities. • They further emphasized that roads in their area be improved, and that the issue of wildlife, (particularly hyenas, in some residential areas) be addressed as part of city planning and security improvements.
8	Green Warriors (George Wachiuri – Director)	Support	• Supports transforming Thika into a Green Smart Industrial City, describing it as a long-term solution to unemployment, pollution, poor planning and climate challenges – creating a city that is economically strong, environmentally clean and socially inclusive. Stated that city status will bring the following advantages: • Environmental sustainability – reduced pollution through clean industries and waste management; improved air and water quality including revival of Thika River; increased green spaces; and climate change mitigation through renewable energy such as solar and biogas. • Economic growth and green jobs – attraction of investors in clean industries and technology; creation of jobs in recycling, renewable energy and eco-construction; boost for local SMEs through innovation and sustainability projects; and increased revenue for the county and local businesses. • Smart technology and efficiency – smart traffic systems reducing congestion; digital waste management systems; efficient service delivery in water, electricity and security; and data-driven planning for better urban management. • Improved public health and quality of life – reduced diseases linked to pollution; better healthcare outcomes due to a cleaner environment; safe recreation spaces for walking, cycling and sports; and improved mental well-being through green environments.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			- Youth empowerment and innovation – opportunities in tech, environment and entrepreneurship; skills development in green industries and digital systems; support for startups and innovation hubs; and reduced unemployment and crime rates. - Global recognition and investment appeal – Thika positioned as a model city in Kenya and Africa; attraction of international partnerships, donors and investors; boost for tourism and reputation; and alignment with global goals including the SDGs. - Better infrastructure and urban planning – modern roads, drainage and housing systems; reduced flooding and better waste disposal; organized industrial zones; and efficient public transport systems. Concerns and proposed solutions: - High cost of implementation – proposed solutions: public-private partnerships to share costs; seeking funding from global bodies such as the World Bank, UN and climate funds; and implementing projects in phases. - Displacement of local communities – proposed solutions: develop affordable housing before relocation; community participation in planning; and fair compensation and resettlement programs. - Risk of increased industrial pollution – proposed solutions: strict environmental regulations and enforcement; promotion of clean industries only; and investment in waste treatment and emission control systems. - Technology gap and digital inequality – proposed solutions: digital literacy programs; affordable internet and devices; and inclusive systems accommodating both manual and digital options. - Job loss in traditional sectors due to automation – proposed solutions: reskilling and vocational training programs; support for transition into green jobs; and promotion of SMEs and entrepreneurship. - Corruption and poor governance – proposed solutions: transparency through digital monitoring systems; community oversight and stakeholder involvement; and strong policies and accountability frameworks.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			• Infrastructure strain during transition – proposed solutions: proper urban planning and phased development; upgrading utilities before expansion; and clear communication with residents. • Risk of inequality and gentrification – proposed solutions: strong affordable housing policies; inclusive economic planning; and protection of small businesses and informal traders. At the public hearing, Green Warriors; • Urged city management to turn environmental conservation challenges into opportunities. • Emphasized that waste and garbage collection be improved, and that a clean and green city vision be adopted.
9	Kamenu Stages BodaBoda Association (KSBA)	Support	• Strongly supports the upgrade of Thika Town to Smart City status, believing this transformation will bring significant benefits not only to residents but also to the BodaBoda sector. Stated that city status will: • Bring increased funding and resource allocation from the national government, allowing for better development of infrastructure. • Increase Thika's visibility on a national and international level, attracting investors and creating jobs. • Trigger improvements in essential services including roads, street lighting, waste management, public transport and fire stations. • Improve the local economy, increase property values and improve market access for agricultural products. • Generate development of better social amenities such as health facilities, libraries and public parks, leading to a better quality of life for residents. • Formalize and expand BodaBoda employment opportunities through digital platforms and better regulation; the sector employs thousands of youth and supports last-mile connectivity to areas not easily reached by larger vehicles. • Support use of BodaBodas in emergencies – the association proposes that a Motorcycle Ambulance model be considered within the Smart City ecosystem. Recommendations:

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			• Designated BodaBoda lanes and stages be established to improve order, safety and traffic flow. • Training and capacity building programs for operators on road safety, customer service and use of digital platforms. • Access to affordable financing to enable operators to acquire safer motorcycles and electric bikes as eco-friendly transport. • BodaBoda Association leaders be included in Smart City transport planning and policy formulation. • All operators be registered in a centralized digital identification system. • The Kenya Senate recognize and integrate the BodaBoda sector as a key partner in achieving an efficient, inclusive and sustainable Smart City.
10	Thika Motor Dealers (K) Ltd – TMD Kenya / Isuzu	Support	• Stated that Thika has grown steadily into an industrial, commercial and residential centre of significance within the greater Nairobi metropolitan area and the Mt. Kenya economic corridor. Its strategic location, established industrial base and expanding commercial activity position it as a town with high potential to operate effectively as a city. • Stated that conferment of city status is an opportunity to formalize this growth and strengthen governance structures, urban planning and service delivery to meet the demands of a modern city. Areas for continued strengthening: • Urban infrastructure and mobility – continued investment in road networks, traffic management and connectivity to support smooth movement of residents, businesses and public transport operators. • Urban planning and land use management – strengthened planning frameworks, clear zoning of residential, commercial and industrial areas, and allocation of land for essential public utilities to ensure orderly and sustainable urban growth. • Public utilities and municipal services – access to clean and reliable water, efficient waste management and proper drainage systems are critical; consistent street lighting and well-maintained public spaces will also enhance safety and livability.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			• Security and public safety – a secure environment, strengthened safety initiatives and improved street lighting will foster confidence among residents and investors. • Transport and logistics management – effective management of public transport, freight movement and parking infrastructure will improve mobility and reduce congestion in commercial areas. • Environmental management – attention to urban cleanliness, environmental sustainability and preservation of green spaces will contribute to a livable and attractive city environment.
11	Thika Town Vendors / Stadium Wall Traders	Support	• Stated that elevating Thika to city status has many advantages for their business and lives. Stated that city status will: • Attract more funding and resource allocation from the national government and international communities. • Attract investment and economic growth through investors and creation of job opportunities. • Attract more population, hence increasing business opportunities. • Enhance infrastructure development including road drainage, streetlights and waste management. Recommendations: (1) All traders currently operating in vibandas be improved into modern stalls rather than facing evacuation or demolition. (2) The County Government of Kiambu construct a modern market in Township Ward, noting that there is currently none. (3) Innovation and entrepreneurship in the town and communities be supported to create more jobs and bring growth to the economy.
12	Thika Sausage & Eggs Vendors Self Help Group (Small-scale vendors)	Support	The submission was Referenced as a Request for M.O.U for Business Entrepreneurs. They mentioned that there has been a cordial and friendly relationship between the group members and the County administration of Thika Sub-County, where they submit taxes through payment of business permits to allow them to do their daily business. • Stated that since inception, the group has received support from the County administration in the form of allocation of operating sites and

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			security of their merchandise and food materials, mainly by County Health Officers. Expressed support for Thika Town being classified as a Smart City and stated that they are ready to adhere to the terms and conditions that shall be given to them as may be required by the Smart City status.
S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
13	Chege Thuku (Community Leader & Opinion Shaper, Juja – Kiambu County)	Support	- Agrees that Thika should be granted city status. - Recommended that the word 'STUDENT' be inserted in the city's official title and gazetted. This is because Thika has the highest student population ratio within a 10km radius in East and Central Africa, with 15 TVEs and multiple private universities, and an estimated Ksh 5.597 billion circulating annually in the local economy as a result of student activity. - Recommended that the word 'GREEN' be inserted in the city's official title and gazette. This will strategically position Thika as a green city capable of attracting green investment and financing – including carbon credit opportunities under Kenya's National Carbon Registry (KNCR), and green climate finance from the Global Organization of Green Climate Fund (GCF). - Proposed the official title 'THIKA STUDENTS GREEN CITY' or an appropriate variation thereof, drawing inspiration from university-driven city growth models such as Oxford, Cambridge, MIT, and Tsinghua. - Recommended that the Senate establish a desk at every Huduma Centre in Kenya for pick-up and drop-off of Senate-related documents and public submissions.
14	CPA Raphael Maruri (Governance & Public Policy Expert)	Conditional Support	- Stated that Thika meets the technical criteria for city status, possessing the economic might, historical significance and infrastructural backbone to justify elevation. - Stated that the conferment must, however, be conditional on demonstrated fiscal and administrative readiness. This will ensure city status translates into tangible benefits for citizens rather than remaining a ceremonial designation.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			- Recommended that the Senate adopt a 'Conditional Conferment Model' structured in three phases: Phase 1 – conditional approval in principle; Phase 2 – a 12 to 18 month fiscal and governance remediation period; and Phase 3 – full operationalization upon verified compliance by the Senate Committee and the Auditor General. - Raised concern that without a clear mechanism to reinvest Thika-generated revenue, the new city administration risks being underfunded from day one, and recommended that the county demonstrate a fully automated revenue system, an up-to-date property valuation roll, and a strategy to broaden the revenue base. - Raised concern about Kiambu County's pending bills of over Ksh 1.1 billion, warning that if Thika City inherits a culture of delayed payments it will face contractor boycotts, stalled projects and inflated costs. He recommended that the county provide a verified, audited register of all pending bills attributable to Thika along with a legally binding settlement plan. - Raised concern about the risk of governance duplication and high wage Bill, stating that creating a new city-level management structure may result in a top-heavy bureaucracy where most of the budget is spent on salaries, leaving little for roads, waste management and street lighting. He recommended a rationalized human resource plan demonstrating how city functions will be staffed without exceeding the legal wage bill threshold. - Recommended that the Senate adopts the Three-Phased Conditional approval and require the county government to submit; (1) A Fiscal Autonomy Framework guaranteeing a fixed percentage of OSR collected within Thika is retained for city functions; (2) A Certified Pending Bills Register audited by the Auditor General; and (3) A Sustainable Staffing Model with an approved organogram that prevents duplication with county government roles.
15	Ms. Lydia Nyawira Mburia (NEMA EIA & SEA Associate)	Conditional Support	Stated support for the transition to city status, but submitted that it must be accompanied by robust environmental governance frameworks in compliance with the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and relevant legislation.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			Recommendations: (1) Establishment of a City Directorate of Environment to mainstream material recovery for sustainable solid waste management, in compliance with Article 42 of the Constitution on the right to a clean and healthy environment. (2) Execution of annual Environmental Management Plans to ensure energy efficiency and resource utilization efficiency, in compliance with Article 69 of the Constitution and EMS ISO 14001 standards. (3) Execution of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the transition and upgrade of Thika Municipality to city status, given its cross-cutting ripple effects on all sectors of the economy. (4) Establishment of a database to capture all agreements on utilization of natural resources at both national and county level, to ensure sustainable natural resource use and creation of a green economy. (5) Stakeholders be empowered to develop environmental monitoring and evaluation management plans, with emphasis on enforcement and compliance to EMS ISO 14001 standards. (6) A collaborative approach between NEMA, the County Government of Kiambu, the City of Thika, and physical planning and environment stakeholders to develop annual environmental sustainability plans guiding mainstreaming of solid waste management.
16	Mutwiri Kimiri (Member of the Public)	Support	- Strong support for the conferment of city status under the Urban Areas and Cities Act, Cap. 275. Submitted that; - Thika has established itself as one of Kenya's foremost industrial hubs, comparable to Birmingham, hosting over 50 major manufacturing factories spanning agro-processing, textiles, automotive assembly, food and beverage, packaging and industrial chemicals, and is a key contributor to horticultural exports. - Thika's infrastructure – including the eight-lane Superhighway, railway, connectivity to the LAPSET corridor via the Thika-Garissa Road, and planned Bus Rapid Transit – enhances linkages with Nairobi and positions it as a regional trade and logistics hub.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			• That city status will accelerate industrial policy interventions such as an Export Processing Zone (EPZ) and smart industrial initiatives, projected to generate over 50,000 manufacturing jobs by 2030, with strong multiplier effects on logistics, retail and services. • That city status will strengthen governance frameworks needed to deliver essential services such as healthcare, water and sanitation, transport, housing and waste management. It will enable structured urban planning including zoning for housing, commercial development and green public spaces. • That elevation to city status will underpin Thika's role as a regional economic engine, increasing investor confidence and foreign direct investment (FDI), expanding the tax base, stimulating MSMEs and innovation clusters, and boosting cooperative development. • Enhanced economic activity will contribute to Kenya's industrialization agenda and broaden the manufacturing base, reducing over-dependence on primary commodities.
17	Noman Jeff (Member of the Public)	Support	• Stated that Thika should become a Smart City to create job opportunities, reduce traffic congestion, reduce environmental damage and increase foreign tourism. • Noted that becoming a Smart City will enable him to acquire more skills, access employment and socialise with a diverse population.
18	Iano Epic (Member of the Public)	Support	• Submitted that as a student multitasking as a businessman, city status will bring him more customers, better access to a clean environment and improved services. • Added that city status will make Thika's schools better known beyond the county, attracting outside investors.
19	Emmanuel (Member of the Public)	Support	• Stated that Thika is already a major industrial town hosting numerous factories and agro-processing plants, and its strong industrial base makes it a natural candidate for city designation. • Mentioned Thika's strategic location; Thika's position along key transport corridors and its proximity to Nairobi enhances trade, commuting and investment opportunities.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			Added that Thika has a rapidly growing population due to urban migration, with increasing demand for housing, services and infrastructure that city status will help address.
20	Eugene Kuira (Member of the Public)	Support	- Strongly advocates for Thika to become a Smart City as this would promote integration of technology in governance, transportation, security, waste management, service delivery, healthcare, education and employment. - Urged the Senate to approve the conferment of city status to Thika in order to unlock its full potential for the benefit of current and future generations.
21	Benuel Morara (Thika Resident, Member of the Public)	Support	Reasons for supporting Thika being a Smart City: - City status will unlock the necessary funding to address traffic congestion on the Thika-Garissa Road and the inner-city bypasses, and to upgrade the drainage system. - Adopting smart street lighting and integrated CCTV surveillance will transition Thika into a 24-hour economy, boosting local businesses and providing a safer environment. - City status necessitates automation of county services – moving land rates, business permits and waste management tracking to digital platforms – which will reduce corruption and improve efficiency. - The proposed Special Economic Zones (SEZs) associated with city status will attract international investors and create thousands of tech and manufacturing jobs for the youth.
22	Milka Atieno (Thika Resident, Member of the Public)	Support	Stated that city status will: - Spur economic growth and employment, with new businesses expected to create over 40,000 jobs, transforming Thika into a major industrial hub. - Bring modernised infrastructure, including upgraded and dualled roads (notably the Thika-Garissa Road), improved water reticulation, street lighting and CCTV-controlled traffic management.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			• Deliver affordable housing, including construction of over 30,000 housing units, modernisation of Thika Stadium to international standards, upgrading of hospitals and enhancement of markets.
23	Rosemary Atieno (Member of the Public)	Support	• Stated that Thika is the best choice for city status due to it being a busy business centre, and that elevation will benefit all residents in the surrounding area.
24	Korwe Mariyu Gicuuka (Member of the Public)	Support	• Stated that as a resident of Thika town in the larger Kiambu County, he wishes to support the elevation of Thika to city status.
25	Neema Kitemi (Member of the Public)	Support	• Noted that Thika has demonstrated significant economic growth, industrial expansion and population increase, and that elevating it to city status will enhance structured urban planning, improve infrastructure and attract greater public and private investment. • Submitted that a Smart City framework will encourage technological integration in governance, trade and education, directly benefiting entrepreneurs, professionals, students and the wider community. • Added that city status will strengthen Thika's economic contribution to Kiambu County and the nation by attracting investors, boosting manufacturing and supporting small and medium enterprises, thereby creating jobs and improving quality of life. • Urged the Senate to approve the conferment as this will unlock Thika's full potential and accelerate inclusive and sustainable development.
26	Nancy Cherop (Local Entrepreneur, Member of the Public)	Support	• Noted that elevating Thika will improve economic growth by attracting high-tech investments, and that modernising infrastructure will directly benefit residents through digitalised public services, improved waste management and real-time traffic solutions. • Submitted that a Smart Thika will create a more efficient urban environment where integrated technology enhances security and streamlines business licensing, making it easier for local entrepreneurs to thrive. • Recommended a sustainable, data-driven approach to resource management to ensure higher quality of life for residents.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
27	Tabitha Waihenya (Member of the Public)	Support	- Noted that the Smart City initiative will make Thika the first city in the Mt. Kenya region, with the project set to generate over 50,000 job opportunities and spur economic growth. - Submitted that planned developments include advanced infrastructure such as ICT and technology hubs, a light rail system, modernised hospitals and improved education facilities. - Added that these investments will attract investors and innovators, positioning Thika as a beacon of sustainable urban development in Kenya.
28	Lanita Mwathi (Member of the Public)	Support	- Noted that Thika has demonstrated rapid growth in population, infrastructure, education and industry, making it well-positioned for Smart City integration. Submitted that transforming Thika into a Smart City will promote: - Economic growth through digital infrastructure and innovation hubs. - Efficient service delivery via smart systems in transport, waste management, water supply and security. - Improved security through smart surveillance and emergency response systems. - Sustainable urban planning through smart energy use and green initiatives. - Better quality of life through reliable internet, smart healthcare and improved transport networks. - Noted that granting city status will unlock greater funding opportunities and structured urban development. - Urged the Senate to approve Thika's conferment as a Smart City for the benefit of its residents and the country at large.
29	Simon Lewis	Support	- Urged the Committee to approve Thika's conferment as a city, framing the decision as one that should stand on the right side of progress for the benefit of the youth. - Stated that approving city status means approving growth and approving the dreams of the youth of Kiambu County.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
30	Halimsadia Adan (Member of the Public)	Support	- Expressed full support for the conferment of city status to Thika and its transformation into a Smart City. - Noted that Thika has experienced tremendous growth and has evolved into a key economic, industrial and residential hub within Kiambu County and the greater Nairobi metropolitan region. Further that its strategic location along the Thika Superhighway makes it a gateway to Central Kenya. Stated that city status will: - Enhance economic growth by attracting more investors, creating employment for youth and expanding local businesses. A Smart City framework will further support digital entrepreneurship and innovation hubs. - Improve infrastructure and urban planning through better road networks, modern drainage systems, smart traffic management, enhanced public transport, intelligent street lighting, smart waste management and digital service delivery. - Promote digital transformation through e-governance platforms, giving residents online access to permits, licenses, healthcare information and educational services, reducing delays and bureaucracy. - Enhance security and public safety through smart surveillance systems, improved street lighting and coordinated emergency response systems. - Create sustainable and green development through smart water management, renewable energy use, environmental conservation and proper waste recycling, improving the quality of life for residents. - Empower the youth and local community through skills development, innovation centers and partnerships with universities and technical institutions to equip young people with digital and entrepreneurial skills. Strongly urged the Senate to approve the conferment of city status to Thika and support its vision as a modern, inclusive and sustainable Smart City.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
31	Edgar Sendeu (Member of the Public)	Support	- Strongly supported the conferment of city status to Thika and its transformation into a Smart City. Stated that city status will: - Improve service delivery through smart systems for garbage collection, water supply monitoring, and security surveillance, creating cleaner surroundings, reliable utilities and enhanced safety. - Reduce traffic congestion through intelligent traffic management systems, smart parking solutions and integrated public transport tracking, saving time and reducing fuel costs for residents. - Attract technology companies and investors, support youth innovation hubs and create digital jobs and startup opportunities, increasing employment and income levels. - Support education and digital access through public Wi-Fi zones, digital learning platforms and smart classrooms, helping students and professionals access information and improve skills. - Promote environmental sustainability through renewable energy use, smart street lighting, and proper drainage and flood control systems, creating a healthier environment and reducing pollution. - Enable efficient governance and public participation through online payment platforms, digital reporting of issues and transparent county operations, making it easier for residents to access government services and participate in governance.
32	Bernard Gichuhi (Member of the Public)	Oppose	- Submitted his rejection of the conferment, having lived in Thika for 25 years and basing his views on direct observation of conditions on the ground. Noted the following deficiencies: - No functioning sewerage system serving residents – even upmarket estates like Ngoingwa have no sewerage, making it expensive to own property in areas not covered by the limited existing line. - Tarmac coverage is minimal; only the town centre and the Garissa Road (maintained by KENHA) have tarmac, while estates are largely on cotton soil and murram.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			- The drainage system is non-existent, with most areas including Kisii, Makongeni and parts of Witeithie currently flooded. - Crime rate is high, with areas such as Njomoko, Gatitu, Majengo, Witeithie and Bulleys being unsafe after 6pm. - Traffic jams are persistent and the town lacks sufficient entry and exit roads. - There is no more space for urban expansion, with apartments being built further away from town, making commuting difficult. - Warned that city status will make life more expensive for residents as water, sewerage and rates charges will rise without delivering commensurate social or economic benefits. - Urged the Senate to first address these fundamental infrastructure deficiencies before considering conferment of city status.
33	Moses M. Githinji and Others (Joint submission on behalf of: Malewasibis Association; Nongaimwara Association; Eintreten Association; Lobbydale Associates; Wiselike Group; MATGAC Association; and Heni Group)	Oppose	- Submitted this memorandum on behalf of seven community groups, expressing strong opposition to the conferment of city status to Thika Municipality. - Submitted that the Kiambu County Government public officers bypassed all legal and constitutional requirements in the 2010 devolved governance system when they conferred municipality status on Thika, and that the same approach is being replicated in seeking city status without the participation of the people. Noted the following governance failures by the County Government: - Failure to formally modify National Government Villages in Kiambu to serve as county government villages as required under Section 8(2) of the County Government Act Cap 265. - Failure to establish a Kiambu County Gazette as required under Section 2 and Section 136 of the County Government Act Cap 265. - Failure to enact county legislation for the delineation of Kiambu County villages as required under Section 48(4) of the County Government Act Cap 265. - Failure to fill positions of village administrators and elders to constitute Kiambu County Village Councils from which citizen participation is envisaged under Section 53(2) of the County Government Act Cap 265.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			Additionally submitted that; (1) Thika Municipality lacks the following legally required infrastructure under Section 5(1) of the Urban Areas and Cities Act Cap 275: Traffic control and parking; crematoria; storm drain; control of drugs; sports and cultural activities (save for the private VISHA OSHWAL Community Centre for the Kenya Indian Community); solid waste management; pollution (air, water and soil) control; child care facilities; conference facilities for over 250,000 people; community centres for over 250,000 people; airport; airstrip; theatre; international airport; financial hub; historical monument; recreational parks for 250,000 people; management of markets; animal control and welfare; and organized public transport. (2) No Municipality charter was ever conferred on the area by the County Government with the participation of the people as required under Section 9(1) of the Urban Areas and Cities Act Cap 275. (3) Thika Municipality has not built any capacity of the municipality to enable residents to participate in its affairs as required under Section 22(1) and the Second Schedule to the Urban Areas and Cities Act Cap 275. (4) Thika Municipality lacks the infrastructure required to attain even municipality status let alone city status, including arboreta, green zones and recreational parks, as required under Section 37 of the Forest Conservation and Management Act Cap 385. (5) The County Government has failed to comply with Section 57A of the Environmental Management and Co-Ordination Act Cap 387 as regards a strategic environmental assessment of the conferment of city status. (6) That the conferment of a municipality status to Thika and the intended conferment of City status is a unilateral action by public officers of Kiambu County government, without the people of Kenya being given powers of self governance. (7) That approving city status under these circumstances would contravene the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the aforementioned

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			laws, warning that the Senate would be passing a motion in violation of the rule of law. Urged the Senate not to be used as a conveyor belt by overzealous county government public officers who have managed to by-pass legal and constitutional requirements in the devolved system of governance.
34	Thika BodaBoda Association (Chairperson: Mr. Wilson G. Kibe)	Support	Stated that city status will: • Increase funds and resources from the National Government. • Enhance infrastructure in the Municipality. • Enhance last mile connectivity. • Create job opportunities for the youth. • Boost the local economy. Recommended that: • Designated boda boda lines be established to improve efficiency of operations. • Training and capacity building on road safety, customer service and use of digital platforms be provided to boda boda operators. • The Senate recognize and integrate the boda boda sector as a key partner in achieving an efficient sustainable city.
35	Thika Small Traders Association (Mr. Joshua Njuguna - Chairman) (Public Hearing)	Support	Recommended and requested that: • A traders market be constructed for small traders. • A policy be developed to govern the use of empty spaces in the town. • A clear plan for licensing rates be provided. • The final plan for Thika main stage be shared with traders before commencement. • Full information on the proposed city plan be availed to small traders, including whether they are included and considered in the Smart City plan.
36	Thika Market Traders	Support	Supported on condition that: • The County Government unifies all distribution licences across the county. • Stations be re-demarcated for companies to park and rest their vehicles.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
37	Thika Industrialists Association (Represented by MD, Broadway Bakery)	Support	• Stated that Thika's industrial base is one of the best in Kenya. • Acknowledged that rates are expected to go up upon city status, and that wages for employees will also go up to match the scale applicable to a city. Requested: • Clean roads, street lights, proper garbage collection and a clean city environment.
38	Association of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) (Ms. Beatrice)	Support	Requested that: • Accessibility for persons with disabilities be incorporated in all buildings and infrastructure as part of the city upgrade. • Medical challenges affecting PWDs be addressed. • Roads be paved to enable PWDs to travel and access services. • Markets be expanded to include dedicated spaces for PWDs.
39	The Chamber of Commerce	Support	Requested that: • Security be improved across the town. • Infrastructure be improved to support business operations.
40	Thika Matatu Association	Support	• Stated that city status will enable the association to do better transport business in Thika.
41	Thika Women Residents Association (Ms. Rachel)	Support	Requested that: • Financial institutions, including banks, accommodate and serve women better. • Women be empowered to form SACCOs for table banking and access loans at lower interest rates. • Plots and houses be constructed to house women residents.
42	Thika Hawkers Association	Support	Recommended that: • Hawkers be included in the plans for the city and given designated spaces to operate. • The youth be empowered and more job opportunities be created as part of the city transition.
43	Youth Group Representative	Support	• Stated that city status will unlock job opportunities for the youth of Thika and Kiambu County.

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
44	Representative of Municipal Managers	Support	Stated that city status will: • Improve school and healthcare facilities. • Bring an increase in conditional grants from the national government.
45	First Woman Mayor of Thika Municipality	Support	• Expressed support for the conferment of city status. • Urged the youth to be responsible and to take care of the city once it is conferred.
46	Representatives of Religious Groups	Support	• All religious group representatives who made submissions expressed support for the conferment of city status to Thika Municipality.
47	Mount Kenya University Council Representative	Support	Supported on condition that: • Infrastructure be improved, including connectivity and roads, noting that severe traffic is experienced during graduation events. • The town should be made clean, with a clean environment for business people, residents and visitors. • Sanitation facilities be improved.
48	Representatives of Township Ward	Support	Recommended that: • Traffic jam in Thika be addressed, entry and exit routes into and out of the town should be expanded. • Thika main bus park stage be expanded. • Water supply be increased to address water shortage. • Thika Level 5 Hospital be given adequate capacity and resources. • Interference with residential boundaries be addressed and resolved. • Modern markets in Township Ward be constructed. • Modern boda boda shades be provided. • The road network be improved. • Street lighting be improved across the ward. • Security be improved. • The drainage system be improved.
49	Representatives of Kamenu Ward	Support	Stated that city status will: • Create job opportunities for residents. • Enhance infrastructure in the area. • Provide a better environment for residents. Requested that:

S/No	Stakeholder Name	Position	Justification/Key Issues and Concerns
			Title deeds be issued for lands in Kamenu.
50	Representatives of Ngoliba Ward	Support	Recommended that: The Garissa Road be improved as a priority road infrastructure project.
51	Representatives of Gatuanyaga Ward	Support	Requested that: Better water supply be provided in Gatuanyaga Ward.
52	Representative of University Students	Support	- Expressed support for the conferment of city status. Requested that: - Security of students in and around Thika be improved and prioritized as part of the city upgrade.
53	Speaker of the County Assembly of Muranga (on behalf of the Governor of Muranga County)	Support	Stated that he supports the conferment of city status to Thika Municipality and congratulated the County Government of Kiambu for the initiative.