



*The Kenya Alliance of Resident Associations*

**KARA STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE 51<sup>ST</sup> BI-MONTHLY TALK SERIES. TUESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2016 AT SERENA HOTEL, NAIROBI.**

- Our guest speakers
- Our most valued members, partners and friends
- Members of the press, ladies and gentlemen

Welcome to our fifty first session of the Bi-monthly Talk Series on the theme: Understanding Sustainable Development Goals and expected impact on Kenya's development. We appreciate our valued partners, Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) for their continued support that made this forum possible. We also appreciate all the participants who created time to be with us at this important forum.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted and took effect at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit held on September 25–27, 2015 in New York. The goals are designed to guide the global development agenda and address socio-economic challenges such as climate change, poor sanitation, poverty, illness among others. 17 goals and 169 targets were agreed upon and are to be achieved by the year 2030.

The SDGs, if properly implemented will be extremely transformative. Successful implementation will require collective action and building of synergy among various stakeholders - both state and non-state actors. The general publics also have a role to play. Kenya being a member of the global family has a responsibility to domesticate, review and mainstream the SDGs in its development plans.

In order for the SDGs to have meaning to various stakeholders in Kenya, there is need for concerted awareness creation and education that will generate interest and participation of the stakeholders. One year after the adoption of the SDGs, majority of Kenyans still don't understand what the goals are all about and how it will impact on Kenya's development in general and their socio-economic status in specific.

It is for this reason that Kara has organized this forum to provide a platform for various stakeholders to discuss and share information about the SDGs and have a better understanding of its impact on Kenya. We hope that by the end of this forum, we will not only know more about each of the 17 goals under the SDGs, but also understand our roles and responsibilities in promoting this global agenda. We have a team of experts on the subject matter and we encourage you to constructively engage them and learn as much as you are able to during this session.

On a different note, for the last two years, Kara has been actively engaging the Government with a view to have in place legislations that will strengthen collaboration between Residents Associations and the Government. In this regard, we initiated the formulation of a law to provide

a legal framework for structured and effective engagement between Residents Associations and Nairobi City County Government.

We are pleased to announce that through that effort, the Nairobi City County Community and Neighbourhood Associations Engagement Act, 2016 is now in place. A similar law was recently passed by the County Assembly of Kiambu and is waiting to be signed by the Governor. At our Chairmen's forum held two weeks ago, Residents Associations resolved to support Kara in ensuring effective implementation of the law. Specifically, it was agreed that Kara will engage the County Government on behalf of its members, in developing the recognition/agency agreement as stipulated in the Act. We remind Residents Associations represented here to make a formal request to Kara to negotiate the recognition/agency arrangement on their behalf with the County Government. At the national level, we are currently engaging the National Assembly with a view to having a national law to strengthen Residents Association in Kenya.

Finally, we wish to inform you that Kara has organized a Business Expo and Conference event aimed at promoting business relations between Residents Associations and the business community. The event will bring together corporate organizations and businesses drawn from different sectors of the economy to showcase their products and services to residents associations and capacity to serve the market. The event will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at the Sarit Centre. We invite corporate organizations; Government agencies and all those interested to partner with us either as sponsors or exhibitors to get in touch with the secretariat as soon as possible.

I know we are all eager to listen to and engage our distinguished speakers on the theme of discussion. I thank you all for coming and look forward to a lively and interactive session.  
*Asanteni Sana!*

Richard Nyaga  
**Chairman, The Kenya Alliance of Resident Associations**