

Mji Bora

Metro Alliance Newsletter

Issue 02 | April 2026

Shaking Up Our City
For The Better!

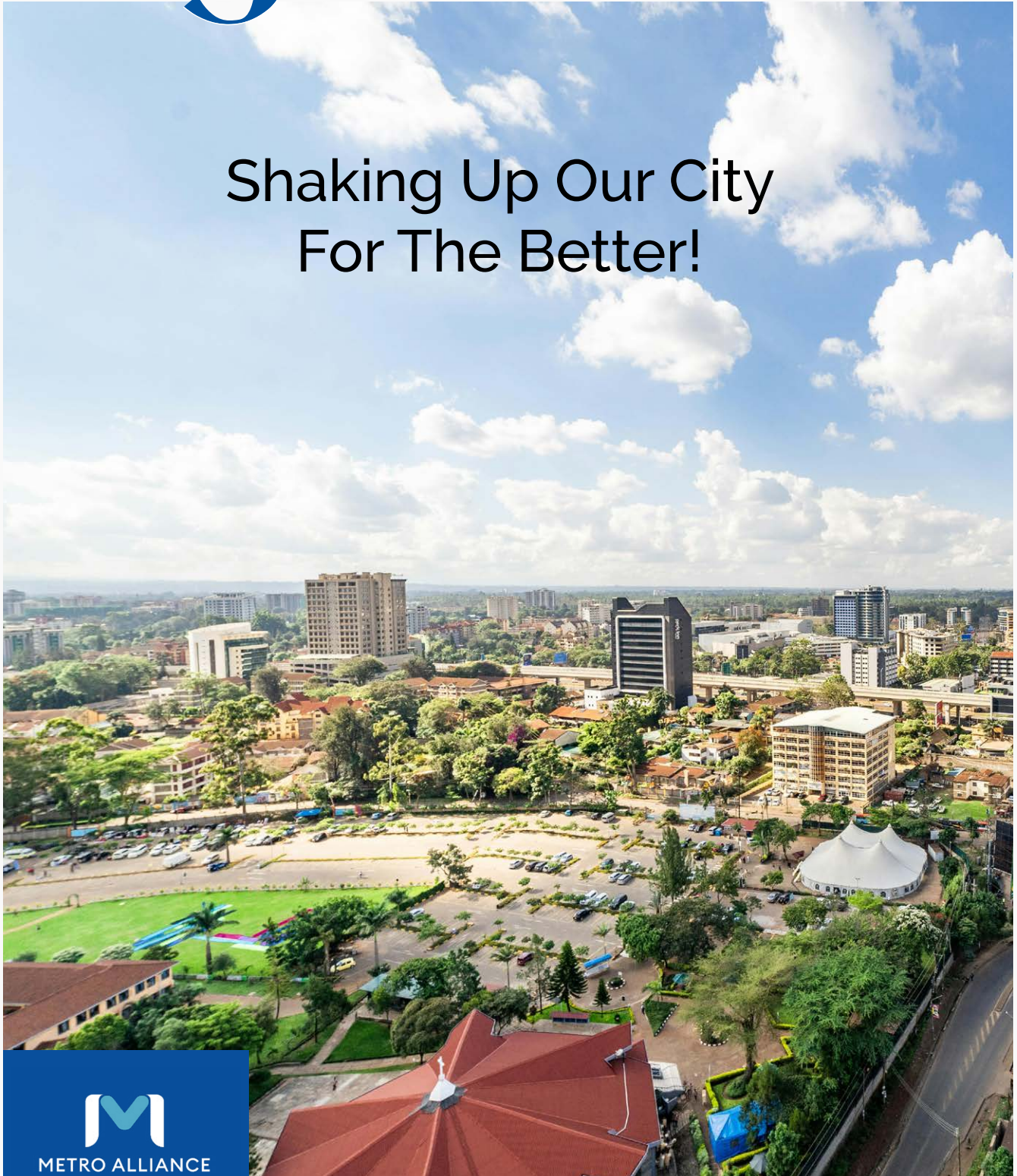


Photo by Ken Mwaura: www.pexels.com



Hey there, Nairobi changemakers!

It's been just over two years since Metro Alliance burst onto the scene, shaking up our city for the better. We've turned up the heat this past year – from hosting a show-stopping launch that united residents from every corner of Nairobi, to filing a groundbreaking citywide petition that's making waves at City Hall. Metro Alliance isn't slowing down one bit; in fact, our movement is gaining momentum every day.

**Ready to see how we're taking
our mission to the next level?
Let's dive in!**

A Landmark Legal Step: Metro Alliance Unveils Nairobi's First Citywide Constitutional Petition Against the County

In a decisive move to ensure those in authority are accountable to Nairobians, on **12th January 2026** Metro Alliance formally filed a **first-of-its-kind, Nairobi-wide constitutional petition** against Nairobi City County Government—a case filed at the Environment and Land Court, Nairobi, Environment and Planning Division under **Petition No. E001 of 2026**, titled “**The Nairobians’ Case Against the Nairobi City County Government (NCCG)**”.

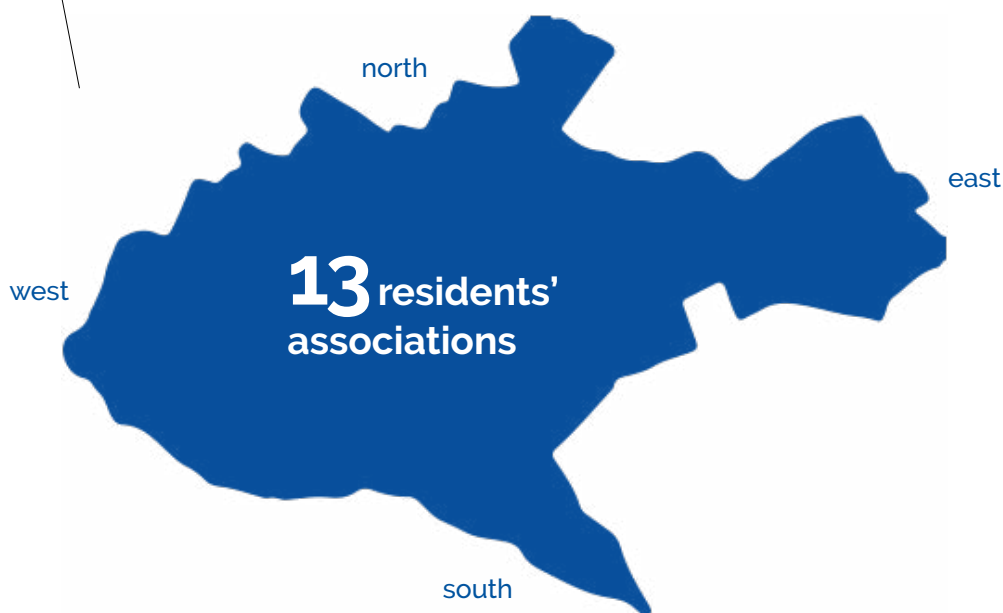
This petition is jointly anchored by **13 residents’ associations** and The Architects Alliance, spanning **North, South, East and West of Nairobi**—and bringing together communities from every walk of life, across both formal and informal settlements.

Why this matters to every Nairobiian

The petition is framed as a citywide response to a worsening reality: infrastructure strain, environmental decline, and the erosion of meaningful public participation in development decisions—amid growing public safety concerns linked to unsafe and poorly regulated development.

What the petition challenges

At its core, the petition alleges constitutional and statutory violations by the County in relation to development activities in Nairobi since August 2019, mainly breaches linked to the **Physical and Land Use Planning Act (PLUPA)**.



*...bringing together communities
from every walk of life, across both formal and informal settlements.*

Key remedies Metro Alliance is seeking

Among the headline reliefs sought are:

A declaration that development permissions from **August 2019** were/are in breach of PLUPA.

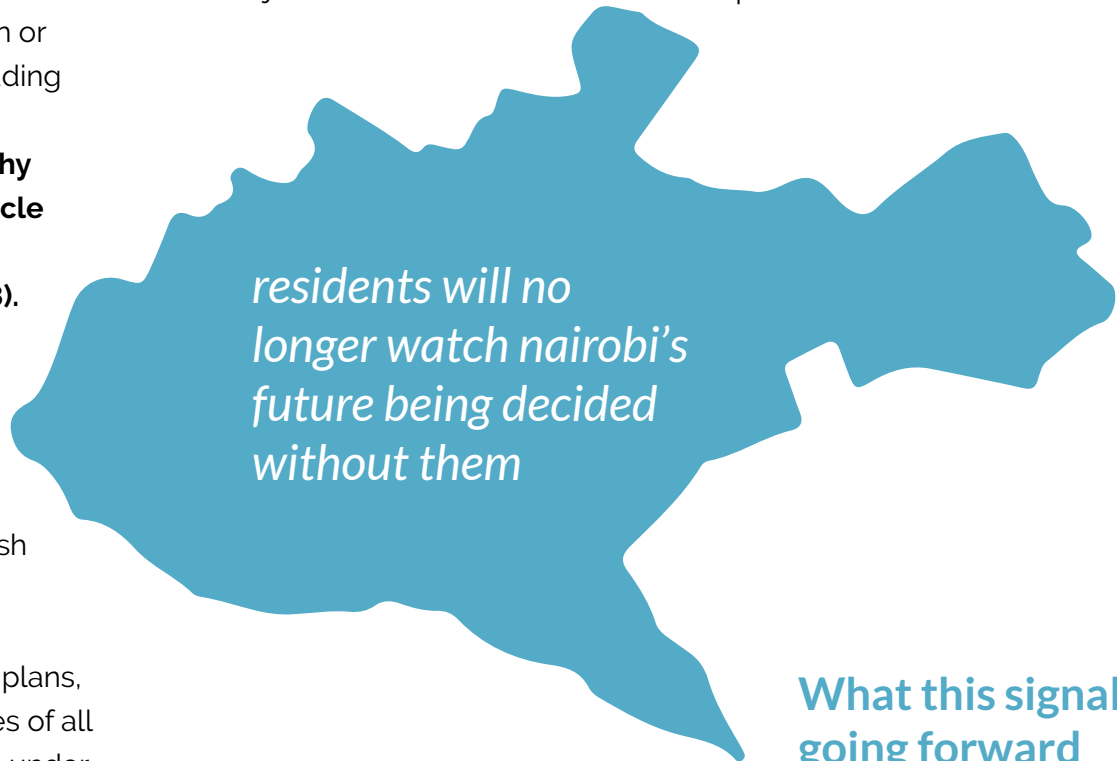
A declaration that the County's actions/omissions threaten or violate rights including **Life (Article 26), a clean and healthy environment (Article 42), and Human dignity (Article 28).**

A time-bound order tied to the County's obligation to prepare and publish county and local physical and land use development plans, with consequences of all approvals granted under this process deemed null and void if the stated deadline is not met.

Orders to stop approvals (including change-of-user) in affected zones without full disclosure and meaningful public participation—written and/or oral.

A requirement for written reasons showing how public views were considered (and reasons where views were rejected).

A mandatory, public register of development permissions—including applicant details, approval status, and project particulars.



residents will no longer watch nairobi's future being decided without them

Taking the case to the public

To mark the launch and explain the petition to Nairobians, Metro Alliance convened a public-facing media briefing on **Tuesday, 3 February 2026** at the conference rooms of Morningside Office Park, issuing a media pack with a petition summary and key prayers.

What this signals going forward

This legal action is not "just another court case." It is a clear message that **residents will no longer watch Nairobi's future being decided without them**—and that city governance, planning, and public safety must return to the Constitution, the law, and transparent public participation.

Metro Alliance Launch: A Grand Night That Officially Introduced Our Citywide Voice to Nairobi

On **27th November 2025**, residents from across Nairobi County came together for a landmark moment: the **official launch of Metro Alliance**, hosted at **Best Western Premier Hotel**.

This was more than a ceremony—it was a public statement that Nairobi's residents are organised, united, and ready to be counted in how our city is planned, governed, and protected.

One city. Many neighbourhoods. One voice.

Metro Alliance brings together **almost 80 residential associations** under one umbrella—linking communities from every corner of Nairobi, across different backgrounds and realities, around a shared belief: **a better city is possible when residents act together.**

Why the launch mattered

The launch came at a time when Nairobi is facing major pressures—**unplanned high-rise developments, flooding, failing infrastructure, insecurity, and shrinking green spaces.**

Metro Alliance was presented as a structured, practical civic response—turning scattered frustrations into coordinated, citywide action.



Our four pillars, clearly stated

At the heart of Metro Alliance is a focused agenda built on four pillars:



Urban Planning

promoting lawful, transparent, people-centred development.



Environmental Responsibility

protecting rivers, forests, wetlands, and public green spaces.



Governance & Cohesion

strengthening citizen participation, oversight, and social harmony.



Security

advancing collaborative approaches to safety and crime prevention.

The message that carried the night

A central theme echoed throughout the launch: **Nairobi belongs to its residents—and their voice must count.**

This launch formally signaled Metro Alliance's entry into the public arena as a credible partner (and watchdog where necessary) on planning, environment, governance, and safety in our city.

Thank
YOU

to every association, resident leader, and supporter who showed up and made the night a success. Nairobi has heard our voice. Now we build, step by step, toward the sustainable, efficient, and safe city we all deserve.

A Special Thank You to Our Sponsors

Metro Alliance sincerely thanks **JTL**, **KP&LC** and **KCDF** for their generous support of our event.

Your partnership and belief in our vision helped make the occasion a success and gave strength to our shared commitment to better urban planning, environmental responsibility, good governance and safer communities.

We are truly grateful for your support and for standing with Metro Alliance at this important moment in our journey.



What happens next

The launch was the beginning—not the destination. Metro Alliance now turns its attention to:

— expanding resident participation and inter-neighbourhood coordination,

— building strong engagement with public institutions and stakeholders.

— and rolling out a practical action agenda to protect neighbourhood dignity, public spaces, and city order.

The new NCCG draft Development Control Policy includes some positive changes arising from our Memorandum and presentations

The new Nairobi City County Government (NCCG) draft Development Control Policy, updated in 2025, incorporates several key changes arising from Metro Alliance's memorandum and presentations during the February 2025 Development Control Policy consultations. These inputs, submitted alongside resident associations and professional bodies, have led to the following policies and enhancements for sustainable urban planning, aligned with the Physical and Land Use Planning Act 2019, NIUPLAN, and CIDP 2023-2027:

» **Overall framing (important context):**

The 2025 Development Control Policy is a **draft** and should be viewed as a **modest step forward**, not a final win. **Not all stakeholder inputs were adopted**, so some groups may still be dissatisfied. This draft Development Control Policy should not be mistaken to be an attempt to comply with the structural interdict ordered by the Court of Appeal in Civil Appeal No. E160 of 2025. The court expressly instructed the Nairobi City County to "complete, [and] adopt through the County Assembly, and gazette the pertinent local physical and land use development and zoning plan(s)" under section 46 Physical and Land Use Planning Act, 2019. Despite reaching out to the County, we are yet to receive any report on this matter.

It is surprising that before the completion of Local Physical and Land Use Development Plans, the draft policy has a Property Matrix annex. The draft will still need to be **debated and approved by the County Assembly**, which may also call for fresh public participation. Also, while the intent is appreciated, it would ideally be sequenced after (or at least aligned with) completion of the **County and Local Physical and Land Use Plans**.

» **Preserving residential character (partial progress):** The draft appears to strengthen protection of **low-density residential areas** by tightening/clarifying controls around **building height, plot ratios, ground coverage, and compatible land uses**—helping reduce privacy and security concerns, and discouraging **commercial/institutional encroachment** where it undermines neighbourhood character.

» **Zoning clarity and enforceability (still needs tightening):**

There are indications of movement toward **clearer zoning standards** and better-defined development parameters (setbacks, maximum floors, clearer categories such as "mixed use"). However, as with many policies, the real test will be whether definitions are **unambiguous**, locally responsive, and consistently enforced—especially at street and neighbourhood level.

» **Public participation (intent noted; credibility depends on process):** The draft signals appreciation for **inclusive, bottom-up consultation**, but public confidence will depend on whether future participation is genuinely accessible at **sub-county /community level**, transparently recorded, and meaningfully integrated—including for residents in and around **informal settlements**.

» **Environmental sustainability (directionally positive):**

The draft appears to reinforce protection of **green spaces, wetlands, riparian reserves**, and broader resilience measures linked to flooding and pollution (including the Nairobi River ecosystem). That said, safeguards on paper must translate into **firm enforcement against encroachment**.

» **Infrastructure and urban pressures (acknowledged, but must be operationalised):**

The policy direction recognises key urban constraints—**drainage, flood management, waste systems, roads, and congestion**—and the need to regulate development intensity accordingly. Integration of informal settlements into formal planning is also an important equity signal, but will require clear standards, sequencing, and budgeting.

» **Implementation and accountability (the real battle):**

Kenya often has strong policy language, but the failure is frequently **implementation**. Any gains here will depend on concrete **timelines, measurable deliverables, enforcement tools**, and transparency mechanisms (e.g., a public **Development Register** for approvals). Multi-stakeholder collaboration to reclaim grabbed public land and pursue violations is positive in principle—but it must be backed by action.

Our participation in the Runda demonstration



The Runda Association (TRA), a constituent member of the Metro Alliance, organised a peaceful and highly visible protest march in **October 2025** in response to concerns over the **proposed development of a public-use parcel** within Runda. The march drew attention to the importance of safeguarding land intended for **community and recreational purposes**, and raised questions around the approvals and processes associated with the proposed project.

Metro Alliance supported TRA's efforts primarily by **amplifying the residents' message**—including sharing updates through social media and drawing the attention of relevant stakeholders—while keeping the focus firmly on **Runda's leadership and community action**. The matter remains **ongoing and unresolved**, and the objective of the engagement is to encourage due process, transparency, and the protection of public interest in Nairobi's shared green and community spaces.

Metro Alliance Partners with CKL Eco Care to Green Nairobi's Future

We are thrilled to announce a groundbreaking partnership with CKL Eco Care, a division of CKL Africa Ltd., aimed at transforming Nairobi's urban landscape through an ambitious tree planting initiative. This collaboration, formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 2025, underscores our shared commitment to environmental conservation, biodiversity enhancement, and community-driven sustainability. As Metro Alliance, a non-profit dedicated to fostering greener, more resilient urban ecosystems, we feel privileged to partner with an organisation like CKL that is so passionate about regreening the city. Their expertise in environmental sustainability and generous support will amplify our efforts to combat declining tree cover, urban heat islands, and limited green spaces across Nairobi.



We extend our deepest gratitude to CKL Eco Care for their unwavering dedication. Together, we're not just planting trees—we're sowing seeds for a healthier, more biodiverse Nairobi that benefits future generations.

Stay tuned for updates, and join us in this vital mission. Your involvement as volunteers or advocates will make all the difference!

we feel privileged to partner with an organisation like CKL that is so passionate about regreening the city.

Special Appreciation

A Salute to Our Independent Directors

With deep appreciation, we honour the independent judgement, integrity and steady counsel of the directors whose service has strengthened Metro Alliance.



**Raphael Nzomo
Thompson/Lavington**

Seasoned, calm and principled, Raphael Nzomo has brought a steady independent voice that keeps Metro Alliance thoughtful and resident-centred.



**Juliet Akach
Lavington**

With clarity, grace and discernment, Juliet Akach reflects the integrity and balance on which strong institutions depend.



**Aasif Karim
Lavington**

Aasif Karim's measured insight and generous counsel have strengthened confidence, credibility and sound independent oversight.



**Tom K. Muchiri
Peponi Road**

Steady, thoughtful and purposeful, Tom Kabuga Muchiri helps keep Metro Alliance accountable, grounded and forward-looking.



**Moses Kurgat
Loresho**

Moses Kurgat serves with quiet strength, independence of mind and a firm belief in orderly civic leadership.



**Mauleed M. Jasho
Ngei Estate**

Through candour, courage and community-minded wisdom, Mauleed Jasho embodies the vigilance every serious institution needs.



**Richard Vaughan
Northern Block**

Richard Vaughan brings thoughtful independence and measured judgement, strengthening Metro Alliance's credibility, oversight and direction.



**Charles Siko
Jamhuri**

Charles Siko offers wise counsel and steadfast support, sharpening our thinking and deepening our commitment to residents.

Independent in thought. Steadfast in principle. Generous in service.

To each of you, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Your service dignifies our cause and strengthens our voice

Welcoming Vincent Ombaka to the Metro Alliance ExCo



Metro Alliance is pleased to announce that **Vincent Ombaka**, Chair of Kileleshwa Ward Neighbourhood Association (KIWANA), has joined the **Metro Alliance Executive Committee (ExCo)**.

Vincent brings to Metro a rare blend of strengths that our movement needs at this moment: **a sharp legal mind**, a calm but firm grasp of process, and a track record as **a passionate crusader for community causes**.

He understands that the fight for a better Nairobi is not won by noise—but by preparation, clarity, and the courage to stand on principle.

Welcome aboard, Vincent. Nairobi is better when strong community leaders step forward—and we are proud to have you on the Metro Alliance ExCo.

In a short time, **we've shown what Nairobi's residents can achieve when we stand together** – from bold legal action to community greening and policy wins, each victory lights the way for what's next. And the best part? **This journey is just beginning, and the future of Nairobi is ours to shape.**

We invite you to be part of the action:

-  metroalliance.or.ke
-  [@metro_alliance](https://twitter.com/metro_alliance)
-  [metroalliance.ke](https://www.instagram.com/metroalliance.ke)
-  [Metro Alliance](https://www.facebook.com/MetroAlliance)
-  [Metro Alliance](https://www.linkedin.com/company/MetroAlliance)

or drop by our Morningside Office Park, Ngong Road, office to join or support the cause.

Together, let's make Nairobi the city of our dreams!



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