MABAS-

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FOR BETTER AND SMART CITIES
MABAS-
MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FOR BETTER AND SMART CITIES

MABAS’s Goal is GROWING CITIES AND CHANGING LIVES so as to address urban challenges through a planned, health and educated society with equal rights under a friendly eco-system.

A BRIEF UNDERSTANDING OF A SMART CITY

A smart city is that city that incorporates information and communication technology to enhance the quality and performance of urban services such as energy, transportation and utilities in order to reduce resource consumption, wastage and overall cost.

What makes a city smart?

- Increase in the advanced use of information and communication technology.
- A well-organized system with integrated transportation modes both automatic and electrified means.
- Incorporation of the green infrastructure
- High security and privacy.
- Preserved ecological systems most especially environmentally sensitive areas.
- Preservation of historical sites for both reference, cultural and tourism purposes.

URBAN CHALLENGES

Urban challenges that MABAS seeks to address;

- The rapid population growth as a result of urbanization.
- Pollution that is to say both water, air and land pollution hence environmental degradation.
- Poor solid waste management making some urban areas unattractive.
- High urban poverty levels due to unemployment.
- Urban sprawl hence encroachment on farmlands & environmentally sensitive areas.
- Unbalanced developments resulting into inadequate basic services.
- Traffic congestion issues as a result of increased use of automobiles.

Poor housing resulting into compacted developments and slum creation.
Comparison between a planned society and unplanned society

A Planned society

- Orderly developments of all land uses.
- Equal distribution of basic services.
- Minimal or no haphazard/conflicting developments.
- A healthier environment and settlements which are clean with open spaces, greenery, proper drainage systems among others that makes a given place pleasant and enjoyable to live in.
- High levels of privacy and security in the neighborhood.

Unplanned society

- Disorderly developments of land uses.
- Unbalanced distribution of the basic services.
- Presence of haphazard development and overcrowding that results to civic problems within neighborhoods.
- Unhealthy environment with poor hygiene and sanitation, less of green spaces, no well-defined drainage systems among others that is unpleasant for one to live in.
- Less security and privacy in the neighborhood due to compacted nature of residential.

Below are some of the possible solutions to address the issues of urban problems
1. Incorporating green belts in an urban setting to reduce on issues of pollution, pedestrian safety and promoting interaction and social cohesion within the urban community.

*Green infrastructure*  
*Public open spaces*

This can be through the following:

- Provision of greener infrastructure in our road systems for example tree aligned avenues.
- Provision of both private and public open spaces for example parks, plazas, green private courtyards, public open spaces, gardens and preserved eco-systems like the forests, wetlands, streams that makes an urban setting look attractive.

2. Some of urban challenges can resolved through the concept of new urbanism as strongly influenced by urban design process.

**New urbanism** - This is an urban design movement which encourages environmentally friendly habits by creating walkable neighborhoods containing a wide range of affordable housing and jobs.
It arose in the United States in the 1980s and has gradually influenced aspects of real estate developments, urban planning and municipal land use strategies.

The following can be achieved through this concepts;

- Reduced use of auto mobiles and more use of Rapid Bus transit systems.
- Adequate provision of infrastructures such as sporting facilities, libraries and community centers.
- Balanced developments for both affordable housing and jobs.
- Environmental protection and historic preservation.
- Well-designed pedestrian facilities for all groups of people in the society.
- Walkable distances to work places and transit stations through compacted development.

The concept however encompasses the principal of Traditional Neighborhood Design (TND) and Transit Oriented Developments (TOD) so as to achieve a sense of community and development of ecological practices.

*Presentation of an urban designed urban setting*