

PHYSICAL DEMARCATION OF INFRASTRUCTURES AND MAKING DETAILED PHYSICAL PLANNING OF KABEZA SITE

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ABSTRACT

Physical infrastructure is the basic physical structures required for an economy to function and survive. Rwanda, like other developing countries, its plans focus on the contribution to the solutions of the problems arising due to lack of well-planned local urban upgrading.

The infrastructures that allow the access to the services of the

population within the country must be maintained, constructed for better achievement of different goals at different levels from the Central Government up to the Sector level. This paper therefore examined the demarcation of the infrastructures and the detailed physical planning as a key component of urban development initiatives. The physical planning sets the boundaries with the purpose of having access to affordable infrastructure services for consumption purposes serves to improve household welfare and affordable housing and promoting a sustainable development for the benefit of the individual, for society and for future generation. The project was conducted in Kabeza Site, Eastern Province, Bugesera District, Ntarama Sector, Kanzenze Cell and Kabeza Village in Republic of Rwanda. The study involved a detailed topographic survey of existing features on Kabeza site. An interview of stakeholders was conducted during the community meeting. Different software were used to analyze and re-plotting the physical planning. Findings show that the rapid rate of urbanization has led to a rise in informal settlements facing with the problems including

lack of sufficient and adequate basic infrastructures. The paper therefore canvassed for immediate involvement of physical plan that emphasis on keeping commitment to place, establishing the quality recreation areas and diversifying housing options. It was revealed that there is a need to establish a well planned roads, create a more vibrant village centre, light the whole village, establish a water system in the whole village, maintain and upgrade the greening village infrastructures, build community from assessment of the existing land use land cover, make and re-plot the new parcels within the site and to design details physical layout plan of that region. The study recommends the project implementers and partners, particularly the local government units overseeing the project site, to pay attention to the growing income disparity and the exclusion of the poorest from development process. Government should identify measures to minimize the interventions that impact negatively the life of well-being of the poor and women and also to minimize negative impacts on the environment.

KEYWORDS: Infrastructures, land use, land cover, Local area plan, Physical planning, Replotting.

INTRODUCTION

Physical planning is a key component of urban development initiatives and sets the boundaries with the purpose of having access to affordable infrastructure services for consumption purposes serves to improve household welfare, and affordable housing and promoting a sustainable development for the benefit of the individual, for society and for future generation. Making Physical Plan at any region with informal housing developed, it is better to do a local urban upgrading. This is defined as physical, social, economic, organizational, and environmental improvements undertaken cooperatively among citizens, community groups, businesses and local authorities to ensure sustained improvements in the quality of stay for individuals.^[10]

The development of cities in Rwanda is very recent, and the rate of urbanization stands at about 18%. Although, this rate is among the lowest in the world, the annual growth rate of the urban population of 4.5% far exceeds the worldwide average of 1.8%. This monocephalic (sometimes called “megacity”) situation highlights the imbalance between urban centers, towns and rural settlements within Rwanda. Challenges caused by rapid and unbalanced urbanization combined with scarcity of land are: the proliferation of unplanned urban growth, insufficient and unjustly distributed or inadequate housing and services for many

residents, social instability, environmental degradation, and unsustainable, unhealthy cities.²² The main categories that define smart cities include the quality of the environment, energy, water and wastewater, transportation and traffic, information and communication systems, quality of life, government, economics, human resources, housing and land use, security, and emergency preparedness. Thus, the government of Rwanda has established a new urban and rural settlement sector to focus concerted and coordinated attention to this crucial problem; and hence this urbanization and rural settlement sector plan.

This paper has focused on detailed Physical planning of in Kabeza Site, Eastern Province, Bugesera District, Ntarama Sector, Kanzenze Cell and Kabeza Village in Republic of Rwanda. Bugesera district is one of 30 districts of the country located in Eastern Province. It covers a total surface area of 1337 Km². The district is composed of 15 Sectors, 72 Cells and 581 Villages with a total Population of 363,339 people where 177,404 are males and 185,935 are females.^[22]

Bugesera is one of the Districts with unique tourist assets and potentials. Its natural endowments are not developed to foster a vibrant and competitive industry. However it has lots of potentials based on 9 lakes, rivers, geographical set up and culture. Bugesera is where the country's biggest airport is being constructed and still has relatively affordable land, which is increasingly becoming a strategic area for property developers.

This paper therefore examined the problems confronting informal settlement in Kabeza Village and proffer appropriate solutions to unravel them with the intention of maximizing the gains arising from the creation of detailed Physical Planning.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Site Location

Kabeza Site is located around at 2.6 Km from the Bridge of Akagera River which separate Kicukiro District and Bugesera District, in Ntarama Sector Kanzenze Cell in the Eastern Province and also located around 8Km from Bugesera District office. It is near the main road from Kigali to Nyamata and suitable for well-organized land use, nearest Kigali City especially Gahanga Sector where they will build Gahanga International Stadium, the different people will come to live on this site for doing their business around Gahanga new Kigali City Market, they will get water and electricity easily and other coming from Bugesera International Airport which is not very far from there. It is very safe region for the people

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Current situation in Kabeza site

Most of existing parcels in this area, have no access to roads and other basic infrastructures. The field visit revealed that some of the existing plots are bigger than 300m² and others are less than 300m² according to the land titles, however current use types is agriculture for some part and residential to another part.

Topography and water drainage in Kabeza site

The topography of Kabeza site is presented with difference in elevation of 87.12m where the high level is 1439.64m and minimum level is 1352.52m with average on 1387.892m of height. Referring to Robinson and Bent Thagesen^[16], this site Level terrain with 7 contours per Kilometer and Slope is presented in percentage between of 0% to 97 % with average of 13.20% of slope in general.

Each road on this site must have drainage channel that will be different depending on the amount of water it will take but the dimension of these drainages vary from 0.60m for tertiary drainage to 1m for secondary drainage and 2m for the main drainage channel .The rain water from the buildings will meet with rain water from different road in trapezoidal designed channel and taking place at the Kabeza wetland.

Re-plotting the new parcels within Kabeza site

A Replot of Lands happens when the lines of a parcel are redefined or when an existing parcel of land incorporates additional land into it without creating a new, independent parcel of land. But for this case a parcel has replotted and making new parcel (fig.2).

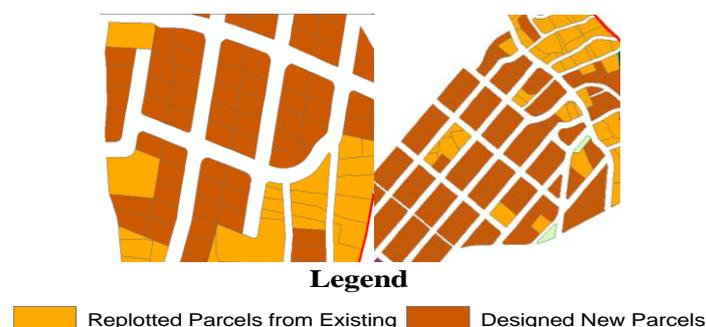


Figure 2: Sample on Layout plan of Kabeza Site.

Designing detailed physical layout plan

Kabeza site is designed by the researchers according to the needs of residents living there and the following zoning is highlighted in the plan: Residential, Roads, Commercial, Education, Green Space, Health Post, Recreation and Religious place.

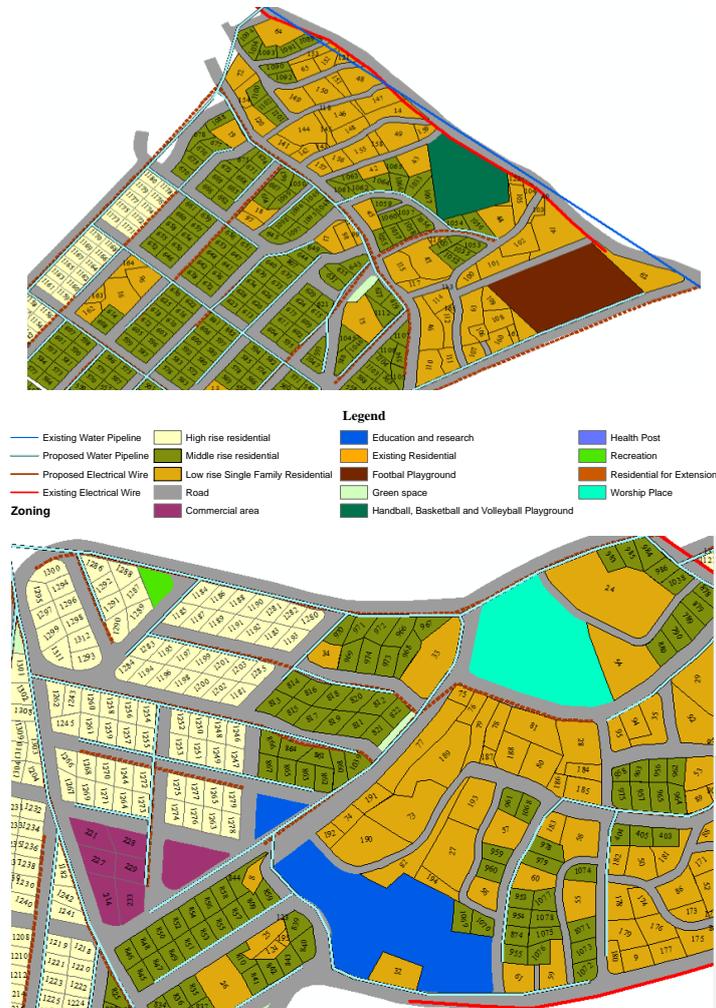


Figure 3: Sample on Layout plan of Kabeza Site.

For housing developed in disorder will cause the problems of water supply and electrical distribution the reason why this project focused on dividing the available area in well-arranged and equal plots. This was achieved through participatory approach adopted by researchers.

The total area of the site is 81.744 hectares, the existing plots are 445 according to the registered parcels from Rwanda Land Management and Use Authority. After planning and re-plotting, 213 Plots remain as they were before this project because they are already constructed and occupy a total area of 14 ha. For the new plots designed for residential area

are 1096 plots with 33.98ha say 42% of total area of Kabeza site. Some parts of the site is reserved for commercial and small market area with 1.24ha. Other parts are planned for green space with 0.97ha say 0.19%, for Recreational area with 1.58ha, for health post with 0.5 ha. There is a part on the roads which is designed for road drainage and other with area of 640.66 square meter say 0.06 ha not passing along the road.

In general, after re-plotting, researchers found a total number of 1096 new plots for residential area and another for commercial area, education, health post, recreational area and green space.

From zoning requirements, 1096 plots have the size of 15 m width and 20 m of length say (15m*20m). But due to the shape and some obstacles of existing buildings, all planned plots do not respect the 300 square meter. A smallest plot has 253 square meter and the maximum size of some plots is 398 square meter. The roads occupy a total length of 24.10 km with area of 29.20 ha around 31.66 %. Due to the topographic characteristic of the study area, this project discovered that there are zones which are not suitable for residential. All unfavorable areas for residences are located for green space and this land has 0.97ha.

As planned by this project, plots with 300 square meter fit for single family residential for people requiring a house of 4 bedroom house and plus.^[9] Researchers proposed that 132.5 square meter be located for houses while the other portion of 167.5 square meter is designed for greening, parking, septic and water tank, land reserved for vegetables (*known in Kinyarwanda as akarima k'icyikoni*) and fence. These services are also among the required for a well-being of any family in Rwanda and some are recommended by law.

CONCLUSION

The preparation of detailed Physical planning for Kabeza Site, Kabeza Village, Kanzenze Cell and Ntarama Sector in Bugesera District, is based on consultations with stakeholders and planning parameters are taken into account. In addition to this, researchers adopted a participatory approach. Field information and topographic survey shown that the existing situation of houses and related services do not follow required standards. New designed plots indicate a great improvement as far as the existing living style of residents is concerned. Re-plotting took into consideration all surrounding infrastructures and waste disposal. Researchers suggest that the waste disposal area be located at least 6 km from residential area or be located at 5 km from area of Kabeza site. This will be facilitated by the use of daily

transport of the waste to the dump area.

As revealed by this project, re-plotting of the concerned village produced total parcels of 1309. These new plots represent residences where 908 plots are for single family residential (G) and 188 Plots are for single family residential with one store (G+1) while other 213 Plots remain as they are currently on the site. Other area of the site is designed for roads with 24 Km of the length of 12 and 9m of width, Commercial (Small market and off-core commercial area) with 1.24 ha, education and research with 1.13 ha, green space of 0.97 ha, health post with 0.5 ha, recreational area with 1.51 ha and five (5) existing houses are affected by the planned road. The project implementers and partners, particularly the local government units overseeing the project sites, should pay attention to the growing income disparity and the exclusion of the poorest from development process. Government should identify measures to minimize the interventions that impact negatively the life of well-being of the poor and women. Other measures should be taken to minimize negative impacts on the environment.

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