Background Information

Kisumu is a port city in Kisumu County, Kenya. It is the third largest city in Kenya. Second most important city after Kampala in the greater Lake Victoria basin. Kisumu was identified by the British explorers in early 1898 as an alternative railway terminus and port for the Uganda railway.

The port was founded in 1901 as the main inland terminal of the Uganda Railway and named Port Florence. Although trade stagnated in the 1980s and 1990s.

Kisumu has over the years grown in size from the traditional old town settlements to the New town of modern glass, tall structures. Though change is inevitable and must be accepted there is need to hold on to our roots. Tradition is part of our identity but the modern ways also form part of that culture. Most travelers dream of finding a new and unknown destination, somewhere far from the beaten tourist path, where the thrill of real discovery and exploration reward the visitor with new and unexpected experiences, sights and sounds.

Kisumu City forms part of the Western Tourism Circuit and offers so much more in terms of activities to do, what to see and places to visit. It forms the forgotten areas of Kenya with great geographic, cultural and natural diversity, offering tourists just as much, if not more, than many of Kenya’s better known tourist areas.

The city’s growth and prosperity slowed down temporarily in 1977, as a result of the collapse of the East African Community. However, the city spurred with the reformation of the community in 1998 and with its designation as a “city.” The port has been stimulated by the transformation of international business and trade, as well as the shipments of goods destined for Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Currently, Kisumu is one of the fastest growing cities in Kenya. It is thriving with rich sugar and rice irrigation industries, whose natural resources and as the epicentre for business in East Africa.

The design intends to apply the recommendations adopted from the thesis report where the author outlined two key pillars to be done to create different zones and guidelines for urban development.

The project will involve the development of the following facilities: Two three star hotels, conference facilities, shopping complex, car park, retail stores, entertainment areas, and recreation areas.

The standard gauge railway is an urban renewal project that brings to the area a revival of the city. The project will stimulate trade and tourism, creating new employment opportunities and improving the living standards of the people in the region.

Kisumu Railway Station

The Kisumu Railway Station is a key renewal project to revive the railway station and develop modern infrastructure along it so as to enhance Kenya’s growth and prosperity slowed down temporarily in 1977, as a result of the collapse of the East African Community. However, the city spurred with the reformation of the community in 1998 and with its designation as a “city.”

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