Planners feted for urban development

By KEVIN OGUOKO

Kenyan urban planners doing exceptional work will be awarded every year in recognition of their effort. This follows the launch of the annual Town Award for Excellence to recognise and appreciate individual and corporate efforts in sustainable urban planning and development in Kenya.

The awards were launched last week during the World Town Planning Day held in Nairobi. World Town Planning Day is a day the international community recognises and appreciates towns and cities and promotes sustainable urban planning and development.

It is marked worldwide on November 8, but this year, the World Town Planning Day in Kenya was celebrated on November 5. It was organised by the Town and County Planners Association of Kenya (TCPAK), in collaboration with Town Planners' Chapter (AAT) and the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP - Nairobi Liaison Office).

The event was presided over by Prof Sam Ongeri, Kenya's Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the UN and Habitat and graced by Mariam El Mawys, principal Secretary in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.

For the awards, TCPAK wished to identify and profile cities, municipalities, towns, institutions and individuals in Kenya that continue to promote sustainable development and the policy agenda through the lenses of urban and regional planning.

LANDMARK BUILDINGS

It was also recognised for its designs of landmark city buildings in Kenya and East Africa including the Kenya Parliament, Times Tower and Barclays Plaza in Nairobi.

The Town Award for Excellence also went out to Howard Humphreys (East Africa) Ltd owning to its significant contribution to the development of urban infrastructure services in Kenya.

The company has excelled in major town infrastructure works, including carrying out project management, engineering design and supervision of buildings, roads and transportation, water and wastewater projects in Eastern Africa since 1931.

The company has been associated with the design and development of Nairobi's water supply and other consulting and engineering works including Times Tower, Athi Bridge, the IKEA Terminal and Kisumu Airport, Thika Dam and Blue Bells Apartments for Saffron Investments.