MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Rt.Hon. Speaker,

Colleagues, Hon. Ministers,

Fellow Hon. Members of Parliament.

Response to the issue of Inappropriate Waste Disposal in the Various Urban Centres by the Hon. Minister of Local Government

Colleagues, at the 42nd Sitting of the 1st Meeting of the 4th Session of the 10th Parliament of Uganda held on Thursday 3rd October 2019, Hon. Kamateeka Jovah, MP Mitooma District raised concern over the inappropriate Waste Disposal in the Various Urban Centres and the need for Local Governments to ensure clean and habitable environments.

Consequently, the Right Honourable Speaker directed the Minister of Local Government to respond to this matter to Parliament upon its resumption from recess.

Accordingly, I wish to respond as follows:

Preamble

Solid Waste Management is a function of an Urban Local Government as stipulated in Local Governments Act CAP 243.

Liquid Waste Management is primarily a function of the National Water and Sewerage Corporation save for the storm water that preoccupies the Local Governments; while Medical Waste is managed by the respective Health Facilities.

Industrial waste is managed by the respective Generators in accordance with the mitigation actions approved by NEMA; while E-waste is managed in accordance with the E-Waste Management
Policy which aims at mobilizing and sensitizing the communities and establishing incentives for Investors to establish E-waste Facilities; among others.

For purposes of this response, I will focus on Solid Waste Management.

In Uganda, 40% to 85% of the Waste generated is not collected. As a result, the uncollected Waste is dumped indiscriminately on the Streets and in Drains, contributing to flooding, leading to the spread of Diseases such as Cholera.

Of the collected Waste, Bio-degradable Materials range from 70% to 90%. The fact that a higher proportion is bio-degradable casts hope that it could be left at the Rural Household Level for Manure.

**Government interventions to Support Solid Waste Management in Urban Local Governments**

1) In 2013, GoU provided 22 specialised Motor Vehicles for Solid Waste Management plus 106 Dump Trucks and 168 Tractors with Trailers to Municipalities and Town Councils to facilitate this function. The Dump Trucks were planned to be multipurpose as they would be used for Road Works as well;

2) Government has approved Human Resource structures that create Health and Environmental Management functions in Urban Local Governments to enable the Urban Councils to deliver this function. In some cases, Urban Local Governments have engaged Contractual Workers or Outsourced Firms to handle this function;

3) NEMA supported Arua, Fort portal, Jinja, Mbarara, Kasese, Kabale, Mukono, Mbale, Soroti, Lira, Gulu, Masindi and Hoima Municipal Councils with Garbage Recycling Plants;
4) Through their Umbrella Organisation, Urban Authorities Association of Uganda (UAAU), the Urban Local Governments have resolved to declare one day every month as “Keep Our Town Clean” Day;

5) Solid Waste Management Strategies have been developed for 22 USMID Municipalities to raise Solid Waste collection rates to 70%. The Strategies include Integration of Physical Planning and involving the Key Stakeholders in Solid Waste Management, among others;

6) A number of Urban Local Governments have developed Solid Waste Management Bye-laws as provided for in the Local Governments Act (Cap 243);

7) Twinning of Urban Local Governments with Cities abroad e.g. Entebbe Municipal Council is twinning with Kalumar City of Sweden that has built Human Resource capacities and donated a Specialised Motor Vehicle to the Municipality for improved Solid Waste Management;

8) Continuous sensitization by the Urban Local Governments on mindset change; for example, sorting of Solid Waste at source;

9) Innovative engagements with Potential Investors that will turn Solid Waste into a resource like Manure, Energy e.t.c. Once again Entebbe Municipal Council has signed an MoU with an Investor in this regard;

10) Construction of Roads under USMID project to improve on drainage in 22 Municipalities;

11) Construction of Urban Markets to improve on the working environment including enhanced Solid Waste Management in 12 Municipalities.

**Challenges**

Despite the above interventions and achievements, the following challenges still persist.
1) Lack of specialised Transport Equipment coupled with Poor Technologies used for Solid Waste Management for the majority of the Urban Local Governments;

2) Collecting Solid Waste from different Sites in an Urban Local Government which is later put in one Dumping Site hence compromising the health of the surrounding communities.

3) Low funding as Solid Waste Management is financed using Local Revenue which is inadequate;

4) Attitudes of the Solid Waste Generators who have abdicated their responsibilities in Solid Waste Management;

5) Unwillingness of Communities to pay for Solid Waste Collection;

Way Forward

1) The Ministry is preparing a proposal for Solid Waste Management and Physical Development Planning functions to be funded from Central Government Transfers.


3) Expansion of Local Revenue base through digitisation and Mobilisation of Local Revenue and Collection.

Hon. Tom R. Butime MP

Minister of Local Government

4th November, 2019