

HOLDING MANUFACTURING COMPANIES ACCOUNTABLE FOR POLLUTION IN KAWEMPE DIVISION, UGANDA

Evaluation Report by Pan African Club

Scoping of the Effects of Pollution by Manufacturing Companies on the Surrounding Communities in Kawempe Division



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List of Acronyms

CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
KCCA	Kampala Capital City Authority
LC	Local Council
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
PAC	Pan African Club
WHO	World Health Organization

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY AND STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT: EFFECTS OF POLLUTION IN KAWEMPE DIVISION

1.1 Introduction

Pollution is understood to be the introduction of harmful materials into the environment. These harmful materials are called pollutants, which can be natural. However, they can also be created by human activities such as trash or runoff produced by factories. Scientists believe that pollutants do damage the quality of air, water and land. Further still, there is a vivid skyrocketing waste management crisis within Kawempe Division.

Globally, pollution has serious short and long-term effects such as heart disease, different types of cancers, and respiratory diseases such as asthma and organ damage. Given the increasing number of patients in referral hospitals both Mulago and Kawempe, the interview respondents intimate that the existing factories maybe a major cause of the deteriorating health situation. A report released recently by AirQo, a Makerere University project that monitors air quality seems to support this view. It indicates that pollution levels recorded in Kampala Metropolitan areas were 10 times higher than the tolerable limits.

The manufacturing companies which have been mostly questioned by many respondents during the research include; Luuka Plastics Ltd, Hariss International commonly known as Riham, Biplous 'U' Ltd, Leading lines Enterprises Ltd, Skin Factory, Hema Water processing company, Tianyi Plastics Ltd, Kombucha Products Limited, Iftra Uganda Limited, Higher baking factory, Marika Biscuits, Steel and Tube Factory, Pan Africa (U) Ltd, Seroma Ltd Bwaise, Octopus Sanitizers Company, Kamurali Paint Factory, Crown Papers E.A Ltd, Aloesha Organic herbals manufacturing company, Mbale Maize Flour Factory, Mumbejja Factory and Print 'N' Carton (U) Ltd.

Kawempe Division has grown very quickly in recent years but suffers from lack of clean safe water and enough sanitation facilities. It has a high mortality and morbidity burden compared to the other four divisions in the City. Kawempe is a Division with many health hazards and previous surveys have ranked it highest in HIV/AIDS transmission out of the Five Divisions within Kampala Capital City.

1.2 Research Approach

This scoping of the effects of pollution by manufacturing companies on surrounding communities follows an earlier evaluation research by PAC on the activities by KCCA and NEMA to ensure that companies do not contaminate wetlands in Kawempe Division. It had been conducted by desk review supplemented by key informant interviews.

The scoping of the effects on pollution was done through conducting community meetings, interviews with various households, individual community members, local leaders and some factory managers.

The following are photos of a community meeting held on 20th September 2022 at Kiyanja Zone Community Hall, Kawempe Division



Dr James Kimera Ssekiwanuka (Lead Facilitator standing), women leaders & local leaders in the community meeting



Community members: Ms Angel Nalubega (left) & Ms Shamim Nanfuka (right) addressing the community meeting

1.3 Structure of the Report

This report is divided into three Chapters. The first chapter is the background of the study and the approach with illustrated emphasis on community meetings.

The second chapter focuses on the findings majorly the effects of pollution by factories on surrounding communities, the key factors of the increasing pollution, and capacity gap among community members and local leaders to engage companies to stop pollution.

The third chapter provides the observations, conclusions and recommendations to Stakeholders.

CHAPTER 2: RESEARCH FINDINGS

2.1 Introduction

Kawempe Division has practically become an industrial area with high pollution levels. The Leaders of Kawempe Division identified four types of pollution, which are common in the area. These are as follows; - water pollution; land pollution, air pollution; and noise pollution especially by factories established in wetlands and heavily populated slums, other residential and commercial areas. Community leaders, opinion leaders and many community members in Kawempe Division do generally agree that if this pollution is not checked, sustainable development in the area will be abated.

Case Study 1: “Pollution is on the increase in our area; mainly on four fronts namely water, land, air and noise. Our people are getting disturbed, sick, and uncomfortable and see their rights undermined, and their dignity emptied. We do not see any solution coming...We are very helpless”, LC official from Komamboga vehemently stated.

2.2 Specific Findings of the Research

- **Pollution by combustion fumes from factories;** Leaders at Kawempe Division reported that various factories are established in densely populated residential areas and they have been seriously affected by toxic smoke / carbon monoxide emitted from the factories. This information was verified in Kirokole zone where local leaders, elders and community members reported that iron sheets on peoples' houses were badly affected by the smoke from Luuka Plastics Ltd. Community members reportedly demonstrated in 2013 but they were harshly dispersed by the police and the military. Given the terrible experience, encountered when demonstrators were being dispersed, nine years down the road, no more demonstrations have ever been attempted. This is in spite of what is considered as the worsening pollution by Luuka Plastics Factory.

Below are some photos of rusting iron sheets which community members in Kirokole zone attribute to smoke from Luuka Plastics Ltd





Case Study 2: ‘There is a very big likelihood that pollution from Luuka factory will shorten our life span. We do not need science to inform us; this is obvious. The smell from the factory is very offensive, two community wells are contaminated and “protected” by the factory, iron roofs are being damaged by chemicals from the factory and therefore in Kirokole zone, we do not harvest rain water, our children play from the unprotected drainage channels carrying waste materials from factories and what else can we say…….’ One woman leader from Kirokole zone asserted.

Another similar case of waste discharge through open trenches into the community residential areas and wetlands in Kirokole zone is **illustrated below**:



On the left (above) are pipes from Leading Lines Enterprises Ltd connecting to the big pipe on the right through which waste from the factory is emitted to the community and Kiyanja / Kirokole wetland.

However, the Quality Assurance Manager of Leading Lines Enterprises Ltd, Mr. Masereka Brian told the research team that the company has planned to shift to Namayamba in Luwero district as a response to complaints on pollution by community members and local leaders.

The research team further found that even in corner zone nearly all factories use open trenches to move their waste from their premises though densely populated residential areas. The scenarios are always the same such as bad smell hence causing air pollution. One of the examples strongly reported by community members in Corner Zone is Harris International commonly known as Riham. The locals reported that the company did not comply with the expected standards of human rights protection of the local communities particularly in regard to waste disposal. The stinking water with different colours suspected to be mixed with harmful chemical residues flows 24 hours all the year round from the factory passing through communities in an open trench, which has reportedly affected the health of many community members especially the children.

Local leaders say that the above concern was reported to KCCA and a meeting was held in 2021 between the company, the community members, local leaders and some KCCA officials. The company promised to construct the drainage trench but the contracted engineer did shadow work, which did not fulfill the agreement. Local leaders are therefore planning to hold a demonstration in order to appeal to the government for intervention. The said trench is illustrated below:



The above are two different parts of one drainage trench which community members said carries dirty liquid waste from Riham Factory every day. They suspect that the waste includes sewage from the factory.

- **Infections in children;** Community members said that the dirty wastewater in the trenches appears in different colours at different times. Hence, many children drink the wastewater in the trenches thinking it is soda. The children have consequently contracted various diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid, and other infections.
- **Falling in the open trenches;** People normally fall in the dirty trenches especially the children while others throw in items, which obstruct the water flow and escalate the levels of pollution.
- **Noise pollution and fears of carbon monoxide poisoning in corner zone;** further verification of factory emissions into communities was done in Corner zone where it was found that Biplous 'U' Ltd has its smoke pipe pointed into a densely populated residential area. The immediate Factory neighbours complained of frequent noise from the smoke pipe whenever the factory generator is switched on. The local leaders and community members are worried of many people acquiring diseases such as carbon monoxide poisoning. According to community leaders, many people are losing hope and some have attempted to sell cheaply their residential houses which are near the

factories so as to migrate but all potential buyers have so far shunned away due to fear of the worsening pollution effects.



This is Biplous 'U' Ltd Factory. It reportedly emits itching smoke & loud noise in corner zone, Kawempe

Regarding use of open trenches to discharge wastewater, Biplous is also not an exception. The following photos show a dirty drainage trench from the company. Other factories as well reportedly use the same drainage trench to discharge their waste liquids:





Drainage trench (above) from Biplous (U) Ltd and other Factories flows through a densely populated residential area. Some of the polythene bags dumped in the trenches are reportedly filled with human-waste by some irresponsible community members. It is said that seeing the flowing waste in the trenches encourages such dumping with hope that the waste will wash them away.

Other illustration of Biplous Factory, which have made community members and local leaders, express pollution concerns is here below:



In the photo above, the Biplous factory is established in a densely populated area through which it passes its liquid waste in the open trench

Water contamination; According to Dr. Daniel Okello, the KCCA Director of Public Health and Environment, 100% of water springs in Kampala are contaminated. In the specific example of Luuka factory, community members expressed concerns that the factory premises were constructed on two wells used for community water needs of Kirokole and Kiyanja zones. The factory management directed the water to flow outside the factory to be used by community members. However, the people and their leaders think that though the water looks clean, it is contaminated by factory chemicals. Efforts to meet the factory manager by our research team to get their views did not succeed.



A lady and a child (above) are fetching water from a water source which believed to be contaminated by factory chemicals from Luuka Plastics Ltd in Kirokole zone, Kawempe Division

Community members reported that the situation is terribly worrying due to the history of Luuka factory. The factory has reportedly existed for more than 20 years doing the same thing. Worse still, the factory has been expanding in terms of products and therefore, their pollution has been expanding too.

Further instances of water contamination by factories was very much pronounced in Komamboga zone where Tianyi plastics Ltd has a factory which manufactures plastics. The factory is established on a wetland, which the community members reported that they depend on for their domestic water needs.



In the picture above, dirty water flows from Tianyi Plastics factory into Komamboga wetland (left). On the right, women are picking polythene waste from the dirty wetland at the risk of contracting diseases

NB; the research team was unable to carry out an interview with Tianyi Plastics Manager, because each time he was contacted he sounded very busy.

- **Contaminated water;** Community members further reported that when it rains, people do not fetch water because some factories release chemicals, which flow downwards the water springs.
- **Heavy cost of water treatment;** as a result of water pollution, water in the city is very dirty and hence the cost of treating water in Kampala is persistently raising. This has in effect led to increased water prices in the City to the extent that many poor people cannot afford the cost of clean safe water every day.



Children are fetching water in Ttula in the neighbourhood of a wetland on which Riham has a factory. Community members said the water source is likely to be contaminated by the factory.

- **Contaminated foods;** the communities reported fears that they are feeding on foods grown on polluted wetlands such as cabbages, yams and sugarcane which have absorbed heavy metals such as manganese (mn), zinc (zn), cadmium (cd) and lead (pb) beyond the World Health Organization permissible limits.
- **Sexual rights are undermined;** community members reported that the notorious night noise and bad smell from factories have ensured that people are always not in the mood to have sex with their partners. At one time, some women decided to demonstrate but the factory leadership intimidated them into submission.
- **Infections from flies caused by bad smell;** the skin factory in Kyebando – Nsooba zone reportedly attracts a lot of flies, which community members reported that they go to their homesteads and spread diseases. Sometimes huge swarms of flies are reportedly seen spreading from the factory, which the people think are responsible for stomach-ache especially among children.
- **Losses to land lords;** many tenants have reportedly relocated and some houses are empty. They have shifted to other places running away from the bad smell from skin factory in Kyebando. Community members said that they have reported the matter many times to KCCA but nothing has been done.
- **Shift in political support;** in pollution-hit areas in Kawempe Division, candidates have previously been elected depending on community perception about their enthusiasm to fight pollution by factories in their areas. The best example is in corner zone where the open drainage trench, which reportedly carries waste from Riham factory, became a hot political issue in 2021 general election campaigns and determined election support to various candidates.
- **Anger in the community;** the local leaders revealed that community members have been terribly affected by the pollution and given the ensuing anger; they are likely to mobilize and attack the factories, which would be unfortunate because this implies taking the law into their hands.

2.3 Manufacturing companies in the areas where the research was conducted

No	Name of Factory	Physical Location	Products
1	Hariss International	Corner Zone in Kazo-Angola Parish and a branch in Ttula Zone in Kawempe II Parish	Riham Cola, Riham Funtime, Riham Whatsapp, rock boom and various types of biscuits.
2	Biplous 'U' Ltd	Corner Zone in Kazo-Angola Parish	Furniture
3	Tianyi Plastics Ltd	Komamboga Zone in Komamboga Parish	Plastic products
4	Kombucha Products Limited	Bwaise	Energy drinks and wines
5	Horn Products Ltd	Nsooba Zone, Kyebando Parish	Crafts
6	Hema Water	Bwaise	Water processing
7	Hope For Prosperity	Nsooba Zone, Kyebando Parish	Furniture
8	Skin Factory	Nsooba Zone, Kyebando Parish	Crafts and shoe materials
9	Leading Lines Enterprises Ltd	Kirokore Zone in Kawempe 1 Parish	Alcohol
10	Iftra Uganda Limited	Kanyanya zone, Kanyanya Parish	Fish processing
11	Luuka Plastics Ltd	Kirokole Zone, Kawempe 1 Parish	Plastic products and polythene materials
12	Higher baking factory	Corner Zone in Kazo-Angola Parish	Baking powder
13	Marika Biscuits	Kirokole Zone, Kawempe 1 Parish	Biscuits, baking powder etc
14	Steel and Tube Factory	Bwaise	Steel materials
15	Pan Africa (U) Ltd	Kalule zone, Kawempe 1 Parish	Cargo Transport Company
16	Seroma Ltd Bwaise	Bwaise	Dealers in building materials
17	Octopus Sanitizers Company	Corner Zone in Kazo-Angola Parish	Sanitizers, liquid soap
18	Kamurali Paint Factory	Kalule zone, Kawempe 1 Parish	Paint, cosmetics
19	Crown Papers E.A Ltd	Kalule Zone, Kawempe 1 Parish	Papers
20	Dolphin Foods & Beverages Limited	Corner Zone in Kazo-Angola Parish	Sweets, ball gum etc
21	Redy Pharmaceuticals	Lugoba zone, Kazo- angola	Drugs

		Parish	
22	East African Seeds 'U' Ltd	Kalule zone, Kawempe 1 Parish	Seed coating and packing
23	Aloesha Organic herbals manufacturing company	Kiyanja zone in Kanyanya parish	Herbal medicine
24	Mbale Maize Flour Factory	Corner Zone in Kazo-Angola Parish	Maize grinding
25	Mumbejja Factory	Kumukaaga in Sekanyonyi Zone, Mpererwe Parish	Hair manufacturing
26	Print 'N' Carton (U) Ltd	Kumukaaga in Sekanyonyi Zone, Mpererwe Parish	Corrugated Boxes

2.4 Key Factors that Escalate Pollution in Kawempe Division

- Impunity by manufacturing companies and other investors:**
According to local leaders and community members, the investors have no due regard for safety of the community and they lack respect for local leaders because they have certain individuals they deal with in high government circles. For example, a woman councilor said: “when we go to factories as Councilors, the factory managers make phone calls to people in high offices and we are in turn chased away. The factory owners are very arrogant and they don’t want to listen to local leaders”.
- Vested interests of well-placed individuals:**
It’s thought that some big politicians have shares in manufacturing companies and during this research; the community leaders identified some of the would-be politicians in question. The same was reflected at a construction of a shopping mall in a wetland within Kawempe Division whereby local leaders witnessed the construction taking place amidst the presence of the would-be law enforcers against pollution of wetlands. Therefore, whereas there are sufficient laws and policies in place against pollution by factories, they do not catch the politically well placed factory owners.
- Lack of refuse trucks at Kawempe Division;** leaders at the Division reported that Kawempe, the biggest Division in Kampala Capital City with 22 parishes and a population of close to half a million has only two refuse trucks. According to community leaders, the refuse trucks should have been provided based at parish level to attend to the high numbers of people in each parish. Further still, the Deputy Lord Mayor of Kawempe Division Hajj Badru Makumbi told the research team that Kyebando parish alone has 6 zones; one of which is Kisalosallo village which in the 2021 general elections, had 25,000 registered voters. Therefore, when people cannot have their refuse carried away, they turn to burning them. Likewise, local leaders suspect that many factories are in the

habit of burning their refuse without using any pollution mitigation measures and hence escalate the pollution problem.

- **Corruption, lack of patriotism and Pan Africanism;** KCCA has many policies and by-laws against pollution but they are not adequately implemented. Various respondents attributed this to corruption, lack of patriotism and Pan Africanism. Community members and local leaders who were interviewed believe that even NEMA guidelines are not followed to the latter and they believe that this is because of the above factors.
- **Political interference;** various local leaders and community members reported that pollution activism has been politicized in a manner that when you raise your concerns, you are tear-gassed and labeled opposition. It appears to them that the security of the state is always on the side of the investors against the people and local leaders who are against pollution for their own health and sustainable development.
- **Lack of transparency and participatory decision-making;** the research discovered that local leaders and community members are in most cases not involved in the decisions to bring factories in their respective areas. Subsequently, factory leaderships do not listen to local leaders. Hence, factories are established without their input regarding pollution concerns.
- **Poor sewage management systems;** Factories' sewage management is bad and brings out a lot of bad smell thus polluting the air. There is always dirty flowing from various factories. The intensity of this water flow is reportedly at night causing a lot of noise pollution and denying people comfortable sleep.

2.5 Capacity gaps in the communities and local leaders to engage Manufacturing companies on pollution

- **Information gap;** the communities are not well sensitized about pollution and many community members are not aware of the dangers and effects of pollution and their responsibilities towards the fight against pollution in their respective areas and where to report. Even many local leaders confessed that they are not well aware of KCCA policies and thus less empowered to engage polluters and sustainably advocate for a clean environment. .
- **Fear;** Smelling water of various colours suspected to be mixed with sewage flows from various factories into communities and community leaders reported that the people fear to talk because they are poor and are afraid of the factories, which they believe are very influential in top government circles.

- **The crisis of confidence;** Local leaders said that they have no mandate to scrutinize the licenses of the factories and thus lack the power and confidence to object factories which are negatively affecting their people. Some councilors suspect that some factories may be operating on expired licenses or they may never have had them in the first place but the factories do not respect them and the over-centralization of power at KCCA has disempowered them.

2.6 Community awareness levels of the legal and policy framework

- Various respondents were asked if they were aware of the national laws and policies, which mandate KCCA and NEMA to control pollution to which approximate 86% had a NO. This may explain why many may not have been able to make legal pursuits regarding their right to a pollution free environment.
- According to the literature reviewed during this research, everyone has the right to a healthy and safe environment that would ensure their physical and mental health or well-being, including adequate water supply, sanitation and waste disposal as well as protection from all forms of environmental danger, such as pollution, ecological degradation or infection.
- Seemingly, in recognition of the above fact, KCCA put in place policies and bylaws including Solid Waste Management Ordinance, the Low Carbon Development and Climate Resilience Strategy. These were premised on the NEMA Act 1995 as the supreme guide on environmental management in Uganda including control of pollution, which guides KCCA in its anti-pollution measures. Unfortunately, elected local leaders, elders and women leaders reported that these KCCA bylaws and polices are unknown to them and believe that they are not being duly implemented.
- It is on record that the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) in October 2021 recognized for the first time that having a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right. Domestically, this declaration is further strengthened by Article 39 of the 1995 constitution, which provides that every Ugandan has a right to a clean and healthy environment. The Human Rights Council resolution 48/13 further unequivocally recognizes the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for all people. Thus, the community members deserve the right to know that being a member of the United Nations, the relevant institutions in the government of Uganda such as KCCA and NEMA must ensure that the human right to a healthy environment is observed as both a national and international obligation.

2.7 Community participation in ESIA process during the establishment of the Factories

For most of the Factories in Kawempe Division, all the local leaders who were interviewed by the research team reported that there was never any Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process in which they participated. They added that NEMA, KCCA or the Manufacturing companies in question made no efforts to consult the communities or local leaders about the establishment of the factories in their areas.

The only exception was Hariss International commonly known as Riham in Ttula; where the local leaders said that they were consulted in an ESIA process and both KCCA and NEMA participated. This is their new branch in Tuula LC. The local leaders further said that upon establishment of the factory, they toured the factory upon which they were satisfied that the promises made during a community ESIA meeting were being fulfilled by the Company. This is quite different from the company's premises in corner zone because the community members complained of what they say is mismanaged waste discharge practices, which have caused pollution in the area.

Elsewhere, local leaders said that ESIA processes were not properly conducted because companies told the communities only about the advantages of the establishment of the factories in their areas yet the people were not able to interrogate the negative effects to make informed decisions. The ESIA process was followed with giving out transport facilitation to the community participants, which some local leaders said that; in one way or the other, this practice influenced the acceptance of the establishment of some factories.

Various Community leaders said that NEMA does not physically participate in the ESIA meetings, which the companies organize for communities. They say that NEMA only depends on acceptance signatures of community members presented by the companies to issue ESIA Certificates.

2.8 Interventions by NEMA on pollution

According to Ms. Jennifer Kutesakwe, a Senior Environment Inspector of NEMA, the institution is aware that there is water and air pollution in Kawempe Division but believes it has not reached unmanageable levels. She revealed that Kawempe is the worst hit Division by air pollution in Kampala according to air quality monitors placed in various parts of the City. However, technically, NEMA finds that most of the pollution is by dusty roads and burning waste. Local leaders and community members generally agree that dusty roads and burning waste are sources of pollution in their areas but the pollution by factories should not be underestimated.

Ms. Jennifer Kutesakwe further revealed that NEMA has acquired hi-tech equipment to monitor air quality in Kampala and are working with KCCA and Makerere University to create awareness. She also recommended improved waste management practices in the communities and gave assurance of NEMA's commitment to ensure that communities are not inconvenienced by factories. Jennifer reiterated the government's commitment to ensure the observance of human rights for all people not only in Kawempe but the whole country.

She also mentioned that NEMA, welcomes peoples' views and is ready to respond adequately and in a timely manner to peoples' grievances regarding pollution. However, the research found that many community members have lost hope in reporting pollution concerns to government authorities because they believe that in addition to corruption, many factory owners have a big influence on government institutions.

The Senior Environment Inspector revealed that all factories have waste management systems in place but most of them still lack proper equipment. One of the exceptions she mentioned is Hariss International commonly known as Riham, which has modern equipment and technology in managing their waste hence reducing on pollution at their factory branch in Ttula zone. This information was verified and found true according to interviews with local leaders of Ttula zone. However, in corner zone, the community members and local leaders have a different experience with Riham factory as already disclosed in this report.

Ms. Jennifer Kutesakwe revealed that as NEMA, their emphasis is that every factory should have good equipment to treat waste before it is released to channels onwards to Lubigi wetland where there is a waste treatment plant.

Jennifer disclosed that monitoring water resources is the work of the Ministry of Water and environment but NEMA ensures that emitters have right equipment for adequate waste treatment. However, the companies which were mostly questioned by various respondents did not allow the research team access to inspect the standards and have an interview on their waste management systems and equipment.

2.9 Other Stakeholders involved

- **Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Uganda;** the Foundation reportedly carried out a research which the leaders of Kawempe Division say it resulted in attracting funding of the Kampala Drainage Improvement project from the World Bank.
- **Democratic Governance Facility (DGF);** Councilors in Kawempe Division welcomed another chance given to the DGF by government to operate in Uganda saying that DGF has a strong record of empowering communities and local leaders for sustainable livelihood and development. The Local leaders see DGF as a potential partner in capacity-building enhancement against corporate induced pollution in Kampala Capital City.
- **World Bank;** Local leaders in Kawempe Division reported that the World Bank has provided funding for the Kampala Drainage Improvement Project.
- **Makerere University College of Computing;** the College under its AirQo project recently carried out a research on air pollution in Kampala and published a report which has been among the literature reviewed by this research and has in a strong way contributed to the enrichment of this report.
- **African Centre for Trade and Development (ACTADE);** the organization co-hosted a round table discussion with KAS on air pollution in Kampala recently under their Platform for Ugandan Green Growth (PLUG) initiative.

CHAPTER 3: OBSERVATIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Observations

- Waste discharge through open drainage trenches is a crosscutting practice nearly among all factories in Kawempe Division hence escalating air pollution.
- Kawempe Division is congested with residential areas, businesses and factories. One wonders, which of the three is in the wrong place! Should the people be the ones to leave or the factories because the two cannot co-exist!
- Some factories have been trying to respond to pollution concerns by communities albeit inadequately. For example, Horn Products Ltd received complaints from community members over its practice of burning horns to produce crafts by which a bad smell would circulate in the nearby communities but responded by changing the burning time from day to night. However, the community's concern still exists albeit ongoing discussions. On a positive development, however, the company is planning to buy an incinerator so that the horns are burnt at very high temperature to reduce or avoid air pollution.
- The discovery that some companies told the communities only about the advantages of the establishment of the factories in their areas during the ESIA processes implies that, the peoples' acceptance of the factories was not backed with facts but persuasion. Since the people were not adequately sensitized, they did not have the ability to interrogate the negative effects of the factories in question and many of the community members and their local leaders are now regretting.
- Laws against pollution by factories are not effective largely due to lack of implementation. Many people are fatigued regarding reporting pollution cases to authorities. .
- Fighting against pollution is a real war and some people have made it a risky venture. This is because; some selfish factory owners see it as a way of stepping on their "interests" and yet have money to influence policy and law implementers.
- Consultants hired by Companies to conduct public consultations and make ESIA reports are interested parties. In addition, community members who sign their reports are not adequately informed. It would therefore be more assuring that NEMA, which is an independent institution, is represented in the public consultations in order to give a clear technical guidance and thus give the consultation process more credibility.

- There is lack of initiative of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in regard to pollution. This practice would ensure that the companies in question participate in offsetting the effects of pollution attributed to them.
- Planting trees is not being taken seriously by companies; none of the companies which were interviewed was found to have planted trees nor do they have a tree planting policy.
- Many community members and local leaders still have hope that if the right activism is done, the situation can change. They cited successful past examples such as Maganjo Grain Millers, which reportedly improved its pollution management following complaints by communities and local leaders. The other example is picfare bricks factory, which was closed following community members complaints together with the local leaders in Kawempe Division a few years ago.

Case study 3: “If the regulatory government institutions were doing their job, we would not be having these problems of pollution”, one women’s leader (Nabakyala) asserted.

3.2 Conclusions

The political momentum to tackle pollution is very much lacking. Affected communities in Kawempe Division seem to be progressively taking the lead in responding to dangers of pollution, but lack government political commitment, resources and institutional initiatives. The fight against air, soil, water and noise pollution, is increasingly being found among diverse constituencies and across cultures, classes, schools and religions. Pollution highlights the realities endured by vulnerable and disadvantaged people, as well as the need for support for basic human rights and action to overcome the prevailing socio-economic hardships.

Awareness on the dynamics of pollution and empowerment of urban communities is critical in sustainably fighting against pollution. The success of this war depends primarily upon the said empowerment, motivations premised on advocacy training and intrinsic qualities of the community members and other stakeholders. This process will enhance community cohesion and commitment in the fight against pollution.

This research critically looked at an empowerment strategy, which includes awareness, training in advocacy skills, providing necessary resources and enforcement of existing laws and policies. The empowering strategy is one, which not only allows the resolution of an immediate problem but also gives stakeholders or partners, the confidence, skills and access to information to transform them from passive recipients into agents of change in their own local environment.

There is compelling evidence to show that the trend in pollution in Kampala Capital City will have a profound impact on future rates of infant, child and life expectancy and economic growth. These unprecedented impacts at the micro level are matched by the intense burden of suffering among individuals and households. It's well-known that cancer cases are on the increase in Uganda and pollution is one of the possible causes. Caring for those affected or infected remains an enormous national challenge. Treating people affected by pollution compound this task. Protection of another generation of young people from premature illness and death is a responsibility of the highest order and saves the environment. The Ugandan President is aware of the dangers posed by environmental degradation and thus pollution. Of recent, the president was quoted by the New Vision of July 18, 2022 on page 6: "There should be no more building of factories in wetlands because wetlands generate 40% of the rain we get. So, we expect no more factories to be set up in wetlands". The directive is to ensure that the country preserves the ecosystems and saves the environment. The government therefore does not aid environmental degradation by allowing investors to build factories in wetlands.

Demonstrations are a knee jerk of sorts hence the people should desist from demonstrations and resort to seeking justice in courts of law. In such cases, it would be prudent to include KCCA and NEMA not as respondents but as witnesses and seek compensation as by the law established. The law gives power to an individual to sue pollution perpetrators. The public interest litigation lawyers are available to offer free services in this regard. However, for the people to take advantage of the law, they must be sensitized especially about the right to a clean and descent environment in accordance with the Constitution and the principle of sustainable development.

Recommendations

- 1. Pollution victims' compensation;** the government should carry out a physical validation of the peoples' complaints about pollution by factories and compel the responsible factories to compensate their victims.
- 2. Relocation of factories;** the government should come up with clear plans to relocate factories from residential areas to gazetted industrial parks.
- 3. Better waste and sewage Management interventions:** The leadership of factories should come up with strategic plans on how to improve their waste management in order to reduce pollution.
- 4. Capacity building:** CSOs should work with government agencies to build capacity of local leaders and community members to be better positioned in understanding laws, human rights and responsibilities in light of fighting pollution in Kawempe Division.
- 5. Participation of NEMA in the ESIA community consultation meetings;** NEMA should have observers in the ESIA consultation meetings, which the companies organize for communities. This would enable NEMA to be sure about the credibility of the process before issuing ESIA certificates.
- 6. Provision of alternative safe water for communities and tree planting;** Factories should be pressurized to construct boreholes, as alternative safe water sources for communities. Additionally, factories should get involved in tree planting wherever they are for environmental protection.
- 7. Compulsory adherence to the law;** KCCA and NEMA should ensure that all factories without exception follow all the applicable laws. Protecting life for both communities and factory workers should be a priority when setting up factories.

**APPENDIX 1: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR RESEARCH ON EFFECTS OF
MANUFACTURING COMPANIES ON THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
WITH RESPECT TO POLLUTION – NOISE, AIR, WATER, LAND IN
KAWEMPE DIVISION**

By Pan African Club

Date of Interview / Community Group Discussion:

Interviewer's Name / Lead Facilitator:

1.0 General Information on the Respondent

1.1 Name (optional):

1.2 Sex: Male Female

1.3 Position:

1.4 Address: Ward; Parish;

1.5 Contact (optional):

**2.0 Existence of manufacturing companies established in wetlands in
Kawempe Division**

2.1 Are you aware of any Manufacturing Companies that are established in Wetlands
in your area? Yes No

2.2 If yes, kindly mention the manufacturing companies.
.....

2.3 What are the pollution problems affecting your community as a result of the said
companies in your area?
.....

3.0 Community participation

3.1 Was your community consulted by the said companies during their ESIA
processes before establishing the factories in your area as mandated by the law?
Yes No

3.1 If yes:

(a) How was your community consulted?
.....

(b) To what extent were the views of your community considered in the final ESIA reports of the companies?
.....

(C) How are the ESIA commitments being implemented by the factories in question?
.....

4.0 Community responsibility

4.1 How is your community organized to ensure that manufacturing companies do not pollute the environment?
.....

4.2 Have you had any individual or collective effort to influence the manufacturing companies to stop polluting the environment in your area? Yes No

4.3 If yes, mention how, and if not explain why:
.....

4.4 Do you know any community organization that has been influencing the companies not to pollute the environment in Kawempe Division? Yes No

4.5 If yes, name the organization(s)
.....

4.6 Do you receive any training on advocacy and on how to engage the manufacturing companies not to pollute the environment in your area?
Yes No

4.7 If yes, who offers the training?
.....

4.8 What are the capacity gaps in your local community to influence the companies to abide by the recommended pollution mitigation measures in your area?
.....

5.0 Way forward

5.1 What key interventions do you think should be put in place to ensure that manufacturing companies do not pollute the environment in your area?
.....

5.2 What are your general comments?
.....

Thank you for your time and participation

