

ADVOCACY ISSUES ON POLLUTION ATTRIBUTED TO MANUFACTURING COMPANIES IN KAWEMPE DIVISION, UGANDA

By
Pan African Club



Research Validation Meeting (above) to identify Advocacy Issues by Stakeholders of Kawempe Division

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1.0 Introduction

Since May to October 2022, the Pan African Club (PAC) carried out a research on pollution in Kawempe Division to evaluate the magnitude of the problem and make appropriate recommendations to stakeholders in Uganda. Accordingly, a validation meeting of the research was held in October 2022. This meeting was attended by 56 people. The stakeholders in the meeting were Community Members, some Manufacturing Companies, Officials from Kawempe Division, Local leaders and social workers. In the meeting, advocacy issues around the pollution of wetlands, air, land and noise in Kawempe Division were identified as contained in this report.

Advocacy can be defined as any action that speaks in favour of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports, defends, or pleads on behalf of others. In this report, Advocacy issues are premised on the stakeholders' determination to influence decisions and actions in regard to fighting pollution in Kawempe Division.

2.0 Advocacy issues identified during the stakeholders' validation meeting

1. **Compensation;** Pollution victims should be helped to get compensated by the responsible factories.
2. **Relocation;** Factories should relocate from both residential and wetland areas to gazetted industrial parks.
3. **Waste Management;** The leadership of factories should come up with strategic plans on how to improve their waste management and avail them for public scrutiny in order to reduce pollution.
4. **Supervision of ESIA public meetings;** NEMA should actively participate in the ESIA consultation meetings, which the companies organize for communities in order to be sure about the credibility of the process before issuing ESIA certificates.
5. **Provision of safe water;** Factories should take responsibility to construct boreholes, as alternative safe water sources for communities.
6. **Tree planting;** Factories should get involved in tree planting wherever they are for environmental protection.
7. **Adherence to the law;** KCCA and NEMA should ensure that all factories without exception follow all the applicable laws and restore the already encroached wetlands.

8. **Involvement of local leaders;** Factories should obtain recommendation letters co-signed by the area Chairperson Local Council I and the Women's Chairperson also known as Nabakyala as one of the requirements to renew their licenses.
9. **Devolution of power;** the National Parliament should be persuaded to amend the KCCA Act to provide for devolution of power to Divisions and lower local councils to effectively control pollution.
10. **Involvement of the education sector;** Schools should be involved in the fight against pollution by factoring dynamics of pollution and environmental protection in their education curriculum and advocacy.

3.0 **Strategic activities to tackle the identified advocacy issues**

1. **Capacity building;** This includes sensitization and advocacy training of community members and local leaders on human rights, advocacy strategies, the applicable laws, effects of pollution and the process of justice.
2. **Petitions;** Community led petitions to various authorities such as the President of Uganda, Ministers, Parliament, NEMA, KCCA, Religious leaders, Courts of Law.
3. **Documentary;** Carrying out a documentary on pollution as an advocacy and sensitization tool.
4. **Media;** Use of mass media to communicate conservation messages, expose pollution and involving the public in the pollution debate.
5. **Dialogue;** This will include tapping dialogue with Factory leaderships and government agencies to sustainably fight against pollution.

4.0 Pictures of the validation meeting



On the Left is a cross section of participants while on the Right is Ms Shamim Nanfuka, a community member of Kirokole zone addressing the validation meeting



On the Left, the Deputy Mayor of Kawempe Division Hajj Badru Makumbi (standing above) while on the Right is Hon. Nassimbwa Prossy Kyolaba (standing), the Councilor of Kanyanya Ward addressing the meeting.



On the Left, Ms Nanziri Juliet (standing above), a community member from Corner zone while on the Right is Mr. Ssekimpi Richard Mackay, the Councilor of Kanyanya C who is also the Chairman of Kiyanja zone (standing) addressing the meeting



Shaking hands (above) are the Deputy Mayor Badru Makumbi and Dr. James Kimera, the Consultant of Pan African Club.



On the Left is Hon Charles Kisekka, the Executive Secretary of Health, Environment & Sports of Kawempe Division. On the Right is the Deputy Mayor Badru Makumbi during the meeting



On the Left, Ms. Proscovia Namakula, the Women's Chairperson (Nabakyala) of Corner Zone (Standing above) while on the Right is Mr. Herbert Kimbugwe, the LC II Chairman of Komamboga parish giving their speeches in the validation meeting



Ms. Namujuzi Josephine (L) representing Horn Products Ltd and Ms. Nayiga Jennifer (R), a community member of Mugalu zone in attendance



Dr. James Kimera (Left) and Hon Prossy Nassimbwa (Right) speaking



Ms. Nansamba Catherine (L), the Women Chairperson (Nabakyala) of Kiyanja zone (standing above) and Ms Nakayiza Jaliya (R), a community member of Mpererwe present their views in the meeting



Mr. Amos Magunda (L), the Vice Chairman of Kirokole zone (standing above) and Ms. Rehma Nabulya, a Social Worker of Kiyanja zone (R) speaking in the meeting



Hon. Charles Kisekka (L), head of Environment & Health in Kawempe Division receives a report of the research on Pollution in the Division from Mr. John Ngabirano. Looking on is the Deputy Mayor. On the Right is Ms. Josephine Bisaso, the General Secretary of Komamboga central zone speaking



Mr. Bwete Steven (L), a community member of Corner zone (standing above) and Mr. Collins Muyomba (R), a community member of Kirokole zone speaking in the meeting



Hon Nkambo Steven (L), the Councilor of Kazo-Angola Parish, Kawempe Division (standing above) and Mr. Mukasa Noah (R), the Chairman L.C 1 of Komamboga Central Zone addressing the meeting



Mr. John Kasumba (L), a community member & Mr. Benedict Anguyo (R), Accountant of CALM Africa



The Front Bench led by the Deputy Mayor (Centre above) Hajj Badru Makumbi



Hon Sylvia Nakyobe (above), the Executive Secretary of Gender of Kawempe Division giving closing remarks on behalf of the Mayor of the Division Dr Emmanuel Serunjoji

Source: Pan African Club

5.0 Conclusion

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. This reality is true in Kawempe Division where many factories are established in wetlands and densely populated residential areas with a profound impact on future rates of infant, child and life expectancy and economic growth due to noise pollution, air, soil and water contamination. Hence, empowerment of urban communities in Kawempe is critically urgent in order to launch and sustain a robust fight against pollution, which makes the identified advocacy issues and the proposed strategic interventions very relevant and urgent.