

**COMMUNIQUE
GHANA ACTION SERIES 1**

THEME: ENVIRONMENTAL DISCIPLINE- DEALING WITH FILTH IN ACCRA

BACKGROUND

The One Ghana Movement in partnership with Citi FM and the GIMPA Law School launched and organized the first of the Ghana Action Series, aimed at improving sanitary conditions in the city of Accra and by extension, the entire country on Tuesday, 27th February 2018 at the Daniel McKorley Moot Court - GIMPA.

The 2- hour policy roundtable event which had in attendance, about 150 people, was on the theme: Environmental Discipline – Dealing with filth in Accra. Speakers for the event were: Hon. Joseph Kofi Adda - Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources, Rev. Dr. Joyce Aryee - Salt & Light Ministries, Mr. Kofi Abotsi – Dean, GIMPA Law School, Mr. Anthony Mensah – Director of Sanitation, Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, Professor Martin Oteng-Ababio – lecturer, University of Ghana/ TERSUS and Mr. Harold Esseku - Ghana Institute of Engineers, Hon. Mohammed Nii Adjei-Sowah - Chief Executive of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly.

Also, in attendance were, Honourable George Nenyi Andah – Deputy Minister for Communication, Mrs. Claire Louis Walker - the wife of the British High Commissioner, Ing. Immanuel B. Nartey-Tokoli - Managing Director of JEKORA Ventures, Mr. Franklin Cudjoe – President - IMANI Africa, Mr. Benjamin Boakye – ACEP, representation from research and academia, waste service management organizations, advocacy groups, media and students.

At the end of deliberations, the participants came up with the following recommendations which have been captured in the communique below:

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS	RECOMMENDED RESPONSIBILITY
<p>1. Policy Issues</p> <p>a. Revise the description of refuse as waste to one of a resource. Refuse is a resource not waste.</p> <p>b. Re-orient the view of refuse management as a social service to an economic service.</p> <p>c. With respect to point (b) above, refuse management must be viewed and structured as a cyclical economy with economic value realisable at every level.</p>	<p>MoSaWR, MMDAs, Civil Society</p> <p>MoSaWR</p> <p>MoSaWR</p>



- d. Undertake/commission a comprehensive research to build data on refuse. This will serve as a reliable basis for monitoring and evaluation as well as policy development and analysis. The last study was conducted in 1993.
- e. Immediately commence a mandatory refuse segregation policy from the point of refuse generation. This will be key to the full commercialisation and sustainability of the refuse management cycle. We may start with recycling at Government offices, schools and hospitals. It will initiate the development of the culture of waste segregation ahead of needed investments in infrastructure to optimise its use.
- f. Provide tax incentives for investors in refuse management.
- g. Introduce sanitation ratings to reward and penalise performing and non-performing MMDA Chief Executives.
- h. Ban non-biodegradable plastics.
- i. Undertake various feasibility studies and promote investment opportunities in refuse management.
- j. Support the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources to constructively deliver its mandate.

Funding of Sanitation Policies

Note

Ghana is not deficient with policies and strategies for managing waste. There are over 109 of them. The problem has been ENFORCEMENT. Funding is often cited as the bottleneck.

- k. The excessive focus on the budget and donor funding to implement strategies is not sustainable. Waste management is an economic issue and the process must be made to fund itself through the fair payment of services delivered in the chain. Fair payments and returns will attract the needed investments from the private sector to bridge the infrastructure deficit.
- l. Revise property tax rates based on market values to raise adequate income for the funding of sanitation projects in Municipalities, Metros and District Assemblies (MMDAs).

MoSaWR/Academia

**MoSaWR/MMADAs/
GES**

**MoSaWR/GIPC
MoSaWR & MoLG
GoG**

MoSaWR/GIPC

**Citizenry/Civic
Society & GoG**

MMDAs/ MoSaWR

MMDAs

2. Governance & Enforcement

- a. Empower the MMDAs to exercise more authority and responsibility over enforcement agencies like the police and the health services within their jurisdiction. As can be observed from developed clean cities, this promotes effective coordination, enforcement and compliance to sanitation laws and systems.
- b. Reserve the primary responsibility for sanitation management to the MMDAs. The introduction of additional bureaucracies (like the proposed Sanitation Authority) will introduce unconstructive costs and increase the challenges with poor coordination at the MMDA level. Any regulatory support beyond the MMDAs and Ministry may be provided by the proposed Occupational, Health, Safety and Welfare Authority (a Conversion of the Factories Inspectorate Division).
- c. Immediately implement the National Sanitation Brigade concept using National Service Personnel. This is expected to deepen the sanitation consciousness of the educated youth and minimise the operating cost of the programme. We recommend that the Brigade be fully managed by the MMDAs.
- d. Fulfil the election promise to make Chief Executives of MMDAs elected. This will ensure stronger accountability to the people, many of whom are currently unable to demand their towns and cities are kept clean because their MMDCEs see themselves as largely accountable to the president who nominated them and does not live in their filth. Furthermore, sanitation will be one of the major platforms for the campaigns for candidates vying for election as Chief Executives of MMDAs.

GoG

MoSaWR

**MoSaWR, MMDAs,
NSS.**

3. Current Operations

- a. Immediately convert the Kpone dumpsite into a 24-hour operated facility. This will enable waste companies to quickly decongest the city of refuse with more movement at night when traffic is low.
- b. MMDAs should set up customer service centres to enable residents report failure by waste companies to pick up waste on time and poor service delivery. This will enable authorities to effectively evaluate the performance of waste companies. Penalties associated with poor service must be punitive, publicised and enforced with compensatory benefits to consumers.
- c. Maintain arrangements for service providers to collect both refuse and payments. Proposals to separate payments from refuse should be rejected. It breeds more inefficiency in collection, promotes rent-seeking and exposes service providers to non or delayed payments. These in turn increase the cost of service. MMDAs should rather be

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MMDAs

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<p>made to focus on monitoring and regulating the activities of refuse management operators in their respective jurisdictions.</p> <p>d. Using the GhanaPostGPS system, identify every property in the MMDA jurisdictions and ensure all households sign up to the designated refuse service operators. Non-compliance must be made illegal and punished. Household categorisation and applicable rates may be varied in line with a constructive cross-subsidy policy.</p> <p>e. Improve refuse management capacity of operators by raising the qualification requirements. An improvement in the skills set of the human resource is key to the quality of service and the development of appropriate solutions.</p>	<p>MMDAs</p> <p>MMDAs/ ESPA</p>
<p>4. Public Awareness & Citizen Responsibilities</p> <p>a. The citizenry must awaken to its responsibility to ensure a clean city. We must bin right, segregate waste right and pay right to ensure our cities are cleaned right.</p> <p>b. Prioritise children and students in the public awareness campaign.</p> <p>c. The Media should dedicate a minute a day to promote environmental discipline.</p> <p>d. Religious bodies (like the Christian Council, Catholic Bishops Conference, Office of the Chief Imam etc) should enjoin their networks to preach or promote environmental discipline in the week of the National Sanitation Days.</p>	<p>MoSaWR/Civic Society</p> <p>GJA/ GIBA/MoSaWR</p> <p>MoSaWR, CCG, CBC, Chief Imam, AMM</p>

Legend

MoSaWR:	Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources
MMDAs:	Municipalities, Metros and District Assemblies
MoLG:	Ministry of Local Government
NSS:	National Service Secretariat
GJA:	Ghana Journalists Association
GIBA:	Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association
AMM:	Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission
CCG:	Christian Council of Ghana
CBC:	Catholic Bishops Conference
GoG:	Government of Ghana



Rev. Dr. Joyce Aryee
Board chair