



MEMORANDUM ON WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN NAIROBI AND THE DECOMMISSIONING OF DANDORA SITE IN NAIROBI

Your Excellency President Mwai Kibaki and Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Raila Odinga,

Dandora, the only municipal dumping site in Nairobi, was declared by the Government of Kenya to be full and a health hazard for the neighbouring population as far back as 2001. All types of waste; including chemical, hospital, industrial, agricultural and domestic waste is dumped unprocessed, making the Dandora dumpsite one of the most polluted sites in the world. As a result, toxic fumes contaminate the air 24 hours a day and the chemicals are responsible for spontaneous fires whose smoke affects the entire neighbourhood comprising over 900,000 people or 25% of the population of Nairobi. A report by UNEP in 2007 titled "Environmental pollution and impact to public health. Implications of the Dandora Municipal Dumping Site in Nairobi Kenya" has shown that:

- *The dumping site causes irreversible damage to the immune, nervous, endocrine and reproductive systems.*
- *Respiratory, gastro-intestinal and skin diseases, anaemia and different kinds of cancers are just a few of the diseases caused by the dumping site.*
- *Half of the children tested during the research had concentrations of lead in their blood exceeding internationally accepted levels and will not live to be more than 50 years old*
- *Half of the children tested were also suffering from respiratory diseases, including chronic bronchitis and asthma.*

JICA interim report has revealed that only an average of 600 tons of garbage out of 2400 produced daily in Nairobi are dumped in Dandora, while the remaining 75% is dumped in one of the 38 identified illegal dumping sites located across the city from the Central Business District (e.g. Ngomani Lane or Mto Lane) to other areas such as Zimmerman, Mathare North, Gathundeki or Eastleigh Air Force. Garbage is also piling up at an alarming rate in various neighbourhoods posing major risks of disease outbreaks.

Since 2001 we have heard commitments and different studies have been undertaken, but no consistent action was implemented, leaving the situation to deteriorate every day. Over the last year the dumping and the toxic smoke from the site have reached unbearable levels. This situation has led local communities and their partners to start a campaign aimed at opening dialogue with the institutional actors who can solve this problem. The campaign is called "**Stop Dumping Death On Us. We have the Right to Live Too**" and so far has gathered the support of the private sector, professional associations, faith based organisations, civil society organisations and UN agencies.

The issue of the relocation of the Dandora dumping site and the set up of a proper waste management system does not exclusively belong to any particular sector or partisan group. We believe it is an issue of human rights and national development which the Government should prioritise and plan for. Political interferences as well as bureaucratic or coordination issues should not slow down or paralyse noble efforts. While the decommissioning of Dandora is a necessary huge expense which can be partially funded by friends of Kenya, a proper waste management system is an investment in the future of Kenya and will be able to sustain itself if properly managed.

We have met all the major government stakeholders. All of them expressed verbal commitment towards the resolution of this human tragedy which represents the biggest human rights violation in Kenya.

However, we have the impression that their efforts are uncoordinated and this may lead to duplication of efforts and possible institutional conflicts among different government actors.

We call on you to clearly provide leadership in this process and appeal that you set up a framework to coordinate Waste Management in Nairobi and the relocation of Dandora dumping site.

While addressing this issue we ask you to take into considerations the following points:

- There is need for immediate measures to contain Toxic fumes in Dandora dumping site while preparing the new landfill.
- Dandora dumping site needs full decommissioning to prevent dangerous substances from affecting people for generations to come.
- Urgent medical attention needs to be given to the residents of Korogocho and Dandora who are suffering from various ailments caused by the dumpsite.
- The new waste management system for Nairobi shall provide formal employment for the people currently working in the dumping site, collecting waste; and a friendly environment for those companies that have already invested and those that are willing to invest in the sector.
- The Government shall ensure that the new waste management system will maximize resource efficiency, be guided by the 4Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover) and use only environmentally sound technologies. This shall be done to avoid postponing the problem to the future by creating another Dandora somewhere else.

As Nairobi citizens, we are asking for your intervention, the Elders of Korogocho, the Elders of Dandora, Kutoka Network, Concern, CAFOD, Misereor, ANPPCAN, SANA (Safer Nairobi Coalition), NCBDA, Oxfam GB Kenya Programme, COVAW, Shelter Forum.

www.youtube.com/stopdumpingdeath



MEMORANDUM ON WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN NAIROBI AND THE DECOMMISSIONING OF DANDORA SITE IN NAIROBI

Mheshimiwa Rais Mwai Kibaki na Mheshimiwa Waziri Mkuu Prime Minister Raila Odinga,

Dandora, pipa kuu la kipekee la manisipaa ya Nairobi, lilitangazwa na serikali ya Kenya kuwa limejaa na kuwa ni hatari kwa afya ya watu wanoishi katika mazingira yake mnamo mwaka wa 2001. Kila aina ya taka zikiwemo kemikali, taka kutoka hospitalini, viwandani, vya kilimo pamoja na majumbano hutupwa Dandora bila hata kukaguliwa. Kutupa huku kumelifanya pipa la Dandora kuwa moja kati ya pipa chafu kabisa ulimwenguni. Kwa sababu hii moshi wa sumu huchafua hewa masaa 24 kwa siku na kemikali zilizomo huzusha mioto ya ghafula ambayo moshi yao hudadhiri watu zaidi ya 900,000 wanoishi kwenye mazingira haya. Idadi hii ya wanaoathiriwa na moshi huu ni asilimia 25 (25%) ya idadi ya watu wa Nairobi. Ripoti ya shirika la Umoja wa Mataifa la UNEP iliyotolewa mwaka wa 2007 iitwayo "Environmental pollution and impact to public health. Implications of the Dandora Municipal Dumping Site in Nairobi Kenya" inaonyesha kwamba:

- *Pipa hili linaathiri kinga ya mwili, mishipa, meno na uzazi wa binadamu.*
- *Linaathiri upumuaji, huleta shida za matumbo, magonjwa ya matumbo, anemia na aina mbali mbali za saratani (cancer) kati ya magonjwa mengine mengi utafiti huu unavyoonyesha.*
- *Nusu ya watoto waliopimwa walipatikan kuwa na kiasi cha juu cha chuma ya lead katika damu yao. Kiasi ambacho ni nusu zaidi ya kile kipimo cha kawaida katika damu ya mwandamu kulingana na kipimo cha kimataifa. Hii inamaanisha kwamba watoto hawa hawataishi zaidi ya miaka hamsini.*
- *Nusu ya watoto waliopimwa walikuwa na magonjwa mengi ya kupumua kama vile pumu.*

Ripoti ya JICA inaonyesha kwamba takriban tani 600 pekee za taka kati ya tani 2400 zinatolewa Nairobi kila siku hutupwa Dandora, ilhali asilimia 75 (75%) zinazosalia hutupwa katika moja wapo wa mapipa 38 haramu zilizomo mjini kuanzia katikati ya mji kwa mfano, Ngomani Lane au Mto Lane) hadi sehemu zingine kama vile Zimmerman, Mathare North, Gathundeki au Eastleigh Air Force. Taka taka pia zinaendelea kukusanyika kwa hali ya kuogofy katika sehemu mbali mbali mjini na hi ina hatari kubwa kuleta magonjwa mengi kati ya wakaazi.

Kuanzia mwaka wa 2001, utafiti mwingi na jitahada nyingi zimefanywa lakini hakujakuwa utekelezi wowote, na kwa sababu hii hali hii inaendelea kuzorota kila siku. Kuanzia mwaka jana utupaji holela wa taka na moshi wa sumu kutoka kwenye pipa hili vimefika viwango vya juu sana na vya kuogofya. Hali hii imewafanya wakaazi wa eneo hili pamoja na wenzao kuanza kampeni ambayo lengo lako ni kufungua mazungumzo na washika dau mbali mbali wanoweza kutatua shida hii. Kampeni hii inaitwa **"Stop Dumping Death On Us. We have the Right to Live Too"** ("**Acheni Kututupia Kifo. Tunayo Haki ya Kuishi**") na mpaka sasa kampeni hii imekubaliwa sana na mashirika ya kibinafsi, mashirika ya kitaalamu, mashirika ya kidini, mashirika yasiyo ya serikali pamoja na Umoja wa Mataifa.

Swala la kulihamisha pipa hili la Dandora na kuwa na mpako ufaao wa uzoaji wa taka si jambo la sehemu moja tu ya jamii au kikundi fulani. Tunaamini kwamba ni swala la haki za kibinadamu na maendeleo ya kitaifa ambalo serikali inapaswa kulitilia maanani na kuliopangia ipasavyo. Maswala ya kisiasa au burocrazia hayapaswi kamwe kutatanisha au kuzuia bidii hizi muhimu. Ingawaje kuondoa pipa hili la Dandora kunahitaji fedha nyingi sana ambazo marafiki wa Kenya wanaweza kusaidia kupata, mpango mzuri wa uzoaji wa taka ni shughulo muhimu sana kwa nchi ya Kenya sasa na baadaye na pia mpango huu unaweza kujitegemea ikiwa utaongoza kwa njia inayofaa.

Tumeshakutana na washika dau wote wa serikali. Wote kwa kauli moja wamahidi kushughulikia kutafuta suluhisho kwa swala hili ambalo ziladhuru maisha ya mwandamu kwa kenda kinyume cha haki zake hapa Kenya.

Hata hivyo, tunadhani kwamba bidii yao hii haina mwongozo au mpango wa ushirika na kwa sababu hii kumekuwa na kurdiwa kwa kazi za wengine na pia shida tofauti za kitaalamu katika mashirika haya ya kiserikali.

Tunawaomba mpeano uongozi kamili kwenye shughuli hii na kuwaomba kwamba mutengeze uongozi utakoangali shughuli ya Utupaji wa Taka mjini Nairobi na pia utakaosimamia uhamishaji wa pipa hili la Dandora.

Wakati huo huo twawaomba mzingatie yafatayo:

- Kuna haja ya dharura kukomesha mioto hii ya sumu humu Dandora wakati ambapo kunatayarishwa sehemu nyengine.
- Uhamisha wa pipa la Dandora kunahitaji fedha nyingi ili kweli uzuiye kemikali mbali mbali kudhuru vizazi vijavyo.
- Wakaazi wa Korogocho na Dandora walioathiriwa kiasia wanahitaji huduma ya dharura.
- Mpango mpya wa uzoaji taka wa Nairobi utoe kazi kwa wale ambao kwa sasa wanafany kazi humo au wanhusika na uzoaji wa taka, na pia vile viwanda ambavyo vimeezeka au vinapanga kuezeka kazi zao hapo zipewe nafasi.
- Serikali itahakikisha kwamba mpango huu mpya wa taka utatumia rasilimali vikamilifu, ukiongozwa na mfumo wa 4rs (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover), na kutumia teknolojia isiyothiri mazingira. Haya yafanyike ili tuahirishe shida hadi siku zijazo kwa kuanzisha Dandora nyengine sehemu nyingine.

Kama wakaazi wa Nairobi, tunawasihhi muhusike, wazee wa Korogocho, Wazee wa Dandora, Kutoka Network, Concern, CAFOD, Misereor, ANPPCAN, SANA (Safer Nairobi Coalition), NCBDA, Oxfam GB Kenya Programme, COVAW, Shelter Forum.

www.youtube.com/stopdumpingdeath