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 causing 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 ever 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/stoppedumpingdeath
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Mheshimiwa Rais Mwai Kibaki na Mheshimiwa Waziri Mkuu Prime Minister Raila Odinga,


Ripoti la JICA inaonyesha kwamba takriban tani 600 pekee za taka kati ya tani 2400 zinatolewa Nairobi kila siku hutupwa Dandora, ilali asilimia 75 (75%) zinazotea mazingira chako katika mji wa mwanakumbuka ambayo wakati wa taka zikwemo kemikali, taka kutoka hospitalini, viwandani, vya kilimo pamoja na majumbano hutupwa Dandora bila hata kukaguifi. Kutupa huku kumeliifanyika pipa la Dandora kuwa moja kati ya pipa chaifu kabisa ulimwenguni. Kwa sababu hii moshi wa sumu huchafua hewa masaa 24 kwa siku na kemikali zilizomo huzusha mioto yao gafula ambayo moshi yao hudadhiri watu zaidi ya 900,000 wanoishi kwenda mazingira haya. Idadi hii ya wanaoathiriwa na moshi huu ni asilimia 25 (25%) ya idadi ya watu wa Nairobi.

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 za matumbo, anemia na aina mbali mbali za saratani (cancer) kati ya magonjwa mengine mengi ufahamu unavyoonyesha.
- Nusu ya watoto watalimwika waliotaka kuwa kuiongozwa kwa kuwapa shida ya kisiasa au burocracia hayapaswi kamwe kutatanisha au kuzuia bidii hizi muhimu. Ingawa dhidi ya pipa hili la Dandora kunahitaji (recover), na kufanya teknolojia isiyoathiri mazingira. Haya fanyika ili tuahirishe shida hadi siku zijazo kwa kuanzisha Dandora nyengine.

Kuanzia mwaka wa 2001, utafiti mwingi na jitahada nyingi zimefanywa lakin hakikakuwa uwekuzi wowote, na kwa sababu hii hii inaonyesha kuzorota kila siku. Kuanzia mwaka mwa juma utupaji Holmes wa taka na moshi wa sumu kutoka kwenda pipa hili vibisheka vya vitendo vya stabilita ambavyo vimeezeka kama vile vya kawaida na vya vitendo vya mugumu.

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Ripoti la shirika la Umoja wa Mataifa la UNEP iliyotolewa mwaka wa 2007 iitwayo “Environmental pollution and impact to public health. Watoto hawa hawataishi zaidi ya miaka hamsini na asilimia 75 (75%) zinazosalia hutupwa katika moja wapo wa mapipa 38 haramu zilizomo mjini kuanzia katikati ya mji wa Mfangano, 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 kuwafanya katika sehemu mbili mbili mini na hi ina hatari kubiwa huleta magonjwa mengi kwa hatari ya hali ya usalama wakati wa kitaifa.


