

# **Urban Administration And Waste Management: Challenges Of Intergovernmental/ Institutional Jurisdiction In Nigeria**

**Abonyi Nichodemus Nnaemeka**

*Department of Political Science University of Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria*

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## **ABSTRACT**

*In the face of the alarming rate of rural-urban migration fueled majorly by the swiftly continuous adoption and identification of Nigerians especially her teeming youth with the digital world, the generation of waste has become ever explosive, and its management a cumbersome daunting challenge to urban administrations. The nation's politicians' unwavering focus on the acquisition, appropriation and retention of political power at all costs has not helped matters one bit. Inhabitants of urban centres keep witnessing failed promises, bankrupt policies and neglect of their welfare health-wise from their so-called astute leaders. With direct focus on the challenges and health implications of bad waste management practices by urban administrations, this paper seeks to discuss the challenges and perils of this malpractice as well as the involvement of government agencies and interactions across all boards. The direct impact on the people and the environment especially climatic factors (the ozone layer) will also come into play. It is the finding of this paper that gross abuse outplays every other evil in the nation's urban centres with respect to waste management practices. And this has a very adverse impact directly on the health of the citizens as well as the nation's dwindling economy.*

**KEYWORDS:** Administration, Migration, Waste Management, Health, Economy

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

According to Wikipedia, an urban area is a human settlement with high population density and infrastructure of built environment. Urban areas are created through urbanization and are categorized by urban morphology as cities, towns, conurbations or suburbs. In urbanism, the term contrasts to rural areas such as villages and hamlets and in urban sociology or urban anthropology it contrasts with natural environment. The creation of early predecessors led to the creation of human civilization with modern urban planning, which along with other human activities such as exploitation of natural resources leads to human impact on the environment.

In clear simple terms, waste management is a system of collecting and appropriately disposing waste from the environment.

It is within the jurisdiction of certain government institutions and agencies to ensure proper waste management in the nation's urban centres, and ultimately ensure a healthy nation. The primary institution saddled with this responsibility is the Federal Ministry of Environment under which are Waste Management Agencies and Boards depending on states' legislatures, provisions and nomenclature. The Health and Information Ministries also have major roles to play here in consonance with the first stated. Waste generation is a continuous process and its management need not be anything less. Nigeria is faced with endemic corruption which has over time seen people relegate issues of sound health and wellness to the rear in their mad quest for power acquisition and retention. But a key reminder of the necessity to shun regional and ethno-religious sentiments in matters affecting people's welfare will forever lie in the deadly Ebola Virus Diseases of 2014.

This paper will vividly analyze environmental and waste management practices in Nigeria's urban centres with a view to proffering lasting solutions (not palliative measures) to curb the neglect and incessant abuse of office, dereliction of duty and misinformation all contributing to the rapidly expanding maladministration ravaging the sector.

## **II. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

### **The Concept of Urban Administration**

Urban administration in Nigeria has always been the sole responsibility of state governors who concentrate their efforts on large cities. Hugo (2016) states that

Urban administration in Nigeria is characterized by a fragmentation and sometimes duplication of functions. As there is no agency playing an overall coordinating role in urban planning, and due to the federal organization of the country, huge resources committed to the generation of data do not translate into planning information.

A school of thought believes that Nigeria needs devolution of power to local authorities for land administration, coupled with the "deployment of geospatial technologies under an urban administrator".

### **The Concept of Waste Management**

The various definitions of the term 'waste' see it as an "end", an unused product of a useful element; spoilt, useless and valueless items, debris, refuse junks and liquid waste, etc. Waste can be tangible and intangible. Generally, waste has two broad forms namely, solid or liquid waste. The latter comes in form of water while the former comes in different solid states. Most of these include non-biodegradable items such as polythene bags, water sachets, old batteries, spoilt electronics, machine parts, paints, metal scraps, baby diapers, plastic containers, broken glasses etc.

Waste also comes as by-products of industries i.e. industrial waste, Others can be consumer waste. All classes may be radioactive, toxic and harmful. Gas flaring in the oil and gas sector amounts to gaseous waste. Some wastes can be beneficial if handled properly.

## **III. DISCUSSION**

### **Urban Administration and Waste Management - Government Policies and Legislations on Waste Management**

Some international and regional conventions, agreement and protocols concerning environmental management have been ratified by Nigeria. Some other domestic statutes enacted by the Nigerian legislature have been documented to guide waste management in the nation.

In 1992, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions concerning the environment, after the Stockholm Conference. This led to the establishment of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) which has proved to be a very important agency in the evolution of conventions and instruments in the field of environmental protection. The UNEP has been responsible for the development of a number of initiatives including the 1985 Vienna Convention for the protection of the ozone layers. Other legislations in existence include:

1. The 1988 Basel Convention which dealt with trans-boundary movement of toxic and hazardous waste.
2. A May 1988 resolution of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) now African Union (AU) proclaiming the dumping of nuclear and industrial waste in Africa to be a crime against Africa and its people.
3. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) Act of 1988. This was established by Decree 55 of December 30th 1988. The Act vested FEPA with the statutory responsibility for overall protection of the environment. It requires FEPA to issue environmental guidelines and standards for the abatement and control of all forms of pollution. In 1991, FEPA established an inspectorate and enforcement department with divisions for standard regulation, chemical tracking and compliance monitoring.
4. The Harmful Waste (Special Criminal Provision, Etc) Act 1988. Essentially a penal legislation, this Act was enacted with the specific object of prohibiting the carrying, depositing and dumping of hazardous wastes on any land, territorial waters and matters relating thereto. Though the Act is far-reaching in jurisdiction, it is however noteworthy that it focuses mainly on criminal prosecution of damage and does not provide compensation to the victim of the damage as it sought to remove any immunity conferred by diplomatic immunities and privileges Act on any person for the purpose of criminal prosecution. Section 6 of the Act provides a very stringent sentence of life imprisonment and in addition the forfeiture of any aircraft, vehicle or land connected with or involved with the violation.
5. The OAU's 1991 Bamako Convention on the ban and importation of hazardous waste into Africa, the control of trans-boundary movement and the management of hazardous waste within Africa, under which parties prohibit the importation of all hazardous waste for any reason into Africa by non-parties and to prohibit dumping at sea of such waste.
6. The Rio Declaration of 1992 after the Earth Summit which gave birth to the objectives of the government on the environmental issues and the more recent international convention on the conservation of biological diversity aimed at management and exploitation of biological resources in a sustainable way.
7. The Environmental Impact Assessment Act (Decree No. 86 of 1992). This Decree was promulgated to be a compliment to the FEPA Decree with respect to land utilization and siting of industries. Its principal goal as stated under Section 1 is to ensure that possible negative impacts of development projects are predicted and addressed prior to any project take-off with a view to promoting sustainable development.
8. The Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act 2007. The Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act 2007 ("the Act") was passed into law on March 16, 2007 to repeal the Minerals and Mining Act, No. 34 of 1999 for the purposes

of regulating the exploration and exploitation of solid materials in Nigeria. This was necessitated by the existing and potential dangers of mining and mineral exploitation which can result in serious environmental degradation and damage. S.65 of the Act prohibits the pollution and causing to be polluted any water or water course by any person in the course of mining or prospecting for minerals. Furthermore, section 33(4) mandates any holder of a prospecting right upon completion of prospecting operations to fill up any shafts wells, holes or trenches made by him and to restore the land to its original state.

9. Section 254(1) of the Act provides for the establishment of the mines field police (drawn from Nigerian police) for the purpose of enforcing compliance with the provision of the Act and of regulation made there under.
10. The Associated Gas Re-injection Act 1979. This is an Act to compel every company producing oil and gas in Nigeria to submit preliminary programmes for gas re- injection and detailed plans for implementation of gas re-injection. The Act was aimed at prohibiting gas and flaring by oil companies in the course of oil exploration. This activity constitutes a serious threat to atmosphere and the ozone layer. It was contemplated by the Act that as at year 1984, gas flaring shall cease in Nigeria. The Act was amended as (Amendment) Act 2004 which obligated all oil producing companies in the country to submit detailed plans for gas utilization. It also prohibits the flaring of associated gas without the written permission of the Minister of Petroleum Resources ('the Minister").
11. The oil in Navigable Water Act 1968 [Act No. 34]. An Act to implement the terms of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil 1954 to 1962 and to make provisions for such prevention in the navigable waters of Nigeria. [1968 No. 34.] [22nd April, 1968]. This Act was enacted pursuant to the adoption of the International Convention for the prevention and control of pollution of the sea by oil. It is the first law that deals specifically and solely with the industrial waste generated by oil production. Penalties spelt out under Sec 6, state as follows: Penalties for offences under sections 1, 3 and 5 A person guilty of an offence under section I, 3 or 5 of this Act shall, on conviction by a High Court or a superior court or on summary conviction by any court of inferior jurisdiction, be liable to a fine: Provided that an offence shall not by virtue of this section be punishable on summary conviction by a court having jurisdiction inferior to that of a High Court by a fine exceeding N2,000.

### **UN Convention on Waste Management**

In response to a public outcry following the discovery, in the 1980s, in Africa and other parts of the developing world of deposits of toxic wastes imported from abroad, The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted on 22 March 1989 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Basel, Switzerland. The overarching objective of this Convention is to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes. Its scope of application covers a wide range of wastes defined as "hazardous wastes" based on their origin and/or composition and their characteristics, as well as two types of wastes defined as "other wastes"- household waste and incinerator ash.

The principal aims of the Convention are:

1. The reduction of hazardous waste generation and the promotion of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, wherever the place of disposal;
2. The restriction of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes except where it is perceived to be in accordance with the principles of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes; and
3. A regulatory system applying to cases where transboundary movements are permissible.

The Convention also provides for the establishment of regional or sub-regional centres for training and technology transfers regarding the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and the minimization of their generation to cater to the specific needs of different regions and sub-regions(Article 14).

In 2004, the Federal Ministry of Environment enunciated some policies tagged POLICY GUIDELINES ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 2005. The then Minister of Environment Bala Mande (rtd.) stated that the ultimate aim of the Policy Guidelines is to ensure that solid waste management S private sector driven with a potential to create employment and wealth. This no doubt shall enhance sustainability."

Section 2.0 of the document states that the aim of the policy is:

"To improve and safeguard public health and welfare through efficient sanitary Solid Waste Management methods that will be economical, sustainable and guarantee sound environmental quality."

Section 3.0 states the objectives as:

- i. To develop Policy Guidelines for efficient and sustainable Solid Waste Management in Nigeria.
- ii. To promote a healthy environment by ensuring sanitary Solid Waste Management.
- iii. To minimize waste generation and promote sorting at source, re-use, recycling and energy recovery.

- iv. To ensure safe and nuisance-free disposal of (urban and rural) domestic, medical, and industrial wastes in order to adequately protect public health during and after collection, transportation, treatment and final disposal.
- v. To promote effective Stakeholders participation in Solid Waste Management.
- vi. To generate employment opportunities, improve the standard of living and thus reduce poverty.
- vii. To optimize labour and equipment in waste management to enhance increased productivity.

Under Section 4.0, the Justification for this policy reads:

1. The alarming rate at which heaps of solid I wastes occupy most of our cities, coupled with the fact that 87% of Nigerians use methods adjudged as insanitary, has not only constituted visual blight c and odour nuisance, but also encouraged the breeding of rodents, mosquitoes and other pests of public health importance with their attendant disease outbreaks.
2. It is common knowledge that markets and motor parks used by hundreds of Nigerians daily are seldom provided with facilities used for solid waste collection and disposal. As a result of this men and women in markets and motor parks often result into indiscriminate disposal of solid waste into public drains, around street corners, etc.
3. Flooding on our major roads is due largely to silt and solid waste blocking the drains and other outlets provided. The stagnant water in the blocked drains serve as breeding sites for mosquitoes.
4. The high incidence of improper waste management related diseases, e.g cholera, typhoid, diarrhoea, malaria etc. have become a source of embarrassment to Government. It is a known fact that a dirty environment with its attendant health consequences that prevails in most of our cities could scare away tourists and investors.
5. The World Health Organization (WHO) is also concerned about poor sanitation in member countries. In a resolution by the Regional Committee for Africa during the

Forty-third session stated in its document AFR/RC43/R2 of 7th September 1993, that it is expedient to affirm that proper sanitation and sound waste management are crucial in the promotion and protection of human health and of the environment, both of which are necessary for sustainable development.

The policy created rooms for strategies and institutional roles in solid waste management as well as guidelines for waste collection, storage, equipment, waste transfer, transportation, private sector participation, general management methods and options, sanctions and enforcement mechanisms as well as rewards for best practices.

It is noteworthy that S.20 of the 1999 Constitution, under the fundamental objectives and directive principles of state policy provides: "The state shall protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air, land, forest and wild life of Nigeria".

Some of the legislations made at the federal level concerning the environment include:

1. the Federal Environmental Protection Agency Act, formerly Federal Environmental Protection Agency (amendment) Decree No 59 of 1992. The Act makes various provisions and pursuant the powers conferred therein; and the National Environmental Health Practice Regulations No. 21 of 2007.

#### **Kinds of Pollution from Wastes and their Effects on the Nation's Health**

Air pollution - Issues of gas flaring and ozone layer, issues of the rapid spread of air-borne diseases like cholera, health challenges from poorly-located incineration sites (continuously burning dumpsites e.g. Olusosun dumpsite of the Lagos State Waste Management Agency (LAWMA).

Land pollution - oil spillage and neglect of the Niger Delta Region adversely affects infrastructural state in urban centres as the rate of rural-urban migration increases faster due to loss of farmlands, fishing rivers and other livelihood sources. It ultimately hampers citizens' health and the economy. Plastic pollution of lands and waters also constitute major nuisance under this category.

Water Pollution - also a major issue in Niger Delta and other non-riverine fishing communities via defeacation where proper sanitary facilities are lacking. Also, issues of the rapid spread of malaria and water-borne diseases.

No doubt, all these impact adversely on the economy as the saying goes, a healthy nation is a wealthy nation.

#### **Environmental Nuisance and Health Hazards Caused by Defective Urban WasteManagement**

Plastic packaging of water and food products has been shown to be potentially carcinogenic. Another angle to this potential danger is the activities of scavengers who recycle them for re-use, and often carry out their duties with bare hands thereby endangering not just other people but themselves. Popular beverages like Kunu, Zobo drinks, etc., often end up stored and sold for direct consumption in these dangerous discarded disposable containers.

It is common sight in Nigeria's urban centres to see people gleefully dump trash (garbage) into gutters and culverts during rainfalls. These end up blocking drainage channels meant to serve the same culprits for good. And the result becomes perils of flooding and disease breakout. Food vendors generate a lot of organic waste. The non-availability of dumpsters or proximity to dumpsites contribute adversely to the nation's waste management malpractices. Most urban markets especially the raw food items sections remain in a perpetual sorry state. And both traders and consumers are faced with the potential perils of contracting the Hepatitis A and E viruses which are food-borne, in addition to other possible consequences.

Abattoirs where they exist, open air meat markets, stalls, poultry and other livestock farms suffer the challenges of erratic or even no water supply, the very vital public utility which is key to proper waste management, sound health and wellness. Due to neglect of the sanctity of the human life and poor animal rearing practices, cow dung and related faecal matter litter urban centres; a sordid sight to the utter amazement of tourists and rational-thinking citizens who understand the propriety and immeasurable benefits of ranching.

Smoke from especially faulty automobiles and the nation's ever-increasing volume of generators as alternative power supply to homes, office complexes and production facilities constitute grave challenges to the health and welfare of the citizenry. Arguably, this smoke should be classified as waste for proper management. This waste is also generated from indiscriminate bush and trash burning. So also do smoke from cigarettes, marijuana, etc., contribute to environmental health hazards especially indirectly to second and third party smokers. Banning smoking in public places has not been effective in curbing this menace, *"The Federal Ministry of Health warns that smokers are liable to die young."*

Yes! But how? This warning stands out clearly on every cigarette pack produced for the nation by the nation's outfits. But the how is not stated. One is left to wonder government's efforts at sensitizing the public and consumers in particular, on the how.

On cigarettes packs from especially the United States of America (USA) are stamped the inscription: Surgeon General's Warning: *Smoking Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema and may complicate pregnancy.* This is apt!

Many urban settlements, ghettos per se suffer from little or no government presence infrastructure-wise, little or no sewage and plumbing systems, with faecal matter freely littering the environment and overflowing into gutters, roads, rivers and streams. Branded "the masses," these very poor and unfortunate Nigerians counting social miscreants, street urchins, artisans and various degrees of disenfranchised sufferers who struggle to their teeth to eke their livelihood are often left with no choice than to consume the very near and affordable food items produced and sold at or near such locations.

Downtown Red Light Districts often get littered with used latex materials after busy nights. Urban schools... what a sorry state they exist in! Dysfunctional or no rest rooms, sometimes perpetually under construction or renovation; no water schemes, no sanitary education and provision of materials especially for the female pupils, students and teachers who need to manage their monthly cycle properly even in schools, and the terrible unbelievable reasons offered by administrators (especially in these institutions) for the lack of these remain quizzing puzzles that continually dominate and attempt to ravage the thoughts of mankind's well-wishers.

Dysfunctional or totally out-of-use vehicles and machines' carcasses abandoned along roads, homes, etc., serve as handy toilets for passers-by especially during emergency situations. Timber and woodworks fabricating and marketing centres keep burning sawdust and co., as handy systems of disposing such wastes. Palm kernel oil processing factories have been often identified as major sites of waste generation and mismanagement.

### **Challenges of Waste Management**

Bakare (2018) posits that Solid waste management is the most pressing environmental challenge faced by urban and rural areas of Nigeria. Nigeria, with a population exceeding 170 million, is one of the largest producers of solid waste in Africa. Despite a host of policies and regulations, solid waste management in the country is assuming alarming proportions with each passing day. Nigeria generates more than 32 million tons of solid waste annually, out of which only 20-30% is collected. Reckless disposal of MSW has led to blockage of sewers and drainage networks, and choking of water bodies. Most of the wastes are generated by households and in some cases, by local industries, artisans and traders which litter the immediate surroundings. Improper collection and disposal of municipal wastes is leading to an environmental catastrophe as the country currently lack adequate budgetary provisions for the implementation of integrated waste management programmes across the States.

Owing to the need for housing, manufacturing industries and a boost in trade volume in Nigeria's increasing population, more wastes are generated. One fundamental issue is the delayed collection of household solid waste. This needs to be urgently and adequately addressed. Many homes live a long time with overflowing waste bins littering the surroundings, while they await the arrival of waste collectors.

Inhabitants of states like Kano, Rivers, Edo, Enugu and Oyo with hugely-populated cities suffer

similar fate. Due to a lack of proper waste management services people find solace in waste burning thereby generating more health hazard due to air pollution. Edo State under former Governor Adams Oshiomhole made a massive investment in waste evacuation and disposal with the upgrading of the state's waste management board. But a major challenges arose when private waste evacuators and their government-operated counterparts became embroiled in a legal tussle over rights to operate side by side.

A case study of Lagos state shows that the Lagos State Waste Management Agency (LAWMA) continuously faces an uphill task in its attempt to manage waste collection and disposal alone. This burden has been engaged by involving private waste firms. Being the commercial hub of Nigeria, Lagos State, is the second fastest growing city in Africa and the seventh in the world. An estimated population of more than 21 million (from latest reports) makes it the largest city in entire Africa. The city generates more than 10,000 tons of urban waste every day, with per capita waste generation of 0.5 kg per day. Many Lagos residents engage in indiscriminate waste dump. One time Lagos State Commissioner of the Environment, Dr. Babatunde Adejare once said: "Lagos is generating one of the highest solid waste per day in the world more than New York. Conservatively, Lagos is generating 13,000 metric tonnes of waste every day. New York is generating 10,000. So, if Lagos is generating 13,000 waste per day and you factor in the undocumented areas in Ayobo, Ijede and all the other areas, the figure will be higher."

With its Cleaner Lagos Initiative powered by Private Sector Participants (PSP) waste management services in Lagos got a boost under former Governor Babatunde Fashola. But regrettably, at a time PSP services were withdrawn due to efforts by the government to transit from a state sponsored management system to more effective Public Private Partnership (PPP) refuse management system. This move resulted in the return of the proscribed cart pushers, to help residents manage about 13,000 metric tonnes of refuse generated daily, and which they resorted to dumping indiscriminately along strategic locations, streets and roads. An intervention measure was initiated when "Operation Deep Clean" of the Lagos State Ministry of the Environment in collaboration with Visionscape, swung into action and cleared over 12,600 metric tonnes of waste from over 80 locations across Lagos State within 10 days.

The Enugu State Waste Management Agency (ESWAMA) faces a similar challenge largely due to the fact that it lacks innovation in collecting and managing waste. Every new regime of this agency relies on the platforms of its predecessor to combat the menace. With the provision of branded cellophane waste bags for bagging refuse before dumping them into trashcans, dumpsters and dumpsites created in and around the metropolis, officials of the agency are expected to evacuate waste effectively. Even the agency's taskforce saddled with the responsibility to arrest those who dump waste at the dumpsites (often overfilled) and non-dump areas has not been effective. Residents who defile sanitary rules faces the challenge of machinery and faulty automobiles -dysfunctional garbage trucks as well as non-payment of waste management health risks.

For clarity in understanding this section, the following factors are responsible for poor waste disposal management.

1. Lack of adequate funding,
2. Excessive population,
3. Lack of comprehensive legal framework and enforcement of the existing regulations,
4. Poor infrastructural state and low investment in infrastructure - equipment, roads,etc.,
5. Inadequate human capacity for administrative and technical issues, and unemployment of qualified environmental management personnel,
6. Wrong attitude of the public towards solid waste disposal,
7. Poor planning, low data management and uncontrolled urbanization,
8. Wrong government's perception of waste management as source of income generation via direct taxation/ billing of the general public against the proper view of profiting through recycling (using shredders, incinerators, etc.) and fertilizer production, as well as uncoordinated institutional functions,
9. Low academic research and industry linkages,
10. Lack of the needed political will on the part of the leaders.

Due to improper waste disposal practices and lack of reliable transport infrastructure collected wastes end up in other localities,

### **Challenges of Hazardous Waste: The Koko Toxic Waste Saga of 1988**

According to Encarta Dictionaries (2009) hazardous waste is toxic byproduct of various processes. These include toxic manufacturing processes or nuclear processing that is potentially dangerous to mankind and the environment -plant and animal life.

In May 1988, Koko, a small fishing village in Delta State, Nigeria, made international headlines when it was discovered that two Italian firms had arranged for the storage of 18,000 drums of hazardous waste with

Koko residents. The containers were disguised as building materials stored in "over 2,000 drums, sacks, and containers," some of which were "identified with the letter R (the international symbol indicating 'toxic and harmful industrial waste') as found by investigators. These were offloaded into a vacant yard of a local man, Sunday Nana who confirmed that he had agreed to let foreign importers use his land, had initially asked for \$200 per month, but negotiations settled at \$100. Gianfranco Raffaelli, an Italian importer living in Nigeria was behind this nefarious deal.

By the time Nigerian authorities identified the scheme, many had already burst, the drums leaking, and emitting a very offensive odour. The inhabitants of the area were already getting sick. Raffaelli had managed to divert shins from their legal destinations to smaller port cities like Koko, where cargo inspections were either overlooked or non-existent.

After Nigerian students in Italy learned of the misdeed and alerted the media, government swung into action and ordered an Italian ship docked in Lagos to be seized and detained. An immediate response by Italian authorities insisted that "the chemicals deposited at Koko were not harmful but merely coal tars, paint waste, and industrial solvents." However, a British environmental group analyzed the material and determined that 28 percent of the waste contained polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), a combustible that could produce a highly toxic compound called dioxin. Italy agreed to remove the waste.

Raffaelli fled the country on June 2 1988 without a passport, apparently able to bypass immigration at the airport in Lagos after the news went on air. The Nigerian government not only demanded that Italy remove the waste, it arrested at least 14 Nigerians involved in the smuggling and threatened them with firing squad. Online reports state that:

"In mid-July, a barge called Karin B docked in Koko to collect the dented and leaky drums. Nigerian workers helped re-load 2,100 tons of chemicals. The ship departed for international waters on July 30. After it attempted to dock at four different European ports, crew members started complaining of chest pain."

In June, the Federal government ordered 5,000 of Koko's residents to evacuate as land around the dump site was deemed unfit for use. Online reports state that:

"Neighbors exposed to the toxic waste, which contained PCBs, dimethyl formaldehyde, and asbestos fibers, suffered nausea, paralysis, and premature births. Sunday Nana himself died of throat cancer. Even Nigerian Port Authority workers who helped transport the poison back onto the Italian ship walked away with chemical burns, despite having worn protective suits."

African Guardian wrote that, "The toxic waste matter reeks full of the odour of corruption", and Nigerian magazine African Concord concurred. The tabloid wrote "That Italy did not contemplate Australia or South Africa or some other place for industrial waste re-echoes what Europe has always thought of Africa: A wasteland. And the people who live, waste beings."

### **World Environment Day- 2018 Theme**

June 5 is marked by the United Nations as World Environment Day, a day set aside since 1974 to promote "worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment." World Environment Day 2018 theme: "Beat Plastic Pollution" was described as very apt in many quarters.

### **Nigeria's Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps**

Since the Regrettable Boko Haram Insurgency began in 2009, the eight-year long conflict in Nigeria's North-Eastern states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa caused the displacement of over 2 million persons, Out of about 1.7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) who fled the conflict in Maiduguri, Borno State, over 1.1 million are in Maiduguri.

The Borno State Environmental Protection Agency (BOSEPA) has been battling with the surging waves of daily waste generation in the metropolis, Maiduguri, which rose from an estimated 390 to 570 tons per day, a 45% increase from pre-conflict levels. This resulted in an environmental degradation estimated at a US\$2.9-million loss.

With over 80% of IDPs and host communities practicing open dumping and burning, combined with insufficient financial and human resources to collect it, BOSEPA has also been struggling with its lean resources to ensure timely collection and clean-up of accumulated waste. IDP camps have thus become ideal breeding sites for vectors such as rats, mosquitoes, and flies. And the transmission of vector-borne diseases like yellow fever, dengue and malaria is on a sharp rise.

In 2016, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Government of Switzerland, through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) began implementing an ongoing UNDP initiative, the Waste Management Emergency Response for IDP Host Communities in Maiduguri. A UNDP report stated that:

"This intervention was designed to support the overall objective of the 2017 Nigeria Humanitarian

Response Plan by addressing waste accumulation and illegal dumpsites which would in turn reduce vector breeding sites and minimize the health risks in the host communities. The project would also be providing a source of livelihoods for IDPs through a Cash for Work modality."

The exercise involved over a thousand highly vulnerable IDPs and host community members who were nominated as beneficiaries by community leaders and staff members of municipalities to clear solid waste and drainages from four communities of Gwange West, Shehuri South, Bolori II and State Low cost (Abbanagaram market). They were trained, equipped and kitted with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and toolkits and then paid for the labour under UNDP's Cash for Work (CfW) initiative.

The Cash-for-work pilot project in waste and dumpsite management contributed to other interventions Supporting early recovery of the most vulnerable people affected by the crisis in Borno State. These included:

1. Provision of opportunity for emergency employment;
2. Clearing of accumulated waste and illegal dumpsites;
3. Sensitizing communities on better waste disposal methods;
4. Training State Officials; and
5. Laying a foundation for efficient management of waste as in the region.

Primary beneficiaries were IDPs living outside the formal camps - mostly in already overstretched poor host communities. And following the intervention, there was a significant increase in the amount of rainwater flowing into the main drain, thereby removing the risk of flooding in the city.

#### **IV. SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is evident from the analysis so far that among Nigeria's 36 states and her Federal Capital Territory, only a few have shown a considerable level of resolve to take proactive steps in fighting the scourge of waste management. This is indicative of administrators' lack of interest to manage waste properly and develop the waste sector.

It behooves the government to ensure the provision and maintenance of convenience facilities (public rest rooms) in schools, markets, industrial areas, worship centres, sports and other recreational facilities, etc. In this regard, Nigeria's once revered famous National Stadium Surulere, Lagos is a case example of such facility that has fallen victim to neglect and poor wastemanagement.

Concerted efforts are needed to sensitize the general public on the need for proper disposal of solid waste. The lack of professionalism in waste management should be urgently and adequately addressed. Imposing appropriate sanctions, penalties - constitutional and otherwise - on offenders would serve as deterrent to enemies of our environment and health. And this should be exercised eschewing the Sacred Cow Syndrome'.

Effective mobile courts need to be provided for quick dispensation of justice in this regard, and restoration of the rights of the people to good health. Administrators in this sector must match government's policies with timely and commensurate actions.

Government should make the necessary modern logistics available for waste management in Nigeria to not just demonstrate their readiness to partner with all in ensuring that waste management in Nigeria meets the modern acceptable waste management standard but to also give the people a sense of belonging in governance.

The National Assembly should ensure that professional private investors are involved in the regulate the activities of stakeholders in this sector. The environmental health officer's waste management sector. Also, we need proper regulatory framework that defines and registration council of Nigeria should step up its efforts at monitoring and enforcing sanitation laws.

Finally, government should create and enable private investors to establish recycling plants.

#### **V. CONCLUSION**

Proper and effective waste management in urban centres are not about government's focus On taxation and coercing the public into purchasing government-approved trash bins at exorbitant rates. They are also not about imposing heart-rending waste management bills on the poor citizenry. They are all about proactive and comprehensive service delivery through the provision, maintenance and sustenance of constant water supply to every home, office facility, market, industrial facility, etc. Efficient fire control boards and mechanisms, other well-situated public utilities - toilets, incinerators, etc., are very imperative for effective waste management everywhere.

To curb urban waste management maladministration, we must institute a culture of excellence deeply rooted and stemming out through proper staffing, education, sensitization, training and re-training of both health and environmental waste management staff and the citizenry. To succeed in this direction, public enlightenment agencies like Federal and States Ministries of Information and Communications under which are agencies like the National Orientation Agency (NOA), etc., have an urgent task. Health departments, institutions and waste managers need to continuously keep the perils and consequences of improper waste management practices at the fore,



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