



SymbioCity KIMININI STUDY VISIT TO NAIROBI

Ms Linekar Bwile Nafula

Chief Officer for Lands, Housing and Urban Development Trans-Nzoia County

Tuesday 7th November 2017 saw the arrival of one of SymbioCity's Pilot City programme participants arrive in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, on a hands on 3 day study visit of various waste management projects in Nairobi and the neighboring Kiambu & Kajiado counties. One of the participants in the study visit was **Mrs Linekar Bwile Nafula**; who is the Chief Officer for Lands, Housing and Urban Development for Trans-Nzoia County within which Kiminini town is located.

Interviewer: With regards to your portfolio and in relation to upcoming cities in agricultural regions such as Trans-Nzoia, what the biggest challenge you face when it comes to Waste Management?

Ms Nafula: The biggest challenge is infrastructure but more specifically allocation of space for waste management. For instance, in Kitale town there were places designated as dumping sites but over time these places were encroached on and when we finally wanted to reclaim the places, it was a big challenge since they were fully settled and the idea of situating a dump-site next to a settlement becomes very challenging.

Interviewer: Is there any way to overcome this type of challenge?

Ms Nafula: Emerging technologies are the key to overcoming this. We need to look into recycling and proper waste management. For example the sewerage treatment sites we visited today. There was no smell, the area occupied was reasonably small and the results are effective and applicable in any scenario.

Interviewer: A few people have spoken of sensitization and education do you agree this is the way to go in terms of waste management?

Ms Nafula: To a degree yes, however, the county government has a bigger role to play in policy implementation and budgetary allocations. It's more than throwing money at the problem, things like establishment of Municipalities and Town boards that are included in the Urban Areas and Cities Act law would mean that a proper and clear channel of which department addresses the waste management portfolio and budget allocations & use assigned to these bodies.

Interviewer: Why, in your opinion is there such a slow uptake in waste management in Trans-Nzoia county by the different counties and what would speed up the process?

Ms Nafula: Besides policy & implementation, there should be an all inclusive and participatory approach to waste management. More efforts should be geared towards showing the economic value of waste management. Policies must not just include fines and punishments; they should also include incentives and rewards.

Interviewer: You mention a participatory approach, which parties should also be involved?

Ms Nafula: Emerging cities and towns are mostly grappling with domestic waste. So regular Wananchi, stakeholders such as community, religious, political leaders, religious, women & youth groups and local business people & associations must be included from the very beginning. The approach used in creating and implementing the policies must come from ground up and not the other way round.

Interviewer: What about the private sector? What is the role of business in waste management from a county perspective?

Ms Nafula: The role of the private sector can't be ignored. Private public partnerships should and must be encouraged. There is a lot of new technology, ideas, capital and expertise that can be drawn from the private sector. From the government side, there are added benefits such as resources, reprieves and incentives that can be used in these partnerships for the greater good. These partnerships can help overcome issues such as red tape and budgetary allocations. The fight for a cleaner more sustainable environment through recycling and waste management needs every hand that is available.

Interviewer: Given that Trans-Nzoia County is a growing region, would you say the task is easier when it comes to waste management compared to more developed regions with more of an industrial waste problem?

Ms Nafula: One may think that but given the rising population and speed of urbanization, the task is not any easier. Even as an agricultural area, we are dealing with some degree of industrial waste from the fertilisers and insecticides used on crops. In the short term it may seem our biggest challenge is agricultural and domestic waste but industrial & chemical waste are very much in the picture.

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Interviewer: In order of priority, could you outline what you feel are the most crucial elements when it comes to waste management?

Ms Nafula: Policy Establishment, Sensitization & Education, Resource & Budgetary Allocation and last but not least, political goodwill and support.

Interviewer: Finally Ms Nafula, what is the biggest takeaway you hope to have from this Study visit?

Ms Nafula: Practical lessons and applications both from an institutional and personal level. The lessons learnt here must be applicable and executable back in our own region.



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