

REPORT FOR KITEZI LANDFILL DUMPING SITE BY PUBLIC HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE

Public Health Standing Committee Supervision and Monitoring

Date: November, 2023

Members attended

1. Ssemuli Daniel (Chairperson)
2. Rita Nakubulwa
3. Bukenya Bonney
4. Kato Paul
5. Ssebayiga Faisal
6. Kigozi Rose Nalubwama
7. Muniru Ssemakula
8. Namugenyi Hawah
9. Kazibwe Timothy

Introduction;

This report presents the findings and observations of the **Public Health Standing Committee's** supervision and monitoring activities conducted at the KCCA Kitezi Landfill Dumping Site. The purpose of this report is to assess the compliance of the landfill site with public health regulations and standards, identify any potential risks or issues, and make recommendations for improvement. The monitoring visit was conducted in November 2023, following a request for a supplementary budget by the Public Health Directorate in the council.

2. Background:

The KCCA Kitezi Landfill Dumping Site was opened in 2022 and is located on a 36-hectare area, serving both Kampala and the neighboring district of Wakiso. The landfill site receives an estimated 1200 tons of waste per day. However, due to the lack of a weighing scale machine, the actual weight of the garbage is not accurately recorded. Instead, trucks rely on private sector facilities to weigh the garbage before dumping. It was observed that KCCA trucks dumped 48% of the garbage, while private sector and concessionaires accounted for 52%. On arrival each truck registers 4.2 tones irrespective of the size and type of the truck, this justifies the estimation of tones received per day at the site.

3. Overall Site Assessment:

a). General Site Conditions:

- The site is improper, its hazardous to the community and needs agent solution managing solid waste hence coming up with long term measures such as recycling garbage program at the facility..
- During rainy season access to the roads within the site are not well-managed to allowing smooth movement of vehicles.

-The landfill site has no designated areas for recycling and composting.

- The lack of a weighing scale machine raises concerns regarding accurate waste tracking and management.

4. Environmental Impact:

a. Air Quality:

- Odor management systems are never in place, and there isent any room for improvement to further minimize the release of unpleasant odors, especially considering the site's proximity to residential areas.

b. Water Management:

- Adequate drainage systems are observed, preventing the accumulation of stagnant water that could serve as breeding grounds for disease-carrying vectors.

The landfill site has not implemented proper measures to prevent leachate contamination and groundwater pollution, including proper lining and collection of leachate for treatment.

5. Public Health and Safety:

a. Occupational Health and Safety:

- Workers or waste pickers lack safety equipment, including gloves, masks, and protective clothing, to protect them from potential hazards.
- Regular training programs on occupational health and safety are not conducted for workers to ensure adherence to safety protocols.

b. Vector Control:

- Effective vector control measures, such as regular fumigation and elimination of breeding sites, are never implemented to prevent the spread of diseases carried by vectors.

6. Budget Utilization:

It was observed that the murram (soil) budgeted for 1,560,000,000 billion quarterly is not being utilized properly. Ideally, the murram should be used for dumping at the Solid Waste section of the landfill site. However, it was found that the quality of murram being used is of poor quality. Additionally, the Bulldozer D6, which is responsible for spreading

and compacting the murrum, is faulty and misses for several days. Yet each day of its absence is budgeted at 2,640,000, resulting in a significant loss of funds for the institution.

Furthermore, during our supervision and monitoring visit, we did not observe the presence of a water bowser machine, which is intended to reduce dust and enhance the compaction of murrum. It is important to note that this machine was also budgeted for at a daily rate of 1,220,000. The absence of this equipment raises concerns about the effectiveness of dust control measures and the overall quality of murrum compaction at the landfill site.

On arrival at the landfill entrance, each driver is tasked to register his truck number with similar 4.2 tones irrespective of the size and type of the truck. This justifies the estimated tones received daily at Kitezi landfill. And on inquiry we were told by the supervisor that trucks carrying solid waste garbage first move to a private weighing machine and there after come at the landfill winch indicates lack of value for money budgeted for the tones receive per day at the facility.

We also observed that the Kitezi KCCA Offices were built on the land winch is not for the institution and the access road towards it has complaints ownership challenges by a enamouring lady who is a family member of the original owners who sold Kitezi landfill to KCCA.

7. Safety Concerns:

In addition to the findings mentioned above, it was observed that the operation of the Excavator at the landfill site poses a significant risk to the safety of solid waste pickers. These individuals, who are not official workers of the KCCA institution but issued identity cards by the supervisor, engage in unauthorized waste picking activities during the operation of the Excavator.

The presence of unauthorized individuals near the operating Excavator creates a hazardous environment, as they are not equipped with proper safety gear or trained to handle potential accidents or incidents that may occur during waste collection. This situation not only compromises the safety of these individuals but also poses a risk to the overall operations and reputation of the KCCA institution.

Most of the solid waste coming at the landfill from the concessionaires who are also agents of the institution and the private companies is not sorted making it to 58% and 42% from KCCA. At the dumping site the concessionaires and private companies are not charged directly money yet they as well charge their clients some lamp some of money ranging from 5,000 to 100,000 shillings.

Our Findings;

Leachate ponds covered by garbage like plants around the landfill;

It was discovered during the supervision and monitoring visit that the leachate treatment plant for the landfill has not been operational for the past 10 years. This lack of operation has resulted in the accumulation of leachate, which has formed ponds around the landfill site. The presence of these stagnant leachate ponds has had severe consequences for nearby residents, forcing them to vacate their plots, land, and houses due to the stench and unsanitary conditions.

The stagnant leachate ponds not only pose a significant environmental hazard but also create a public health risk for the surrounding community. Leachate contains various contaminants and pollutants that can potentially contaminate groundwater sources and affect the quality of nearby water bodies. The foul odor emanating from the stagnant leachate ponds further contributes to the deterioration of air quality, impacting the overall well-being and living conditions of nearby residents.

It is imperative that immediate action be taken to address this issue and ensure the proper functioning of the leachate treatment plant. The treatment plant should be repaired, upgraded, or replaced to effectively treat and manage the leachate generated by the landfill. Regular monitoring and maintenance of the treatment plant should also be implemented to prevent future operational failures.

Furthermore, steps should be taken to mitigate the impact on nearby residents who have been forced to vacate their properties due to the stench and unsanitary conditions caused by the stagnant leachate ponds. Efforts should be made to provide alternative housing or compensation for affected individuals, ensuring their safety, well-being, and protection of their rights.

By addressing the operational issues of the leachate treatment plant and taking necessary measures to mitigate the impact on nearby residents, the KCCA institution can demonstrate its commitment to environmental sustainability, public health, and the welfare of the communities it serves

8. Recommendations:

Visit the Contractors to ascertain the tones of morram and other service offered by them to the facility.

Stop the collection of morram from the four acres procured by KCCA since it is budgeted for to be got from the contractors.

The need for the committee to re visit contracts of the contractors of Kitezi

The need to survey and to stop the encroachment on the KCCA four acre land.

The need for solid waste recycling plant at Kitezi.

Implement strict access control measures to prevent unauthorized individuals from engaging in hazardous waste picking activities during the operation of heavy machinery.

i. Conduct public awareness campaigns to educate the community about the risks associated with unauthorized waste picking activities and the importance of adhering to safety protocols.

A Procure and install a weighing scale machine to accurately measure the weight of incoming waste and improve waste tracking and management.

b. Enhance odor management systems to further minimize the release of unpleasant odors, especially in areas close to residential neighbourhoods.

d. Implement proper management of Kitezi landfill.

e. Conduct regular inspections and maintenance of waste collection and disposal equipment to ensure proper functioning.

KCCA to allow partners and award them contracts for the recycling processes.

f. Address the issues with moram utilization, including ensuring the procurement of quality moram and repairing the faulty Bulldozer D6 to avoid unnecessary expenditure.

g. Acquire a water bowser machine to improve dust control and enhance the compaction of morram.

9. Conclusion:

The KCCA Kitezi Landfill Dumping Site plays a crucial role in waste management for Kampala and Wakiso district. While the site demonstrates satisfactory compliance with public health regulations and standards, there are areas that require improvement to enhance waste management practices, minimize potential risks, and ensure proper utilization of budgeted funds.

Tentatively drawn by the Committee.

Signed by
Ssemuli Daniel S
Chairperson Public Health and environment Standing
Committee.