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## THE KAMPALA DECLARATION ON SANITATION (1997)

### Preamble

We the **District Authorities of Uganda** together with the key stakeholders here assembled at the first ever National Sanitation Forum, on this day the 17th of October, 1997,

- Realising that poor sanitation is a major constraint to development in Uganda as manifested by
  - environmental degradation and pollution of otherwise protected water sources,
  - high rate of morbidity and mortality in the country;
  - lost productivity and high expenditure on curative health care cost;
  - reduced learning capability of children through illness and early dropouts of girls,
  - high levels of stunting among children under 5 years;
  - loss of community and national dignity and pride.
- Recognising that, sanitation is a way of life and constitutes the isolation of human excreta from the environment, maintenance of the safe water chain, the sustained practice of personal, domestic and public hygiene, safe disposal of solid and liquid wastes; and control of disease vectors and vermin, sanitation goes beyond the provision of physical devices and encompasses positive attitude and behavioural changes by the people.
- Given the remarkable record of sanitation performance in the 1950s through the 1970s and whilst attributing part of the decline in the status of sanitation in the country to the decades of wars, economic collapse, institutional/social decay and poverty, the current sanitation situation, particularly the low coverage of latrines in Uganda is unacceptable and is bound to get worse if concerted efforts are not taken.
- Acknowledging that the foundations for improvement of the sanitation situation rest with the collective wisdom of our leaders and the inherent desires of our people for a clean and healthy environment (as enshrined in the 1995 Constitution), hereby endorse the following guiding principle to halt the declining status of sanitation in Uganda and further commit ourselves to the 10-point Strategy for Action below as the basis for ensuring adequate sanitation for all by the year 2005. We the undersigned hold ourselves accountable for the success or failure of this endeavour.

### Guiding Principles

- **Basic Right:** Sanitation is a basic right and a responsibility for every citizen of Uganda
- **Partnership and Local Implementation:** Community partnership with districts, lower local governments and administrative unit and cultural and religious leaders should be the framework for delivery of better sanitation services
- **Government Facilitation and Private Sector/Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) Delivery:** Government at all levels will create the enabling environment and facilitate the provision of services but service delivery will be enhanced through the increased participation of the private and social intermediary sectors (NGOs)
- **District Specific Solutions.** Sanitation situations vary across the country. District specific solutions suitable for communities and households and can be sustained will dictate the course of actions.

### 10-Point Strategy for Action

1. **Exemplary Leadership Commitment.** We the collective leadership of the districts commit to set good examples at home, at work and in all public places for improved sanitation.
2. **Full Community Mobilisation:** We shall mobilise and motivate the totality of the district and sub-country leadership (political, traditional, and administrative), households, communities and institutions (schools, health centres, industrial establishments, religious facilities) towards comprehensive promotion and provision of sanitation services for all households, institutions and public places in the district.
3. **District and Sub-counties and Urban Authorities Focus.** Sanitation begins at home. We shall facilitate the sub-counties and urban authorities to develop sanitation action plans with clear budget lines. These will be integrated into the District plans with explicit objectives of raising the profile of sanitation in our districts and committing resources to sanitation programmes beginning with the 1998/99 financial year. This approach will be the best way of responding to the peculiarities and needs of special geographical areas

4 **Coordination and Multi-sectoral Approach.** Sanitation improvement shall be made an integral part of all social and economic developments in our districts. We shall endeavour to coordinate all of the sanitation activities taking place in our districts, provide linkages to all relevant sectors and establish the necessary framework for rational planning, monitoring and evaluation. A clear definition of the roles of all stakeholders would be defined through consultation to promote transparency, accountability and build collective vision.

5 **Focus on Schools:** Schools provide excellent opportunities to encourage positive life-long behavioural change. We shall ensure that every primary school and all other institutions of learning have adequate sanitation facilities (latrines, safe drinking water supplies and hand washing facilities) and with separate facilities by the end of 1998. All primary school shall be involved in School Health Promotion Programmes as dictated by the Universal Primary Education (UPE) programme. We further endorse the immediate re-introduction of school health inspections of pupils and premises in all sub-counties.

6 **Fora at Districts:** We shall organise and conduct sanitation campaigns in all sub-counties on a regular basis. This shall be crowned by an annual sanitation forum beginning 1998. This will ensure an annual mechanism for reporting of progress (based on agreed indicators) and refinement of the strategies. A massive public education campaign with special focus on rational approaches for overcoming inhibiting taboos and cultural practices will be mounted at all sub-counties. Monthly sanitation days shall be introduced at all districts and sub-county levels. We further endorse the re-introduction of inter-district, inter-community and inter-school competitions. Appropriate incentives for rewarding performance shall be instituted periodically.

7 **Central Role of Women:** We shall ensure that women and youth organisations are adequately represented at all levels of sanitation delivery system and are provided with opportunities for economic advancement and support to sanitation activities.

8. **Private Sector/NGO Development and Service Delivery:** We shall involve the private sector and NGOs in the development, production and dissemination of appropriate sanitation materials. Support to the local private sector and NGOs (including artisans and community based groups) in skills development in sanitation service delivery inter alia communal latrines, production of sanitation facilities, sanplats, hand washing facilities and sanitation advocacy shall be facilitated. The appropriate enabling environment and incentive structures will be examined and applied to enhance their participation in sanitation services delivery.

9. **Capacity Building at District Level:** We shall ensure that we put in place a multi-sectoral cadre core at the district level to oversee implementation at the sub-county levels. Team work, motivation, balanced staff training and strengthening of the complementary institutions in the districts shall be given top priority.

10. **Policies and Guidance:** The three administrative levels of Government (national, district and sub-county) should collectively develop comprehensive sanitation policy, operational guidelines and pass supportive legislation to support sanitation improvements. Commitment to timely updating and enforcement of existing legislation should be one of the central pillars of the sanitation delivery at all levels.

#### **Enabling Environment Support**

We further declare our full commitment to the National Accelerated Sanitation Improvement Programme (NASIP). The programme will support overall capacity building and infrastructural improvements at all levels.

We therefore call on the central government and partner donor agencies to assist in mobilising the necessary resources in support of the programme. Direct and timely channelling of resources to the district and sub-county level will be called for. The re-orientation of available resources in lead agencies (Local Government, Health and Natural Resources) in favour of preventive health care and in particular sanitation should be the starting point. Although this programme is multi-sectoral and therefore the responsibility of all, the lead agency for environmental health at the national and district requires strengthening to transform it into a credible institutional mechanism for facilitating the implementation of the national programme.

#### **Conclusion - Responsibility for All**

No family, community or institution can escape the negative impacts of an endemic poor sanitation situation. Only a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach aimed at full sanitation coverage and backed by sustained positive attitudes and behavioural changes by all can make the difference. We therefore call on all leaders, citizens and institutions in Uganda to support the National Accelerated Sanitation Improvement Programme to ensure adequate sanitation for all by the year 2005.

**NATIONAL SANITATION FORUM, KAMPALA  
16-17 OCTOBER 1997**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- NATIONAL SANITATION DAY BE ESTABLISHED.
- THE NATIONAL POLICY ON SANITATION SHOULD BE FINALIZED AS A MATTER OF URGENT PRIORITY AND NATIONAL, DISTRICT AND SUB-COUNTY ACTION PLANS DEVELOPED.
- SANITATION SHOULD BE GIVEN A HIGHER PRIORITY AND BE ADEQUATELY RESOURCED FROM LOCAL, NATIONAL AND DONOR BUDGETS.
- ALL LEADERS IN UGANDA, WHETHER POLITICAL, COMMUNITY, RELIGIOUS OR CIVIL SERVICE, SHOULD PROMOTE GOOD SANITATION THROUGH EXAMPLE AND SHOULD ACT AS ROLE MODELS.
- THE NATIONAL ACCELERATED SANITATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME SHOULD GO HAND-IN-HAND WITH THE PHC PROGRAMME.
- THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH SHOULD REVIEW ITS PLANS AND BUDGETS AND PLACE A GREATER EMPHASIS, BOTH IN MONETARY AND IMPLEMENTATION TERMS, ON PREVENTATIVE HEALTH.
- THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SHOULD ADJUST ITS PLANS BUDGET AND CURRICULUM TO PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON SANITATION IN ALL INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING.
- THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES SHOULD ADJUST THE BUDGETS, PLANNING PROGRAMMES, TO SUPPORT SANITATION ENHANCEMENT, THAT IS LANDS, HOUSING AND PHYSICAL PLANNING, NATIONAL RESOURCES WITH ITS AGENCIES E.G., NEMA, MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.
- GOVERNMENT SHOULD LIFT THE BAN ON RECRUITMENT PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STAFF.
- GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROMOTE COLLABORATION WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES IN SANITATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES.
- THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS REQUESTED TO SPONSOR PRIME MESSAGES OF SANITATION ON THEIR FINISHED PRODUCTS.

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

- **TECHNOLOGIES SHOULD BE USED WHICH ARE SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE, TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE AND AFFORDABLE.**
- **DUE ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS, SUCH AS THE DISABLED, AND DIFFICULT AREAS.**
- **GOVERNMENT AND DONORS SHOULD FACILITATE VARIOUS SEMINARS, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES AT ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING COMMUNITY, SUB-COUNTY AND DISTRICT AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE NATIONAL FORUM.**
- **SENSITIZATION ACTIVITIES AT ALL LEVELS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED TO RAISE UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BENEFITS OF IMPROVED SANITATION (HYGIENE AND SANITATION PROMOTION AND MOBILIZATION)**
- **THERE SHOULD BE AN INTEGRATED, MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACH TO SANITATION WHICH ACTIVELY INVOLVES STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION TO AVOID VERTICALIZATION OF PROJECTS.**
- **THERE SHOULD BE AN EQUITY-DRIVEN APPROACH TO SANITATION SERVICE PROVISION TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS A FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES.**
- **THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED AT ALL STAGES OF PROGRAMME OF IMPROVED SANITATION, FROM INITIAL CONSULTATION TO IMPLEMENTATION.**
- **THERE IS NEED FOR TRANSPARENCY AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS AND PROPER PROTECTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PUBLIC FUNDS.**
- **LOCAL LEADERSHIP SELECTION MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHARACTER AND LOCAL STATUS IN ITS CRITERIA.**
- **FOCUS OF SANITATION WORK AT A COMMUNITY LEVEL SHOULD BE ON WOMEN, CHILDREN AND THE YOUTH.**
- **HOME IMPROVEMENT COMPETITIONS SHOULD BE ONE OF THE MAIN MECHANISMS TO IMPROVE SANITATION.**
- **HAND WASHING AS A SPECIFIC SANITATION BEHAVIOUR SHOULD BE WIDELY PROMOTED.**
- **THE DISTURBED AREAS, DISPLACED PEOPLE, FISHERMEN, PASTORALISTS, REFUGEES AND OTHER SPECIAL AREAS, E.G., KALANGALA, KARAMOJA WILL REQUIRE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION AND SPECIFIC APPROACHES.**
- **FUNDS SHOULD BE CHANNELLED FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO THE OPERATIONAL LOCAL IMPLEMENTORS AT COMMUNITY, SUB-COUNTY AND DISTRICT LEVELS.**

- **THE PRINCIPAL CONCENTRATION OF FUNDS SHOULD THEREFORE BE AT OPERATIONAL LOCAL LEVEL.**
- **INDICATORS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED WHICH CAN ACCURATELY REFLECT PROGRESS IN THE SANITATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME.**
- **STRENGTHEN LOCAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO BE UNDERTAKEN AND MAINTAIN SANITATION IMPROVEMENTS AS A KEY COMPONENT IN SUSTAINABILITY.**
- **THE DISTRICTS SHOULD EMPLOY SUFFICIENT NUMBERS OF APPROPRIATE STAFF TO SUPPORT SANITATION IMPROVEMENT.**
- **FUNCTIONAL LITERACY PROGRAMMES SHOULD INCLUDE SANITATION IMPROVEMENT AND SANITATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES SHOULD PROMOTE FUNCTIONAL LITERACY.**
- **COMMUNITIES SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH MORE AND BETTER INFORMATION IN ORDER TO PROMOTE SANITATION IMPROVEMENTS.**
- **DISTRICTS AND SUB-COUNTIES SHOULD UTILIZE EXISTING BUDGETS TO START IMPROVING SANITATION AND ENSURE THAT RESOURCES ARE FOCUSSED MORE EFFECTIVELY.**
- **URBAN PLANNING SHOULD BE MADE MORE EFFECTIVE AND DEAL WITH THE REAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE POPULATION.**
- **SANITATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME SHOULD ALSO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS.**
- **THERE SHOULD BE A CLEAR DEFINITION OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS.**

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