**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU**



***Office of the CECM for Water, Climate Change, Environment & Natural Resources***

**KASESE WASTE TO ENERGY PROJECT: THE TRUTH**

A story aired on a radio station this morning claimed that the Kisumu County Government was undertaking a project on garbage disposal and recycling plant at Kasese in Muhoroni Sub-County without following due diligence.

 The story, quoted some local leaders as claiming that the County Government had not conducted public participation and that the residents were in the dark about the planned relocation of a refuse site to Kasese.

Given that we were never accorded the opportunity respond to the allegations, we wish to state as follows:

1. The project at Kasese is known as an Integrated Waste to Energy project and not a garbage dump as some politicians want the locals to believe.
2. It was initiated way back in 2018 and has not been completed because the County wanted to consult widely and to follow the protocol and due diligence.
3. The main purpose of the Kasese project was to create jobs from solid waste and generate wealth through complete conversion of different waste types into products and where possible recycle any wastes that can still be put into good use.
4. The other intention was to contribute to the industrialization process, in the energy and Agricultural sectors, through production and metal recycling/conversion technologies.

THE JOURNEY

* The project has been carefully planned. A design for the waste management facility was conceptualized and developed by experts.
* Expression of Interest was floated in the Newspaper advertisements for landowners who could provide land for such a facility.
* At the end of the land procuring process, a piece of land was offered to the county government and was procured. All this time, local leaders and residents were fully aware of the activities.
* Several meetings have been held at both the proposed site and in Kisumu in which local leaders and residents debated the project.
* Public participation is still going on even as we pen this statement and all well-meaning residents of Kasese can attest to this. Elders, elected officials and opinion leaders are all involved in the Public Participation process.
* The long term intention by the County Government was not to secure land for the waste recycling alone, but to avail land for industrial development and other income generating activities.
* Early this month, we put up an advertisement in the Newspapers, calling for an Expression of Interest (EOI) for Sustainable Management of Solid Waste at a designated waste disposal facility. This, we believe is proof of Transparency and Accountability.
* Having successfully decommissioned the Kachok dumpsite in Kisumu town, the county needed a site to put up facility for solid waste processing and material recovery AND NOT DUMPING.
* In the EOI, the County Government sought partnerships with interested investors towards achieving the sustainable solid waste management.
* This EOI is open to any Appropriate Technology and Methodology that will provide a sustainable solution to our solid waste management.
* We want to inform our people that this will be a big project with hundreds of job and business opportunities. Experts are going through it with a tooth comb and the residents of Kasese need not worry.
* Residents quoted in the radio story asked for better roads in the area. We wish to assure them that One component of this project is the improvement of infrastructure. All roads in the area will be improved to weather roads. Drainages will be constructed. Waterways will be desilted and security improved. Farmers will move their cane and rice to the local factories with ease. The sick will be ferried to hospitals in the shortest time possible.
* The earmarked roads have been surveyed with assistance of local community members and their representatives.
* Fears that the project will attract strangers and street urchins hunting for industrial waste is farfetched. The truth is that they will not find any mounds of garbage because everything brought in will be loaded into the recycling plant.
* Finally, we appeal to the media fraternity- as friends and partners in development, to help us tell the true Story of Kasese.

**SIGNED**

**SALMON ORIMBA**

**CECM-****WATER, CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**

**30th October 2020**