

**Statement by Ms Naigaga Sydah Deputy Executive Director ,
Environmental Management For Livelihood Improvement Bwaise
Facility, at a Public Lecture, Chez Johnson Hotel, Kazo, Bwaise,
Kampala, 4th September, 2008**

Hon Minister,

The Programmer Officer, Environment Poverty Reduction Unit

The DPC Kawempe Police Station,

The Deans representative from Faculty of Forestry & Nature Conservation MUK,

The Chairman, Kawempe Division,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Protocols observed

1. On behalf of the Facility, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you all. It is my hope that you will have a good exchange of ideas on this challenging topic of environmental management and suggest a way forward to achieve Millennium Development Goal 7. I wish to express our gratitude to the people of Kawempe Division for their cooperation. It is my pleasure to be here this afternoon as you deliberate on the important issue of environmental management. I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you all.

Hon. Minister,

2. Since 2007, the Bwaise Facility has been empowering communities to formulate and implant development plans and programs that promote sustainable development. We operate in line with our mission, “To improve the standards of living of the most vulnerable people in Kawempe division by ensuring sustainable livelihood”.
3. In order to achieve the mission, the Facility set the following objectives;

(a) To promote sustainable development and public awareness of the need to manage land, air and water resources in a balanced and sustainable manner for the present and future generations,

(b) To involve the people in the formulation and implementation of development plans and programmes which promote and maintain the greening of the urban environment,

(c) To enhance HIV/AIDS awareness efforts among youth by engaging young people in positions to influence their peers, in examination and dialogue about their role and opportunities to fully participate in the response to HIV/AIDS in Uganda and (d) To ensure equitable access to quality basic education at both primary and post primary level.

4. Kawempe Division has been cited as one of the areas with notably evident forms of environment degradation especially Bwaise. Features such as floods after heavy rains that have displaced many families, loss of vegetation (Northern bypass and Lubigi Swamp), wastes (domestic, industrial and institutional waste) are the characteristic features of the Division. In order to mitigate such degradation, a review of Millennium Development Goal 7 is considered, i.e. “Ensure environmental Sustainability”. The following targets have to be met,

Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and program and reverse the loss of environmental resources,

Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation,

Target 11: Have achieved, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. The following indicators will act as benchmarks to the above targets, (a) proportion of land area covered by forest, (b) ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area, (c) proportion of population with

sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural, (d) proportion of population with access to improved sanitation.

5. We have instituted environmental management and monitoring tools that take care of the environment based on the principle of sustainable development. However, I wish to point out that there is still need for **capacity building** through increased awareness, training and **technology transfer** for the management of the various forms of wastes. This has been clearly spelt out in our 5 years strategic plan (2008-2013).

Hon. Minister,

6. We appreciate efforts of the Ministry of Water and Environment in ensuring environmental sustainability. We wish to point out some of the challenges to environmental management we have noted. Our study conducted in the last three months has shown that Kawempe Division is faced with three major challenges.

(a)The first one is the poor disposal of municipal waste. This has had a negative impact on the livelihood and social development of the Division.

(b)The second major challenge is that of siltation of the drainage channels and poor maintenance. This has resulted in decreased water retention capacity for the channels thus resulting into flooding during heavy rains. The depth of the channels has been reduced due to accumulation of waste and surface runoff.

(c) The third major challenge, and the agenda of our lecture, is that of lack of public awareness in protecting and conserving the environment. This is evident in the following ways;

- (i) Dumping solid waste along road reserves, in front of retail shops and in drainage channels,
- (ii) Setting up structures in wetlands such as the Lubigi wetland,
- (iii) Disposal of untreated liquid wastes into drainage channels.

7. As you all realize, the Division has a big challenge and this lecture should exhaustively deliberate and come up with concrete solutions.
8. . I wish to make some suggestions on how to fight these challenges.

PROPOSED ACTION

- i. To cooperate with security organizations such as the Police and other local security agencies to fight against environmental degradation.
- ii. Ensuring that local leaders assist the Facility in promoting environmental awareness programmes in the Division.
- iii. Government institutions in charge of environmental management need to be put to task to work and implement policies that protect and conserve the environment for future use such as the environmental laws and environmental police.
- iv. Incorporate principles of integrated rural development since environmental programmes can only succeed if every body in the community is mobilized, sensitized, and take part in good environmental practices.
- v. Return skips, i.e. legal collection centres and door collection at a subsidized price.
- vi. Tax rebates,.i.e. refund paid back to a firm for good environmental management
- vii. Use of **Incentives and disincentives**; incentives are policy instruments that are offered to encourage, motivate individuals for their good practice in environmental management and disincentives are used to discourage or penalize for practices that degrade the environment.
- viii. Need to direct funds to Environment management in the struggle to make Kawempe a better place. This can be inform of generous contributions from the public, donations and grants.

Hon. Minister,

9. We recognize that implementation of activities under the National Environment Statute requires resources which are limited. We therefore need, at this meeting to come up with a clear strategy for sustainable funding mechanisms for Achieving the Millennium Development Goal 7. Further, we call for closer cooperation among the stakeholders in addressing local challenges of environmental management.
10. I want to assure you of EMLI Bwaise Facility's commitment to cooperate on this matter and to ensure that the Division has a sound and pleasant environment. EMLI Bwaise Facility supports for the establishment of strategic partnerships with other stakeholders in the management of the environment for sustainable development.

**Hon. Minister,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

11. I wish to conclude by emphasizing the fact that the management of environment still poses a challenge to the Division and therefore calls for strengthened collaboration amongst communities, prioritization, increased resource mobilization and enhanced capacity building to better handle the challenges due to environmental degradation.
12. Thank you for listening to me.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY