

SUMMARIES OF REPORTS THAT INVOLVED ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

A TITLE: COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE - 2003

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Department of Sanitation and Waste Management (DSWM) under Ministry of Local Government is charged with the responsibility to coordinate, monitor, and formulate policies on waste water/sanitation and solid waste management. Local Authorities (LAs) under Ministry of Local Government are responsible to carry out waste management operation in the field. DSWM formulates policies, whereas. Local Authorities implement these instruments to discharge their duties.

1.2 Motivation

The audit was motivated by concerns by the media, members of Parliament, Environmentalist and the general public at large on poor management of waste and protection of the environment.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study were to examine overall framework and waste collection and disposal activity at the Local Authorities level and to come up with recommendations that can improve the system.

2.0 PLANNING

2.1 Audit Criteria

- There should be efficient planning
 - There should be a record of actual collection and disposal of waste
 - Environmental effects should be considered in the selection of landfills
 - Tariffs/rates for the collection and disposal should be enhanced
 - There should be a monitoring system in place.
1. Periodical reports should be generated by Local Authorities (LA's)
 2. Department of sanitation and Waste Management should periodically visit LA's to ensure that the landfills are being operated according to the standard required by the licence conditions.
- There should be enforcement of the Law in littering
 - Penalties should be imposed on offenders who litter

3. METHODOLOGY

In order to complete our audit, the following methodologies were adopted:

3.1 Interviews and Survey

Officers working in the Department of Sanitation and Waste Management, Local Authorities, NGOs, and Environmental Health units were interviewed. Policies, Acts, files and other documents on waste management were examined. The general public was given questionnaires. Landfills and dumping sites were inspected .

3.2 Sites Visits

3.4 Document Reviews

The data of the following Local Authorities was reviewed:

- i) Gaborone City Council,
- ii) Lobatse Town Council
- iii) Kgatleng District Council
- iv) Kweneng District Council (Mogoditshane and Molepolole)
- v) Jwaneng Town Council
- vi) Northwest District Council (Ngami and Chobe)
- vii) Francistown City Council
- viii) Selebi Phikwe Town Council

4. KEY FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Key findings

The following findings could be highlighted as result of audit:

- Department of Sanitation and waste Management (DSWM) was unable to formulate and compile a National Waste Management plan that affected its capability to ensure the accountability of implementing agencies in quantitative terms. Audit was unable to find evidence of the efforts made by DSWM to expedite the preparation of the waste management plans by the LAs. However, it was learnt from the review, that the plans were still in process.
- Non - availability of waste management plans at respective operational units put those agencies at disadvantageous position as they were unable to identify the targets, quantities, scope of work to be done by

each unit during next five years i.e 2000 to 2005. Absence of such planning instrument also had bearing on the capacity of DSWM to monitor and supervise the waste management operation at LAs level effectively.

- There was no mechanism in place at DSWM level to retrieve information from LAs regarding quantities of waste collected and disposed of during a month or quarter as the staff of the department was unable to furnish any such data to us.
- The performance of LAs was affected on account of non-availability of necessary resources that DSWM was required to provide (initially) like landfills, machinery, equipment, and vehicles to implementing agencies for smooth functioning of this activity.
- There was no uniformity of measurement units being adopted by different LAs to record the waste, for example GCC used tons, Kasane loads, and Lobatse used cubic meter. Most of the LAs visited did not even maintain complete data of their respective waste management function.
- Results of a survey conducted by audit revealed that on overall basis, 61% of the people were satisfied with services provided by the Local Authorities in the collection and disposal of waste, whereas, 39% showed their dissatisfaction.

4.2 Conclusions

Absence of Local Authorities Waste Management Plans, and the National Waste Plan, resulted in LAs finding it difficult to operate in a systematic manner. Availability of a national plan could have been instrumental in setting targets and information to measure performance of the LAs. Lack of monitoring and supervision on the part of DSWM resulted in LAs facing problems in executing their duties in an efficient way. Absence of basic infrastructure at some of LAs affected the performance of those units both quantitatively as well as qualitatively. Even performance of the respective LAs was not up to standard as there was no systematic and organized arrangement that could ensure the smooth and efficient functioning of this activity. Quality of this operation was marred due to lack of proper supervision and monitoring even at LAs' level. A considerable number of people (39%) surveyed by the audit showed their dissatisfaction on the performance of LAs regarding waste collection and disposal.

4.3 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Department of Sanitation and Waste Management (DSWM) should formulate and compile a National Waste Management plan as stipulated under Botswana Strategy for Waste Management issued in 1998.

It should also be ensured that all the LAs prepare their respective waste management plans timely and submit to DSWM.

DSWM should develop a framework to coordinate the waste management operations of LAs and to ensure that a mechanism is put in place to retrieve information from LAs regarding quantities of waste collected and disposed of during a month, quarter or annum as well as efficient utilization of equipment and machinery.

Inspections and auditing of the LAs should be carried out as stipulated in the Guidelines 7.5.1 and 7.5.2 in order to improve the quality of collection and disposal of waste.

All waste collected and disposed of should be measured and recorded. A standard and uniform measurement unit should be used, throughout all LAs, for volumes of collected and disposed of waste in order to measure performance of LAs.

LAs should keep uniform and systematic records.

Supervision of day-to-day waste management operations should be strengthened by devising an efficient mechanism through generating of necessary reports on regular basis.

LAs are encouraged to increase awareness on the public about the Public Complaint System.