

Re: Welcome Remarks by Environmental Alert Board Member during the Stakeholder's Dialogue on strategies for improving WASH in urban slums of Kampala, 8th February 2017 at Grand Imperial Hotel.

The Honorable Minister for Water and Environment,

The Senior Environmental Health Officer,

The Country Director, Water Aid Uganda,

The Executive Director, Environmental Alert,

Town Clerks of the respective divisions,

Technical and political division staff,

Distinguished participants,

All protocol observed,

All Partners here present,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Am humbled to welcome you to this gathering of the Stakeholder's dialogue on strategies for improving WASH In urban slums of Kampala. This dialogue is timely because it's happening at the time when the looming climate shift is particularly posing a great risk to human health and livelihood leading to increased spread of diarrhea diseases especially among children under five. Additionally , climate change is making water sources dry up , hence affecting quality and quantity of water accessed and used for numerous activities including meeting hygiene and sanitation needs. As you may be aware, WASH is of paramount importance and no wonder *Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals commits world leaders to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, by 2030.* Furthermore, this corresponds with the Joint sector review undertakings:

Undertaking 4: Coordination, implementation and funding mechanisms for catchment-based IWRM developed based on experiences from on-going work in the 4 Water Management Zones end of FY 15/16.



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Vision: Resilient and dignified communities, managing their environment and natural resources sustainably.

Mission: *To advocate for enabling environment, sustainable natural resources management and food security frameworks for targeted communities through empowerment and policy engagement.*

Contact: Dr. Joshua Zake (PhD), Executive Director, Environmental Alert.

Address: P.O.Box 11259, Kampala; Tel: 0414510547; Email: ed@envalert.org; Website: <http://envalert.org/>

Undertaking 5: Develop a national drinking water quality framework taking into account the World Health Organization (WHO) drinking water guidelines, national water quality management strategy, and the Uganda Standard (2008) on drinking (potable) water.

Undertaking 6: Develop a detailed action plan to improve the sustainability of small towns and rural piped water systems, establish the baseline and start monitoring improvements by FY 2015/16.

As we reflect on the theme for the dialogue which stands as, '**Designing effective advocacy Strategies for Improving WASH in the Urban Slums of Kampala, what works and what does not work,**' I am optimistic that by the end of this dialogue, we shall have shared experiences, lessons, best practice, information and drawn recommendations for effective strategies in promoting WASH in urban Slums of Kampala. In addition, we anticipate a renewed commitment by all stakeholders to place additional efforts towards improving service delivery for WASH. Furthermore, this dialogue sets pace for joint stakeholder assessment to identify problems and effective solutions in implementation of WASH Programmes.

The dialogue has drawn participation of key stakeholders namely representatives from the Ministry of Water and Environment, KCCA staff including both technical and political staff as well as strategic partners/CSOs implementing WASH in Kampala. In addition community representatives such as advocacy groups, divisional forum, VHTs and CBO representatives all form part of this dialogue. All these and others who are not here have critical and important roles to play at local, national and international levels.

EA continues to engage different stakeholders in civic awareness campaigns and sharing lessons and best of practice from delivery of WASH Interventions in the target communities.

As you may be aware, Environmental Alert (EA) is a Ugandan Non-Governmental Organization, founded in 1988. EA envisions, '**resilient and dignified communities, managing their environment and natural resources sustainably.**' In respect to EA's mission of, '**advocating for an enabling environment, sustainable natural resource management and food security frameworks for targeted communities through empowerment and policy engagement,**' EA is committed to contributing and facilitating policy dialogue at the local, sub-regional and national levels to address development issues like climate change and variability among others.

I wish to extend my appreciation to our friends and development partners and in a special way I would like to thank **Water Aid Uganda, and KCCA** for the financial and technical support towards implementation of these initiatives.

Furthermore, I wish to thank EA's partners and stakeholders over the years for the good working relationship and collaboration.



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I wish all of you fruitful deliberations during this stakeholder's dialogue.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for listening.

I hereby invite the Senior Environmental Health Officer, Ms. Trina Kyomugisha to give the key note address.

**Mr. Patrick Kivumbi, Board Secretary,
Environmental Alert.**



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