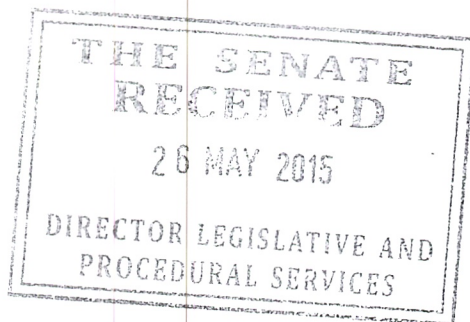




MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

State Department of Environment and Natural
Resources



DLPS
D/Com
Please deal.
25/05/15

Ministerial Statement regarding the opening of a multi-
million shillings battery assembly factory in Naivasha,
Nakuru County

19th May, 2015

- 3) Jackline / Ms. Macharia
- a) Copy to Sen. Njiragu and
to Secretary, Committee on
Health.
- b) File copy.
26/05/15

DLPS
Please schedule for
issue at the earliest
opportunity. Give a
copy to Sen. Ben. Njoroge
26/5/15

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE OPENING OF A MULTI-MILLION SHILLINGS BATTERY ASSEMBLY FACTORY IN NAIVASHA, NAKURU COUNTY

Background

Hon. Chair, I wish to inform this Committee that the factory in question is known as Ganesh Eco Solutions limited. It is a recycling facility located in Naivasha, Nakuru County. The facility has been licensed to manufacture copper cables, lead acid batteries, automotive spare parts, smelting and lead recycling.

On May 2014, the company submitted a project report for the proposed factory. After the initial review, the project was upgraded to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study. The study report was submitted to National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) on 13th August 2014 for an indepth review. A public hearing on the project was conducted on the 6th November 2014.

This was followed by licensing of the facility on 27th November 2014 to pave way for operations. On 9th April 2015, NEMA inspectors visited the facility and realized that it was not adhering to the license conditions in respect to pollution prevention.

Consequently, on 4th May 2015, the Manager of the factory was issued with a closure order requiring him to close the used batteries recycling plant.

Hon. Chair, allow me to now respond to the specific questions as raised by Sen. Ben Njoroge.

Question 1

Whether the risks and dangers involved have been evaluated and explained to the residents

Answer

Hon. Chair, the environmental impact assessment conducted for the factory outlined the impacts associated with the activities of the factory and even went further to propose measures the company was to adopt to mitigate the adverse impacts. This report was put on the NEMA website and an advert put in the newspapers for the public to read and understand the risks associated with the factory activities and give their comments before NEMA licensed the factory.

During the EIA process, the residents were consulted in which the impacts associated with the process were outlined. The public was encouraged to give comments on how best to manage the operations with a view to minimizing the negative impacts.

The EIA report for the facility was subjected to a public hearing which was held on the 6th November, 2014. The investor was given an opportunity to explain to the public about the facility including the risks associated with its activities.

Hon. Chair, allow me to now respond to the specific questions as raised by Sen. Ben Njoroge.

Question 1

Whether the risks and dangers involved have been evaluated and explained to the residents

Answer

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Question 2.

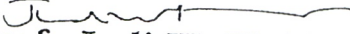
Whether the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was exhaustively conducted?

Answer

Hon. Chair, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was exhaustively done. It was subjected to all the EIA steps as outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment and audit regulations of 2006. This was done as follows:-

- The Investor initially conducted an environmental assessment and submitted a project report to NEMA on 12th May 2014.
- The report was reviewed and due to the risks associated with the proposed project, the Investor was advised to upgrade the assessment to an EIA study which allows for an in-depth assessment and wider public consultations.
- On submission of the study report, NEMA organized a public hearing to discuss the assessment. Public hearing in the EIA process is where all stakeholders and the owners of the project interact and decide on the way forward concerning a proposed project. The public hearing for the establishment of Ganesh Eco solutions was well attended with the area MP Hon. John Karanja Kihagi, the area MCA Hon. Samuel Waithuki and the Director of Environment, Nakuru County being in attendance. The members present resolved that NEMA should license the factory. The factory was then licensed on 27th May 2014 with

For instance, the company was issued with a closure order on 4th May 2015 due to non-compliance with all license conditions and standard operating procedures for a high risk facility of this nature.


Prof. Judi W. Wakhungu
Cabinet Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Water and
Natural Resources

clear conditions aimed at safeguarding the workers, the environment and the general public.

Question 3.

Whether in the view of the health hazards posed by similar factories elsewhere in the country, a new factory should be allowed to commence operation.

Answer

Hon. Chair, recycling helps reduce the amount of waste in the environment and the risks associated with it. In the absence of recycling factories, items that have reached their end of life such as old car batteries, old computers and other recyclable waste will be left to litter the environment or be disposed off at dumpsites. This would pose a bigger threat to human beings and the environment since their contents would pollute ground water, surface water, air and the soil.

Hon. Chair, it is in order to license new factories to recycle hazardous waste as long as they adhere to the set operation procedures and implementation of the proposed mitigation measures to minimize adverse effects on environment and the general public or risk closure if the conditions imposed are violated.