



LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL E-WASTE MANAGEMENT CENTER IN UGANDA



Dr. Tom O. Okurut
Executive Director, NEMA

Uganda is launching a National E-waste Management Centre on Thursday June 10, 2021.

This is a collaborative initiative under the National Steering Committee on E-waste Management in Uganda comprising of the various stakeholders in the e-waste management value chain; National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED), National IT Authority of Uganda (NITA-U), Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), Uganda Investment Authority (UIA), Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), National Enterprise Corporation (NEC), Academia representation.

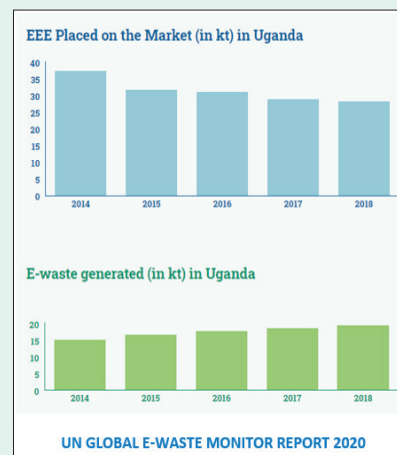
Electronic Waste (E-waste) in simple terms may be referred to as all items of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and its components that have been discarded by their owner as waste without intent of re-use.

The improper disposal of e-waste has become a global environmental threat because some components of these equipment contain toxic and hazardous substances and some are considered to be cancer causing substances. The informal recycling and incineration of components for material recovery also produces toxic fumes that are usually persistent organic pollutants and contribute to the greenhouse gas emissions as well as sludge from melting processes that contaminate soil and water.

The increasing penetration and generation rate of EEE and their

short replacement cycles is the major reason for the current exponential growth of the amount of e-waste in the country. Improper disposal of e-waste poses environment, health, safety and security risks.

According to the Global E-waste Monitor Report 2020 by the United Nations, the e-waste generated in Uganda was estimated at 17,000 tons in 2018, and a projection of 4500 tons of e-waste from end user ICT devices per year from 2018 to 2022 (UCC, 2020).



The Government of Uganda recognized the challenges posed by e-waste and put in place an enabling environment in an attempt to facilitate its adequate and sustainable management.

This is demonstrated by the existence of the National Environment Act, 2019, the National Environment (waste management) Regulations 2020, the E-Waste Management Policy 2012, the E-Waste Management Strategic Plan, and the E-Waste Guidelines 2016.

A National Steering Committee on E-waste Management comprising relevant key stakeholders in the e-waste management value chain has been in place since 2016 to implement the national e-waste policy and put in place a sustainable e-waste management system in the country.

Government has gone a step further to establish the National E-waste Management Facility.

The NEC has come on board to work with all the stakeholders to run the e-waste management centre as the designated national e-waste collector. This facility is located on Plot 66, 6th Street, Industrial Area, Nakawa Division in Kampala

The facility has been established to ensure safe and sustainable management of e-waste, and to mitigate the health and environment impact that would occur as a result of improper management of the waste at end of life and disposal. The facility shall thus cater for material recovery, reuse, refurbishment and recycling.

The National E-waste Management Centre shall be the main and pivotal e-waste management facility in the country managed by the NEC with oversight, regulation and coordination by NEMA. Initially, the facility shall collect, sort, dismantle and dispose e-waste and shall progress towards a refurbishment and recycling facility. It is expected that regional collection centres shall be established to supplement the national e-waste management centre.

The advantage with this set up (the management Centre) is that it will ride on the expertise of already existing waste treatment and disposal facilities located in Nakasongola managed by the same entity, which also has high regard to security for the waste received.

The dangers caused by poor e-waste management demands for deliberate efforts from the general public, private sector and government to work together towards safe disposal of e-waste.

The established national e-waste management centre provides an opportunity for a coordinated mechanism in dealing with this potential threat and therefore needs to be supported.

We therefore call on the public not to discard e-waste together with other domestic waste. The national E-waste collection centre is now open to receive all your e-waste.

Statement By Maj. Gen Sabiiti Muzeyi PSC NDC, General Manager, Luwero Industries Limited (LIL) - NEC at the Launch of the National E-Waste Management Centre in Uganda

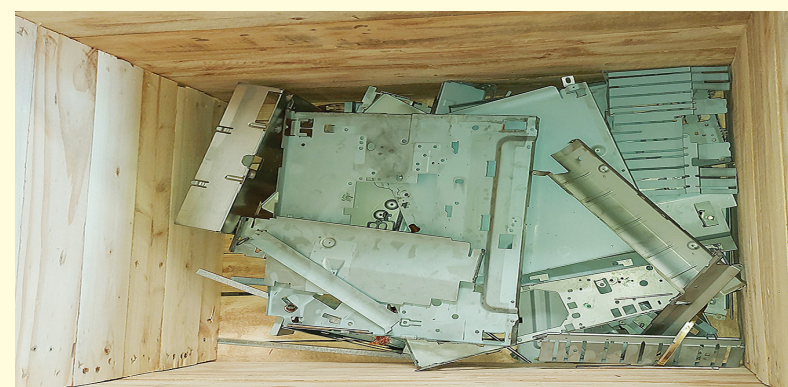


Maj. Gen. Sabiiti Muzeyi,
Psc Ndc General Manager -
Luwero Industries Ltd.

National Enterprise Corporation was established in 1989 by an Act of Parliament to serve as a commercial arm of Ministry of Defense and Veteran Affairs/Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF).

Its mandate is to produce goods and services that are beneficial to the Defense Forces, veterans of UPDF and the general public. Its commercial ventures are undertaken through its subsidiaries and Joint Ventures.

NEC subsidiaries are: Luwero Industries Ltd, NEC Construction, Works and Engineering Ltd, NEC Uzima Ltd, NEC Farm-Katonga Ltd and NEC AGRO SMC Ltd. NEC's vision is to become a sustainable commercial arm of the Uganda Defense Forces that generates goods and services for progressive socio-economic transformation and development among the Defense Forces, Veterans of UPDF and the civil society. The National Enterprise Corporation (NEC) is proud to be part of the e-waste



solution in Uganda, by bringing to life the realization of the National E-waste Management Centre.

Since 2002, Luwero Industries Ltd (LIL), a subsidiary of the NEC which is a commercial arm of the Ministry of Defense/UPDF- has received, treated and disposed of both hazardous and non-hazardous waste with an annual average of 500 tons. In addition to these waste streams, NEC-LIL has treated and disposed of waste from Oil and Gas operations.

Working with different partners, and recognizing the dangers caused by improper e-waste management, an e-waste management centre has been established. The facility is located at 6th Street, Bugolobi, Kampala and is managed by NEC.

NEC shall be the designated national e-waste collector with oversight, regulation and coordination by the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA).

We can state that we are in position to ably manage with expertise driven from our already existing waste management facility mindful of security as well.

Specifically, the facility will;

- Be responsible for e-waste management (collection, sorting, dismantling, storage, material recovery, recycling, final disposal).
- Receive e-waste from public institutions, private sector and the general public.

NEC-LIL has already put in place standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the management and safe disposal of e-waste.

For the successful and sustainable management of e-waste, we implore all Ugandans to cooperate. Awareness is key in mitigating the health and environmental hazards caused by improper disposal of e-waste.

UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION - RAPID INNOVATION IN THE ICT ECOSYSTEM AND THE NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE E-WASTE MANAGEMENT



Eng. Irene Kaggwa Sewankambo
Ag. Executive Director, UCC

Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) as the Regulator of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector has a vision of "a digitally enabled economy". In this vision, we see a Uganda whose social economic growth is hinged on the uptake and meaningful usage of ICT and connectivity.

In the last two and a half decades, there has been tremendous increase in importation and uptake of ICT based electrical and electronics equipment (EEE) in Uganda. This has mainly been due to the elimination of trade barriers in the importation of ICT equipment, liberalisation of the telecommunications sector in 2006, and the development of e-initiatives to improve service delivery.

The high turnover of ICT equipment and devices comes with the fast technology advancement, replacement rate and short life cycles leading to an enormous increase in generation of e-waste, which is now considered as one of the fastest growing solid waste in the world.

A mobile phone may be used for a period of 5 months to 2 years, while a refrigerator or washing machine may be used from 5 - 10 years. Currently in Uganda, there are 29M mobile phone subscribers, over 32% internet subscriptions and an estimate of 24M devices in use.

UCC, as a key stakeholder in the sustainable e-waste management value chain has collaborated with other stakeholders at the national level (National Environment Management Authority - NEMA, United Nations Bureau of Standards - UNBS, National IT Authority of Uganda - NITA-U, National Enterprises Corporation - NEC, Academia, Uganda Revenue Authority - URA, Uganda National Bureau of Statistics - UBOS, Kampala Capital City Authority - KCCA, Consumers, etc), regional level (East African Community-EAC, East African Communications Organisation-EACO, African Telecommunications Union-ATU) and international level (International Telecommunications Union-ITU, United Nations-UN), in contributing to initiatives and strategies geared towards sustainable e-waste management.

In 2019 - 2020, UCC undertook a countrywide collaborative study on the end of life (EoL) management of ICT equipment to guide and inform its regulatory intervention in ensuring that ICT equipment are managed appropriately right from import through to use and disposal.

The study projected an average of 4.5 kilo tons of end user ICT devices each year from 2018 to 2022. The study also provided key recommendations among others; to incorporate sustainable strategies as an approach to address product and equipment obsolescence in the national regulatory framework, to develop a permanent collaboration mechanism for EoL management, and to develop strategies of attracting Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in sustainable e-waste management.



The National Steering Committee on E-waste Management (NSCEW) in Uganda comprising of various stakeholders in the e-waste management value chain was established in 2016 with an objective to implement the e-waste policy and put in place a sustainable e-waste management system in Uganda. The NSCEW has representation at the Regional Steering Committee under the EACO and has contributed to the development of the Regional Strategy on E-waste Management.

It is exciting to be at this point of implementation of an e-waste management center in collaboration with the NEMA and NEC. The establishment of this facility provides Uganda with an opportunity for safe and sustainable management of EEE at their end of life. This is bringing our policy documents and frameworks to life. We intend to leverage on synergies to ensure the sustainability and scalability of the center. Uganda's actions and interests in sustainable e-waste management speak to SDG2030 goals related to environmental protection and health, as well as employment and economic growth, i.e., **Goal 3** (Good health and Well-being), **Goal 6** (Clean water and Sanitation), **Goal 11** (Sustainable Cities and Communities), **Goal 12** (Responsible Consumption and Production), **Goal 14** (Life Below Water), and **Goal 8** (Decent Work and Economic Growth).



UCC calls on all its stakeholders to take all necessary measures to plan for safe disposal of e-waste to mitigate the hazards which can arise from used ICT devices and equipment.



UCC further encourages all stakeholders to support the establishment and operationalization of this center, as an opportunity to have coherent and harmonized data and actions on safe disposal of e-waste, for adequate standardization. We look forward to enhanced stakeholder engagement and collaborations, to build capacity through learning and benchmarking from the best and to ensure that there is visible impact towards this cause.