

AIR POLLUTION/PARTICULATE MATTER REFLECTING ON POLICIES, LAWS, REGULATIONS AND INTERVENTION INITIATIVES-TANZANIA CASE.

FIRST INDIA-AFRICA AND MEDIA BRIEFING ON AIR QUALITY AND MOBILITY

Organized by MESHA at Eastland Hotel- Nairobi, Kenya on 27th February, 2015

BACKGROUND AND AN OVERVIEW

This presentation tackles and addresses air pollution with reflection on particulate matter that is suspended in the atmosphere or environment in general. Citing Tanzania air quality intervention in terms of Policies, laws, regulations existence and enforcement/compliance efforts.

Air pollution is a presence or interference of physical particles, chemicals or biological things in surrounding atmosphere that can damage the environment and cause harm or bring displeasure to living things. More recently it's scientifically inferred that air pollution threat attributes to global warming which accelerates climate change.

What is Particulate Matter?

Particulate matter (PM) is an air pollution term for a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air. The pollutant comes in a variety of sizes and can be composed of many types of materials and chemicals. Particles that are small enough to be inhaled have the potential to cause health effects. Of particular concern is a class of particles known as fine particulate matter or PM_{2.5} that gets deep into the lung. There are many sources of PM. The air pollutant can originate from natural processes, like forest fires and wind erosion, and from human activities, like agricultural practices, smokestacks, car emissions, and construction. Examples include dust, dirt, soot, soil, and smoke. In the case of how Tanzania is dealing with Air pollution; Actions taken include enactment and enforcement of Environmental Policy 1997, Environmental Management Act, 2004 and Air pollution Quality Standard Regulation, 2007. Other initiatives include, Tanzania being the carbon Cities Climate Registry Member where as Cities of Arusha, Moshi Municipality and Dar-Es Salaam are conforming to data generation and reporting on Air pollution that started in the year 2014.

What are policies, laws and regulations all direct in Tanzania.

- **Environmental Policy on air pollution stipulates that;**
On transport, section 51 states that, the transport sector shall focus on the following environmental objectives:
(a) Improvement in mass transport system to reduce fuel consumptions, traffic congestion and pollution
(b) Control and minimization of transport emissions such as gaseous, noise, dust and particulates
(c) Disaster/spill prevention and response plans and standards shall be formulated for transportation of hazardous/dangerous materials.
Section 100 of policy stipulates, the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) shall retain its advisory role (implies authoritative role). It shall enforce pollution control and perform technical arbitration role in the undertaking of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- **Environmental Management Act (EMA) 2004, on air pollution directs;**
EMA Part X, section 145 is about Air Quality Standard where as section 230(2) is about formulation of Air Quality Standard regulations.
- **Air quality standard regulations, 2007 gives guidance as follows;**
Part II; shows the establishment of National Environmental Standard Committee with the following functions;
(4) Setting minimum standard of air quality
(5) Ambient, Receptor emission and specification standards
(6) Publication of Air Quality Standards

Intervention status

Tanzania addresses Air pollution by ways of multi-faceted approaches ranging from adaptations, mitigations or application of both traditionally and technologically sound resilient methods.

Three cities of Tanzania namely, Arusha, Dar Es Salaam and Moshi Municipality are members of carbon Climate Change Registry (cCCR) based in Bonn Germany).

The Health and Economic effects of Air Pollution

Section 130-132 of Tanzania Environmental Management Act 2004 call for control of air pollutants in human settlement, industries and vehicles. This has been followed by formulation of Air Quality Standard, regulations 2007. As per regulations, the National Environmental Management Council is required to identify major air Pollution sources and take the appropriate actions.

The health effects caused by air pollutants include biochemical and physiological changes to difficulty in breathing, persistent coughing, affecting respiratory and cardio-vascular systems. Studies show that air pollution can cause cancer and disrupts the body immune system

Though there are no available extensive studies on direct and indirect **economic impacts** of air pollution, yet its obvious money, time and discomfort associated with treating diseases like coughs, tuberculosis, asthma, pneumonia plus cost of mitigations and adaptations.

Remark, let's work as adhering to meet and maintain air pollution permissible levels.

The following documents will be shared as part of presentation elaboration;

1. Tanzania Air Quality Standard Regulations, 2007

2. carbon Climate Change Registry (cCCR, based in Bonn Germany)- an up to date status report.

THANK YOU!

CONTACT;

PETRO AHHAM

MESO/ANGONET

P.O.BOX 229,

ARUSHA, TANZANIA

PHONE; +255754 467472

E-MAIL: mesotz@yahoo.com

