

Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA)

The Regulatory body committed to improving the Environment

Welcome address by the General Manager Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency on
Electronic Waste Management in Lagos State.



It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this sensitization on E-waste, which will provide the way forward that are needed to arrest gradual stockpiling of e-waste.

I congratulate Messrs Maintenance System Consultant and Management, Staff of the Agency (LASEPA) for bringing the dangers related to electronics waste management to public glare. As at today, many users do not understand the hazard associated with the use of faulty or obsolete electronic equipment. It is to be noted that Nigeria is a developing country with a high penchant for imported goods including new and faulty electrical/electronic appliances. The legal and illegal importation of these appliances into the country is creating serious human and environmental problems due to their unsound management.

Electronic Waste otherwise referred to as e-waste has been defined by technocrats as unwanted, obsolete or unusable electronics/electrical products. It is also defined as an electrically powered appliance that no longer satisfies the current owner for its original purpose. In other words e-waste is considered to be loosely applied to consumer and business electronic equipment that is near or at the end of its useful life. The equipments that are mostly affected as agent of e-waste are PCs, DVDs, VCDs, Microwaves, Camcorders, Cameras, Cell Phones Televisions, Radios, Videos and Telecom Equipments etc.

Findings from the agency revealed that most of the companies give out this e-waste to their staff at a give-away price and this practice is not acceptable to the state government policy due to their hazardous nature.

When you look around our environment, it has been degraded through proliferation of these illegally dumped gadgets into the nooks and crannies our communities. Therefore, there is need for massive enlightenment and awareness campaign in schools, markets and other end users of these products in order to promote the sustainable environment.

In this collective responsibility, safety and sustainability should be made to work whereby the governments provide environmental policies and the compliance rest with manufacturers, importers and other stake holders.

I would like to emphasize that waste management goes beyond solid and effluents being generated in industries. E-waste is a silent bomb which diffuses into our environment without given any known sign or warning but its effect could span over a life time. Urgent step need to be taken in order to mop all these obsolete and faulty electronic that litter our dump site, electronic market and our environment.

We need to make concerted effort in making our state more habitable in consonance with the new mega city status we are planning to attend within the shortest possible time. Once the deposit from the dumping of the electronic equipment infiltrates into the soil, the poison is unimaginable and could be horrifying.



Heavy metals such as silicon, lead, mercury, cadmium etc. have been found in rivers, lakes and other fish water with adverse effects on the mutating prone cells and human beings which have been trace to illegal and indiscriminate dumping of these e-waste in to water bodies, thereby percolating into the soil strata. In serious cases deformities in new birth in mammals can attest to this illegality.

It is noteworthy to mention part of the electronic equipment that is hazard prone when indiscriminately disposed or burnt. These are the integrated circle (IC) transformers, capacitors, cathode-ray tubes (CRTs), resistors etc. and not the coupling materials.

In conclusion, you would all agree with me that urgent action is required to mop up these impending hazards in terms of Policies, Legislation, Monitoring and Management of electronic equipments imported and distributed within our state in order to promote a healthy and sustainable environment in which generation yet unborn will be proud of.

