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**IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY**

ON THE

**E-WASTE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
REPUBLIC OF GHANA REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION,
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND SOCIÉTÉ
GÉNÉRAL DE SURVEILLANCE SA (SGS)**

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY

July, 2018

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON THE E-WASTE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRAL DE SURVEILLANCE SA (SGS)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Prof. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng, on Friday 20th July, 2017, laid before the House, the E-Waste Management Agreement between the Republic of Ghana represented by the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Société Général de Surveillance SA (SGS).

Pursuant to Article 75 (2) (b) of the 1992 Constitution and Standing Order 185, Mr. Speaker referred the agreement to the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology for consideration and report to the House.

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee met with the Deputy Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovations, Hon. Patricia Appiagyei, the Ag. Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Mr. John Pwamang and Officials from his Ministry and the Agency discussed the contents of the agreement.

The Committee is grateful to all who participated in the deliberation and the elucidation provided on the agreement.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following documents during deliberations;

- a. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana
- b. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana

- c. The e-waste management agreement between the Republic of Ghana represented by the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, the Environmental Protection Agency and Société Général de Surveillance SA (SGS).
- d. The Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act, 2017 (Act 917).

4.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Africa's biggest E-waste dump at Agbobloshie is estimated to generate a significant proportion of the world's 11.2 billion tonnes of solid waste. This volume of e-waste continues to grow on yearly basis posing varying environmental and economic hazards to the country. The increasing volumes and complexity of waste associated with the modern economy possess serious risk to ecosystems and human health.

Wastes from electrical/electronic equipment, end-of-life vehicles, used tires containing new and complex hazardous substances present the fast-growing challenges in both developed and developing countries. Exposures to hazardous substances in and around sites, dismantling electronic and electrical waste (e-waste) pose numerous health and safety risk for waste collectors, recyclers and neighbouring communities. Marginalised populations disproportionately suffer the negative effects of improper e-waste disposal practices.

Processing electronic waste presents a serious health threat to workers at Agbobloshie. The fumes released from the burning of the plastics and metals used in electronics are composed of highly toxic chemicals and carcinogens. Workers often inhale lead, cadmium, dioxins, furans, phthalates and brominated flame retardants.

Exposure to these fumes is especially hazardous to children, as these toxins are known to inhibit the development of the reproductive system, nervous system, and the brain in particular. In similar e-waste productive areas with

conditions and demographics like those of Agbogbloshie, 80% of the children have dangerous levels of lead in their blood. Inhabitants often suffer from chronic nausea, headaches, chest and respiratory problems. High levels of toxins have also been discovered in soil and food samples as these chemicals stay in the food chain.

It is in view of the above that an Act to provide for the control, management and disposal of hazardous waste, electrical waste and for related purposes was passed in 2016.

5.0 JUSTIFICATION FOR ACTION

The implementation of the provisions of the agreement would help Ghana avoid the incidence of becoming a dumping ground for hazardous waste products. It would provide for objective reports on the nature of shipments declared as “used” products rather than “wastes”.

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and its implementing agency, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will embark on a programme for the physical collection of electronic waste products and recycling them responsibly. The programme will be the main game-changer in the government’s effort to protect the population and the environment from harmful effects of the hazardous materials found in electronic products.

The implementation of the innovative solution designed has the potential to create over 20,000 full time jobs for the youth including those engaged in the practice of burning e-waste items across the country within the first year of implementation. The ecological environment will also be improved.

The management of the e-waste programme will enable the country achieve six (6) of the Strategic Development Goals (SDG). They include Goal three (Good health and well-being), Goal six (Clean water and sanitation), Goal eleven (Sustainable cities and Communities), Goal 12 (Reasonable consumption and production), Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and Goal 14 (Life below water).

The programme will help to generate an estimated revenue of approximately 100 million USD annually to the government through the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and the EPA.

Diseases like heavy metal poisoning and malaria brought about by the burning of e-waste will also be prevented.

The project will additionally, spur on new job opportunities directly for those who will collect of the e-waste and indirectly for those who will buy recovered materials.

6.0 SELECTED OPTION

Under the Basel Convention with regards to the operationalisation of the agreement, the Ministry and EPA had two options to choose from, the first was to review the importation of all shipments into the country marked as waste or used items. The second was for EPA to collaborate with a globally networked private firm that undertakes an innovative modular approach and allows for the physical inspection of shipments, to determine the country of origin and the validity of each consignment, to ascertain if the e-waste is a used or new item. It will further involve the application of a scheme that will see to the collection of Advanced Recycle Eco Fees on all regulated electrical and electronic items, under the polluter pay principle. An e-waste recycling plant would be built to address the challenge of e-waste dumping in the country.

The second option has been chosen since it provides a comprehensive e-waste management solution.

In choosing the option, the Ministries of Education, Sports, Health Finance Forestry and Mines Local Government and Rural Development, Trade and Industry were consulted.

7.0 WORK PLAN

The sensitization work plan towards the commencement of the project is as follows:

- a. Develop a national communication campaign exposing the e-waste pollution disaster in Ghana and the proactive solutions being introduced by the government under the SGS Renovo Solutions in Act 917
- b. Programme launch, national media placement and public communication campaign
- c. programme business process modelling
- d. Capacity enhancement and knowledge shared through interactions with stakeholders

A detailed communication action plan will be drawn to sensitise all stakeholders towards the implementation of the programme. The plan will focus on the dangers of the e-waste to the environment and human life. A budget will be created out of the programme implementation scheme to manage all activities nationwide.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial requirement from Government towards the implementation of the project. The Ministry and EPA would enter into contractual agreement with SGS as the designated external service provider pursuant to Section 21 of Act 917, 2016.

- a. SGS shall use its presence in the over 200 countries globally to assess the advance Recycle Eco Fee for the government of Ghana through the Ministry and its agency. SGS shall remit the revenues generated from the collection of the advanced eco levy on the agreed terms.
- b. SGS shall retain 15% of the net Eco levy to be collected and remit 85% collected on a monthly basis to the Government of Ghana.

9.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee made the following observation and recommendations:

9.1 COLLECTION OF ECO-LEVY

The Committee was informed that Société Général de Surveillance SA (SGS) as the designated external service provider would collect advanced recycling eco fees on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology and the Environmental Protection Agency. The levy would be collected from authorities in countries from which electronic and electrical waste products are exported. SGS will retain 15% of the levy collected and 85% would be remitted to the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Upon enquiring about the appropriateness of fee charged by SGS, the Committee was informed that the standard percentage fee charged by companies that collect recycling eco fees are between 20% and 35%. The fees for SGS contract engagement on similar activities in Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Togo were 25%, 35% and 20% respectively. Thus, the Committee considered the percentage charge to be paid to SGS as relatively low and urges that it be approved.

Pursuant to Section 28 of the Hazardous and Electronic Waste Control and Management Act, 2017 (Act 917), an electronic platform where all stakeholders could access to monitor the levy collected by SGS to ensure that accurate reporting would be established.

9.2 SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT

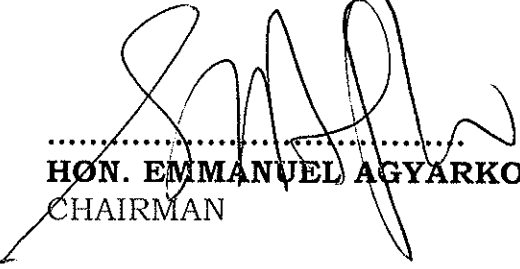
On the issue of the sole sourcing of the Contractor which had been approved by the PPA pursuant to Section 40(2) of Act 663, the Committee was informed that SGS is currently promoting, a patented application to do service globally, and other West African Countries have signed up to it. SGS had been chosen due to their track records and efficiency. The Committee recommends that the company chosen should ensure that they operate according to

international and local best practices to ensure that e-wastes are properly recycled for the benefit of society.

10.0 CONCLUSION

The indiscriminate disposal of e-waste has adverse environmental and health implications. Developing countries face economic challenges and lack infrastructure for sound hazardous waste management. They also lack effective recycling regulatory frameworks for the management of the hazardous waste. It is again expensive to treat these complex wastes in an environmentally sound manner. It is in view of this that the Committee requests the House to adopt its report and to approve the agreement to ensure that e-waste in Ghana is properly disposed of and treated to prevent all its accompanying diseases.

Respectfully submitted



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HON. EMMANUEL AGYARKO
CHAIRMAN



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ANITA QUARTEY-PAPAFIO
CLERK

