Abstract

Topic: The Business of Water, Wastewater & Solid Waste; Privatization, Public/Private Cooperation

Title: Building a strong institutional capacity in the solid waste sector - a move for sustainable development -

by Mr. Alston Stewart
Executive Chairman
National Solid Waste Authority (Jamaica)
61 HWT Rd, Kingston 10, Jamaica
astewart@nswma.gov.ja

Traditionally, Solid Waste Management (SWM) has been the responsibility of the local authorities which with a large portfolio did not give the necessary attention and technical approach to this integral component of the sanitation sector.

In great portion of the past decade SWM in Jamaica was not technically organized resulting in low service coverage, insufficient resources, widespread uncontrolled dumping with the consequent environmental problems.

The protection of the environment is of outmost priority for the Government of Jamaica as Tourism represents the most important foreign exchange earner.
The effect of deficient SWM in Jamaica’s water resources and the impact on the recreational waters demanded a holistic approach in which central government intervention was required. The government understanding the importance of private sector participation as a means of enhancing efficiency and lowering cost through the introduction of commercial principles is working assiduously towards customer satisfaction.

It is believed that by achieving customer satisfaction, the promotion of hygiene practices and adequate behavior towards SWM can also be achieved.

All these need to be done in an environment in which contestable markets are created, with appropriate regulatory framework and operational standards.

This paper highlights the efforts of the Government of Jamaica in retaining the responsibility for SWM ensuring that all sectors are involved in a concerted effort to provide a service that meets required standards in terms of reliability, efficiency, customer relations and environmental protection.