**ABLEKUMA CENTRAL MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY**

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SANITATION UNIT**

**REPORT ON NOISE AWARENESS CREATION BY THE ASSEMBLY IN COLLABORATION WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY(EPA) TO VARIOUS CHURCHES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY AS AT 7TH JUNE, 2023:**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Environmental Health and Sanitation unit(EHSU) is a section of the Assembly responsible for sanitation management. It focuses on health promotion and development of broad based strategies, and the enforcement of sanitation laws to prevent diseases and reduce environmental hazards in communities by eliminating the causative nuisances. Some common nuisances detected among others are; Solid and liquid Waste, Insanitary drain s, noise pollution, etc.

The Environmental Protection Agency on the other hand, as a whole body on its own, is dedicated to improving, conserving and promoting the country's environment and striving for environmentally sustainable development with sound, efficient resource management, taking into account social and equity issues. It oversees the implementation of the National Environment Policy.

A focus on the predomination of noise pollution especially among some churches led to a collaborative effort to organise a meeting. The meeting was a fusion of both the EPA and the EHSU to meet up with the various churches within the AbCMA.

**OBJECTIVES**

The main aim behind the meeting was to sensitise, health educates and implement on the various churches present at the meeting, the regulatory directives on noise by the EPA.

The listed below among others were some outlined objectives of the EPA;

1. Legal and regulatory framework on noise nuisances.

2. What noise pollution is and the source of it.

3. Effect of noise nuisance.

4. EPA ambient noise standards.

5. Regulatory role of EPA in noise pollution control.

6. Environmental permit requirements for churches.

7. Role of churches in noise pollution control.

**ACTIVITY**

The meeting took course at 10:30am and finished at around 1.00pm. It got started at exactly when the MCE put in an appearance to chair the meeting. After an opening prayer by one of the representatives of the various churches present, a PowerPoint presentation of the topic at hand was facilitated by a representative of the EPA personnel alongside the Municipal Environmental Health Officer covering the topic, Noise Awareness Creation. There was a segment for Question and answers after which the meeting was brought to a close with a closing prayer.

**CHALLENGES**:

Despite a successful meeting in the end, the stated below among others were some few challenges met during the meeting;

1. Length of meeting. The duration of the meeting exceeded beyond the scheduled time due to several factors such as too much questions from the invited representatives, etc.

2. Misconceptions among the representatives of the various churches, about the EPA being dedicated to health promoting of a sustainable development of our environment rather than "targeting the Church".

3. Lack of tools and equipment needed to facilitate the meeting. The absence of some tools such as the noise detector led to a little pullback from achieving a maximum objective of the meeting's purpose.

4. Information overload. Despite the fact that, the interaction of the various churches representatives was very appealing, there were some unnecessary concerns that were generated. For example, the concern of the churches on the noise band from the traditional authorities was a very important discussion at a wrong meeting as EPA has no influence in such regulatory measures.

5. The absence of the MCE as the chair person, over weighing her presence had a little effect to the effectiveness of the meeting.

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

In conclusion, the meeting was successful and to recommend, the stated below should be given a second thought;

Provide materials beforehand: Sending and distributing materials before the meeting can prepare attendees with the information they need beforehand. Meetings can be shorter and more efficient when each person is ready to discuss.

The rightful equipment needed to render a proper facilitation of meeting's agenda should be provided.

The people leading and speaking at the meeting can be a meeting challenge. You may prefer to have someone present who can't be or need attendants there who can't make it. Preparing backup plans and recording information about the meeting beforehand can make it easier to overcome meeting challenges with speakers and guests.

Appendix:

Attached are some pictures taken during the meeting;











