



# FUTA NEWS

INADEQUATE FUNDING, CLIMATE CHANGE BANE OF CLEAN ENVIRONMENT  
—LAWMA Boss

Inadequate funding, lack of adequate infrastructure, climate change, politics and low response to public enlightenment are some of the factors militating against a clean and safe environment in Nigeria. Managing Director of Lagos State Waste Management Agency [LAWMA], Mr. Oladimeji Oresanya stated this while delivering the 7th Annual Lecture of the School of Sciences, Federal University of Technology, Akure on Tuesday, 19th August, 2014. He spoke on the topic "Safe Environment: Issues and Challenges".

Oresanya said "A major component for efficient management of waste is fund. Its adequacy, timeliness or otherwise often determines the success of collection, transportation and disposal by the responsible agency. Also, inadequate infrastructure occasioned by the demand gap with rapid population growth and housing demand, and technology coupled with wet nature of some of our environment and low compliance to awareness and advocacy are factors militating against having a clean environment".

Other major factors militating against operators of waste management to achieve a safe environment are technology, people's attitude and transportation. According to the LAWMA boss the processing and/or treatment of solid waste is highly dependent on technology. Technology which encompasses methods, procedures as well as equipment processing and treatment occupy important position in the scheme of efficient solid waste management and is indeed an important intervention.

Speaking on the way to a safe environment in the country, Oresanya recommended the adoption of the four Rs. These are Reduction, Reuse, Recovery and Recycling. He said if the four Rs are properly adopted and used they can engender Waste-to-Wealth initiative. They also have Renewable Energy potentialities.

Oresanya advocated the containerization of wastes which can bring a clean and healthy environment. He said "For the purpose of achieving and maintaining clean and healthy environment at all times, waste containerization is encouraged and such should be adopted all over the country as on highways, market places, event centres, hospitals and all our households".

Citing the example of Lagos State government in the containerization of Medical and Hazardous Solid Waste, he said "On realization of medical wastes as special and hazardous, the Lagos State government, being the state with the largest concentration of medical service providers and generator of the largest volume of medical waste in Nigeria took steps to effectively manage these without creating more medical problems in a bid to maintain a healthy population". Thus, he recommended the same measure for all health institutions in the country as a means of preventing the spread of diseases.

Speaking on the way Universities can collaborate with LAWMA; Oresanya said "At LAWMA, we believe in bringing 'town and gown' together because the University is the centre where solutions are provided for societal challenges. Some of the challenges we have are natural and we depend on the Research output from Universities. As a University of Technology, FUTA has what it takes to help Nigeria achieve a clean and safe environment. We believe in preventive health care because prevention is better and cheaper".

In an address read on his behalf by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Professor Adedayo Fasakin, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola said "We all know the importance of a safe environment on the quality of human existence and global security. We know that had our environment been safe, many lives would have been saved from communicable diseases. The concerted efforts of scientists and environmentalists on the need to ensure the positive interaction and impact of human societies on the environment are therefore well justified and commendable. We, here in FUTA keyed into this and the choice of this lecture and guest speaker attest to our resolve to make impact in this regard".

Dean, School of Sciences and Chairman, Committee of Deans, Professor (Mrs.) Ibiyinka Fuwape who was host at the lecture said "Environmental issues dominate discussions and our consciousness. The current one in West Africa and in Nigeria in particular is the spread of the dreaded Ebola Virus. It is clear that the physical, chemical as well as the biological integrity of our planet is being compromised daily. This is no longer accepted and we must find a lasting solution to it".

Earlier at a courtesy call on the management of FUTA, Oresanya said "Personally, I have emotional attachment to FUTA. When this University started some years ago, most of us were skeptical, but today it is amazing how you have transformed the University. The entire campus has changed. FUTA has grown beyond our expectation I can boldly say that your products are wonderful. The few ones with us at LAWMA are doing great. At the moment, five of them are on training on Renewable Energy in Australia. I am sure upon their return they will add value to our energy development in Nigeria because they are good. FUTA is one of the Nigerian Universities turning out quality products and we the end user of your products have a high regards for your University.

On the quality of FUTA products, Fasakin said "I am happy you attested to the quality of our products. Many organizations, even outside Nigeria do too. Our products that are scattered over the world do us proud and we are

proud of them too. We recommend our laboratories to your organization for use to analyze your samples because we have state-of-the-art equipment in our STEP-B Centre. We also want areas where we can collaborate to make our environment safe and clean to save lives."