**THE 5TH EACO REGIONAL E-WASTE WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE E-WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE EAST AFRICAN REGION.**

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**EFFECTIVE FINANCE AND INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT OF E-WASTE PROJECTS A CASE OF BUNGOMA COUNTY KENYA.**

**Introduction**.

E-Waste is a term used to cover items of all types of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) and its parts that have been discarded by the owner as waste without the intention of re-use." unwanted, not working, and nearing or at the end of their “useful life.” Computers, televisions, VCRs, stereos, copier etcs

As the end of the shelf life of the electronic product the activities that follow are the ones that determine whether there can be viable investment ventures in e- waste

Bungoma county is a county found on the western part of Kenya which has been In existence as a district of the then larger Western province before it became a county after the promulgation of the constitution of Kenya 2010 and now count 39 ,it has an elevation of 4,5444 ft.(1.385m) with a population of 54469 (census2019),its economy depends on Agriculture especially maize and sugar cane, tourism in areas like the caves, fauna and flora in Mt Elgon, Mwihala Wa Mango,Chetambe fort Sikele sia Mlia, sangalo , mwibale stones,Nabuyoe falls

The service industry is very vibrant in Bungoma and the hospitality sector industry both for public and private sector.

Bungoma County has more than three tribes that coexist peacefully, these includes the Bukusu with its 27 sub tribes, the Sabaots and their sub tribes,the Iteso the Tachoni and the Abatura,and being close to the Kenya Uganda border, Bungoma county also enjoys multi-cultural advantage.

**SOURCES OF EWASTE IN BUNGOMA**.

The services sector is the key source of e-waste in Bungoma.

The presence of a National University (Kibabii University,Sangalo institute of science and Technology, many other technical colleges schools, hospitals banks and Government entities provide and the numerous electronic and electrical gadgets ad appliances shops that are available source of e-waste material.

**EFFORT BY BUNGOMA COUNTY TOWARDS E-WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Bungoma County has made tremendous effort to address matters of waste by;

Introduction of the Bungoma county waste management Bill 2019 at the Bungoma County Assembly being a legislative move to establish a legal framework for e Waste Management in Bungoma County

-Enactment of the Bungoma County Assets and disposal policy that gives operationalization of the Public Procurement and Disposal Act 2020which in essence supports e-waste collection and management

The IFMIS platform is anational platform for all payments use of e-procurement on the Ifmis is proving to be an effective tool in collecting e-waste data of the electronic assets at the point of being procured, tagging and this assists in tracking the item up to the end of the shelf life.

**Investment in e-waste projects in Bungoma County**.

The essence of establishment of e-waste projects is first of all to manage hazardous waste and put into good use the rest of the e-waste that is still useful.

For wealth creation, poverty reduction and reduction of the hazardous e- waste to hygienically manageable levels key financing and investment decision on e-waste management must be made

Bungoma county has one centre for electronic wastes under the management of one David Butita

But the current scenario in Bungoma in regards to management of the e-waste projects in Bungoma is basically witnessed as individual effort.

For other investors, there has been no awareness to attract many individuals and institutions to invest in e-waste projects, however the small scale investments that are being witnessed still give hope that with the right financing and investment decisions the projects can be established and give returns

**FINANCE DECISIONS IN EWASTE PROJECTS**

Finance decisions in regards to effective management of waste projects refer to key financing decisions that must be made regarding what proportion of equity or debt capital can be committed in such a project,

Effective financing decisions for waste projects in Bungoma County are based on practicability of such financing decisions and the existing legal and legislatives framework that are in place to support such decisions.

**Key financing decisions available in Bungoma County towards achieving effecting management of e-waste projects are;**

**Government exchequer releases through the budget**

This financing decision is the most practicable and is dependent on the budget cycle whereby every user department in the county department will budget for e-waste activities at their level.

**Loan Financing**

This is the debt capital that must be acquired to effective manage e-waste projects, however the public private sector arrangements are not excluded in E-waste projects because of the effective management benefit that comes with ppp designs especially the DBM.

Currently in Bungoma Kenya there and no public private sector arrangements working towards e-waste investment and Management.

**Donor funding**

This involves engaging donors and partners who are interested in the recycling of e waste to avail off budget financing towards e-waste actives, in Bungoma county there have been many stakeholders financing investment projects for instance;

**NORTHERN CORRIDOR REHABILITATION PROGRAMME PHASEIII-THE EU CONTRIBUTION IS 76M EUROS EQUIVALENT TO 70% OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT**

European Union has been funding Key projects in Bungoma county Kenya the funding ha been broad covering key areas like regional and urban development, employment, social inclusion,agriculture,policies ,research and innovation, In Kenya 80%of the EU budget is managed by national and regional authorities through a system of joint Management of the European development fund(EU Country strategy paper)

Bungoma County include;

Rehabilitation of Eldoret-Turbo-Webuye Road(Uasin Gishu,Kakamega –Bungoma being part of the A04 road which is an integral section of the Northern corridor which now functions as a major transit route to Uganda,Rwanda,Burundi and southern Sudan, rehabilitation of Webuye Malaba road

This calls for sourcing of investment partners especially those that are already existing in Bungoma County to support e-waste projects through financing.

**Environment and climate change.**

The EU has financed Waters towers programme, water shed protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation programme 31 million euros these projects are located in Bungoma and its neighbouring counties

The above highlighted is a clear demonstration that donor funding and grants can be successfully sourced whenever there’s a call for proposals,(a publication by the European union in kenya)

**Fundraising measures**

This financing strategy for e-waste involves raising funds from every other member of the public using public awareness and activism

This can include strategic partners engaged in the use of e-waste products

Business licensing in Counties this is futuristic measure to have single business licenses and business permit have the element of e-waste management paid for.

**Education Sector**.

The CBC curriculum is still under implementation in Kenya and EACO and other E-waste stakeholders should consider introducing e-waste management as a subject to equip learners to be conscious of e-waste disposal and management from a tender age this will built a culture of e-waste managementin the county and the country at large and the sae can be generalized in the region.

**Public participation and how it can influence finance and investment in e-waste projects in Bungoma County Kenya.**

Public Participation is about actions a person or group can take to get involved in issues of government or community that are of concern to them. It ensures that citizens are heard and can actively participate in decision that impact their needs.

It is one of the national principles and values of governance, and one of the key objectives of devolution “…to give powers of self-governance to the people and enhance their participation in the exercise of the powers of the State and in making decisions affecting them” (Article 174c, Constitution of Kenya).

All citizens in Kenya have the right to participate and it is their civic obligation to engage in all county governance processes,

Public participation is normally fully funded through the county budgets and thus it is a proper forum for various stakeholder engagement which can have a positive impact on e-waste projects In the county and this can be generalised to other counties in Kenya

Since the public participation forums will give a platform to various stakeholders with a keen interest in investing in the e-waste

The East Africa Legislative Assembly should be engaged to come up with regional legal framework in regards to E waste since it’s a legislative body in the region.

**NETFUND KENYA**

Kenya recently launched the National environment trust fund a body mandated to carry out financial resource mobilization to raise funds towards environmental management in Kenya ;this is a key bench mark that needs to be embraced for e-waste finance resource mobilization to support implementation and management of e-waste projects.

-Precious metal refining from e waste e,g olg,silver,copper,platinum and palladium these minerals from E-waste avails an opportunity to engage stakeholders who use such minerals as raw material.

Investment in e-waste disposal and recycling plant especially for the Hardware parts of the electronic products

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Financial resource mobilization is a key factor in making finance and investment decisions in management of e-waste projects so financial resource mobilization towards management e-waste.

E-waste investments and management requires heavy financing thus it requires experts and stakeholders to support implementation and monitoring of e-waste projects.

The legal and legislative frameworks must support every effort towards implementation of e-waste

Just like the situation with other organic waste there need to establish litter bins for e-waste collection that is so simplified in public areas.

As opposed to boardroom, conference and other conventional approaches to e-waste management there’s need to work with local media, national media organise for frequent field days to create awareness on available investment opportunities in e-waste.

EACO and e-waste stakeholders should come up with a model to do costing of the e-waste products at every level of its recycling since there is already documented success in e-waste statistics and coding, the e-waste product costing will inform potential investors to make investment decisions.

The e-waste costing model will further inform the funding model.

**CONCLUSION**

Every investment and financing decisions must always be informed by how sustainable the project is and as to whether there will be return on investment bearing in mind the cost, time and quality of the outcome.in view of the above there is need to defragment e-waste projects and project teams from the grassroots in every country to give effect to Regional management strategy and Sustainability of thee-waste projects in the Region.