A DIRTY PROBLEM

By Proneema Wijemanne and
Lakru Wijeratne

For years a long suffering public has repeatedly drawn attention to the mounting piles of garbage in some of the most populated places, both inside the Colombo city and outside near schools, railway stations, bus stands, hospitals, eating houses. But their appeals, strong enough reasons, to the authorities did not have any response. The authorities had thought that the garbage would not pile up any more if people carried out any necessary waste separation. As a result, the public continuously waste a positive response to this order from the local authorities to change garbage disposal. The Ministry talked to the Ministry of Environment, Pashiri Champika Ranawaka, on what prompted him to take up this issue.

"Generally a single person generates about 1.5 kg of garbage within the three months of the year. And in a city of about 7 million people, the country will be generating about 10,000 tonnes of garbage per day. This is a huge amount of garbage that is being handled by the country. If we do not have any proper waste disposal mechanism, it will become a real threat to our environment."

"The garbage, if unsorted, cannot be recycled for maximum output of the product, and therefore, it cannot be utilized to its optimum potential. The waste management should be handled in an organized manner and the waste should be segregated properly." Champika Ranawaka.

This has led to a crisis situation where garbage cannot be collected and put into landfill sites. The Borehamwood and Colombo dumping sites are just examples of this. When investigating this, we found that the Ridge from the Borehamwood area to the Colombo area has been spread across 30-40 km into the sea," the Minister said.

"The ministry has been tasked with the responsibility of waste management, and it has been running the programme for the past three years. The programme is very effective, and we have seen a significant reduction in the amount of garbage being dumped in the sea. But we need to take this a step further and focus on the waste recycling and management process."

The ministry has introduced a programme called the ‘Environment Platform’ (EPF) for the collection, transportation, and treatment of waste, based on the Triple H formula of reduce, reuse, and recycle.

The EPF is a national organization that provides information and awareness programmes, provincial seminars, and workshops.

The monitory management for the programme is carried out through the Local Bodies. After the EPF’s approval, they need to form a three-year action plan that will be carried out by 500 local authorities. And after that, they have allocated a grant of two years to strengthen the processes. They have also taken steps to ensure the effectiveness of the programme through the EPF."

The project programme costs 800 million rupees, out of which 70% is funded by the government. The remaining 30% is funded by local authorities.

The EPF project programme is currently being carried out by the local authorities. And the Ministry is working with the ‘green leaf’ government in providing support and training for the programme. Foreign partnership programmes like the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) also provide monetary assistance for the programme.

The government has already taken steps to include the cost of recycling and managing mobile phones, computers, and man-made waste in the triple form. The government is working on identifying the waste that can be recycled and making these resources available to the public."

"But about 30% of the total waste is still not being collected in garbage disposal fields."

The government is currently focusing on implementing a new programme that will enable people to sort their waste in a more effective manner. The programme is being carried out with the cooperation of the local authorities and the Ministry of Environment. The programme will be implemented through a committee called the Environment Protection Platform (EPF) for the collection, transportation, and treatment of waste, based on the Triple H formula of reduce, reuse, and recycle.

The EPF is a national organization that provides information and awareness programmes, provincial seminars, and workshops.

The monitory management for the programme is carried out through the Local Bodies. After the EPF’s approval, they need to form a three-year action plan that will be carried out by 500 local authorities. And after that, they have allocated a grant of two years to strengthen the processes. They have also taken steps to ensure the effectiveness of the programme through the EPF."

The project programme costs 800 million rupees, out of which 70% is funded by the government. The remaining 30% is funded by local authorities.

The EPF project programme is currently being carried out by the local authorities. And the Ministry is working with the ‘green leaf’ government in providing support and training for the programme. Foreign partnership programmes like the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) also provide monetary assistance for the programme.

The government has already taken steps to include the cost of recycling and managing mobile phones, computers, and man-made waste in the triple form. The government is working on identifying the waste that can be recycled and making these resources available to the public."

"But about 30% of the total waste is still not being collected in garbage disposal fields."

The government is currently focusing on implementing a new programme that will enable people to sort their waste in a more effective manner. The programme is being carried out with the cooperation of the local authorities and the Ministry of Environment. The programme will be implemented through a committee called the Environment Protection Platform (EPF) for the collection, transportation, and treatment of waste, based on the Triple H formula of reduce, reuse, and recycle.

The EPF is a national organization that provides information and awareness programmes, provincial seminars, and workshops.

The monitory management for the programme is carried out through the Local Bodies. After the EPF’s approval, they need to form a three-year action plan that will be carried out by 500 local authorities. And after that, they have allocated a grant of two years to strengthen the processes. They have also taken steps to ensure the effectiveness of the programme through the EPF."

The project programme costs 800 million rupees, out of which 70% is funded by the government. The remaining 30% is funded by local authorities.

The EPF project programme is currently being carried out by the local authorities. And the Ministry is working with the ‘green leaf’ government in providing support and training for the programme. Foreign partnership programmes like the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) also provide monetary assistance for the programme.

The government has already taken steps to include the cost of recycling and managing mobile phones, computers, and man-made waste in the triple form. The government is working on identifying the waste that can be recycled and making these resources available to the public."

"But about 30% of the total waste is still not being collected in garbage disposal fields."

The government is currently focusing on implementing a new programme that will enable people to sort their waste in a more effective manner. The programme is being carried out with the cooperation of the local authorities and the Ministry of Environment. The programme will be implemented through a committee called the Environment Protection Platform (EPF) for the collection, transportation, and treatment of waste, based on the Triple H formula of reduce, reuse, and recycle.

The EPF is a national organization that provides information and awareness programmes, provincial seminars, and workshops.

The monitory management for the programme is carried out through the Local Bodies. After the EPF’s approval, they need to form a three-year action plan that will be carried out by 500 local authorities. And after that, they have allocated a grant of two years to strengthen the processes. They have also taken steps to ensure the effectiveness of the programme through the EPF."

The project programme costs 800 million rupees, out of which 70% is funded by the government. The remaining 30% is funded by local authorities.

The EPF project programme is currently being carried out by the local authorities. And the Ministry is working with the ‘green leaf’ government in providing support and training for the programme. Foreign partnership programmes like the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) also provide monetary assistance for the programme.

The government has already taken steps to include the cost of recycling and managing mobile phones, computers, and man-made waste in the triple form. The government is working on identifying the waste that can be recycled and making these resources available to the public.