

INPUTS INTO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRES

31 March 2022

This workshop was organized to give stakeholders (private owners, the selected members from the assembly, the MCD and selected members of the community) the opportunity to make inputs into the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the running of the Community Information Centers (CICs), both private and WGMA owned. The workshop was also to remind the stakeholders of the reason behind setting up the new CICs and enhancing the capacity of the old ones. The draft copies of the MOU was sent to the various stakeholders two weeks before this workshop to give them adequate time to carefully read through the documents.



Objectives

The workshop aimed at getting inputs into the MOU from the stakeholders in order to come up with a finalized document that both private owners and the WGMA agree on to ensure the smooth running of the CICs and to prevent the case where one party might feel cheated.

Discussion and inputs

Preamble: It was suggested that "private" be added to the name of the centers belonging to private owners to distinguish between private owned and WGMA owned CICs; and community be added to the name of all the centers to signify that they are serving the communities in which they are located.

Land, spaces and rooms: The issue of whether the lands and rooms where the WGMA CICs are located were being handed over to the assembly permanently, temporarily or on lease was also raised. It was agreed that each of the centers/ land owners/ community representatives write a letter to the assembly stating clearly the terms on which they are giving their property to the assembly.

Responsibilities of the parties

- Durability of equipment

The issue of the durability of the equipment that had been installed was also raised especially the horns and the driving units, as the private owner at Tetegu had complained that his equipment kept going off a short while after installation despite the fact that the technician had come to repair it a number of times. The private owner at Old Weija also complained that the equipment that was installed for him never worked after the technician tested them and left. The CIC at Wiaboman also complained about the sound from their set up being too low. It was agreed that these issues be shelved until the technician was present to answer them.

- Acceptable sound limit

The question on what an acceptable sound limit is was asked by one of the private stakeholders. It was mentioned that the right sound limit would be determined by the public health person. The assembly also has the equipment for measuring sound levels.

- Monthly, quarterly and annual reports

Concerning monthly, quarterly and annual reports to be submitted to WGMA, it was agreed that it was left to the members of each management team to decide on who would write them.

- Management

- It was suggested that the opinion leaders and chiefs be included in the running of the CICs in order to give a better "sense" as a community service. It was however agreed that because of political and other contending factors they may be engaged in, they have been left out for now but may be added if the need arises in the future.
- Concerning maintenance, it was agreed that maintenance will be done for all equipment regardless of whether they are WGMA owned or privately owned.
- Regarding procurement, it was agreed that purchases that can be made by the management of each CIC will be done at that level. Purchases that need to be made by the assembly will have to go through the assemblies procurement procedures.
- In response to questions concerning the use and ownership of containers it was agreed that the land and space owners send a letter to the assembly stating clearly their intention for giving out the space and rooms.

Feedback and recommendations

- It was suggested that in the future there should be proper and informed supervision of technicians when they are given contracts to install equipment.
- One of the private owners suggested that information on spillage and other important issues should be forthcoming and sent to the CICs in a timely manner in order to communicate effectively to the communities to prevent disasters.
- It was agreed that in order not to have the same issues with space allocations and who owned them in the future, written agreements will be made between the stakeholders stating clearly the terms of ownership.
- The inputs were forwarded to the planning officer of the assembly to effect the changes.
- The assembly woman at Djaman said she will like to maintain the space as her private property.
- It was agreed that political campaigns will not be allowed at the CICs.
- The center at Wiamboman requested for a generator to help give announcements even when there are power outages.
- The private owners asked if the horns provided can be replaced with longer horns for better sound quality.
- The MCD suggested that NADMO get their staff to run the place 24/7 on a shift system.
- The community people also thought that they should run the place alongside and not need the NADMO staff to be there 24/7. It was however suggested that the idea is to prevent the disruption of the running of the place with the influx of political issues.
- Another issue was the criteria for selecting community members if they are to be part? Also, who pays them?
- It was suggested that subsequently the issue of choosing sites should be looked at properly.



MORE INFORMATION

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