Management of Garbage in Markets Run by Lusaka City Council

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Abstract: The study investigated services provided by Lusaka City Council to markets. Focus was on the following markets which are managed by Lusaka City Council; Old Soweto, Chelston and Kaunda Square stage 1. The overall objective of this study was; to determine the factors accounting for poor provision of services by Lusaka City Council to Markets. The specific objectives were: To establish the extent of poor garbage collection at markets run by Lusaka City Council; To examine the extent to which marketeers are satisfied with the way garbage is collected from markets; and To determine the constraints in the way of improving poor garbage collection from markets run by the Lusaka City Council. The total sample size for this study was 264. The key informants were 18 and their composition was as follows: 6 senior appointed officials from Lusaka City Council, 3 Councillors who were also from Lusaka City Council and 9 Market Advisory Committee representatives from the selected markets. 30 support staffs were purposively selected from Lusaka City Council. Simple random sampling was used to select 216 marketeers. Both primary and secondary data was used for this research. Qualitative and quantitative data was also used in this study. Qualitative data was analysed by transcribing it into the major themes which emerged. Quantitative data was analysed using Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS). The study found out that Lusaka City Council (LCC) lacked capacity to manage market garbage. Though some marketeers interviewed in this study were satisfied with the way the Council managed garbage from inside the market, the study has established that the Council had difficulties collecting garbage from the secondary points of the markets, points which are directly managed by the Waste Management Unit of the Council. The study found out that the Council does not have enough garbage collection tools such as wheelie bins, machinery such as hook trucks, skip trucks, tipper trucks and compactors which are needed for effective garbage collection from markets. This study has also revealed that regardless of the existence of garbage management system at Lusaka City Council, the Council has no schedule as to when garbage is supposed to be collected in a particular market and this has contributed to the delay in the collection of garbage from the secondary collection point. This researcher recommends that machinery for garbage collection such as trucks, compactors and bins should be bought if garbage collection in markets is to improve.

Keywords: Lusaka City Council, Markets, Garbage Management System

1. Introduction

The management of markets in Zambia is in the hands of local authorities except in some cases where such management is left in the hands of the private sector or cooperatives. Therefore it was the aim of this study to show the main constraints faced by the Lusaka City Council as a local authority in managing markets under its jurisdiction. The study focussed on management of garbage.

2. Background

The mandate to manage and provide services to markets in Zambia has been given to Local Authorities. According to the Local Government Act of Zambia (1995), Councils are expected to offer among others the following services to their communities: Construction and maintenance of public roads, streets, sanitary lanes, bridges and water lines and removal of all obstacles; Establishment and maintenance of sanitation and drainage systems to facilitate the removal of refuse and effluent; Establishment and maintenance of fire-fighting and prevention services in order to protect life, property and natural resources from damage by fire. In order to carry out these statutory functions, Councils have been given powers to generate or raise revenue from as many sources as possible with a view to enhancing service delivery. For example, a Council may impose market levies, fees and charges as a way of raising revenue (Government of Zambia 2007). Councils can also create and collect revenues through powers vested in them to make by-laws (Local Government Act of Zambia: 1995). Generally, most of the markets managed by local authorities in Zambia are in a very poor state although there are some that are better than others. In other words the quality of these markets is very poor as they lack good drainage systems, toilet facilities, bins for garbage collection and supply of water to these markets is also poor. Examples of these markets are Old Soweto, Chibolya, Chifundo and Buseko.

There are, however, some markets managed by local authorities where although the market infrastructure is still poor but not to the exact of those in the first category. In these markets, provision of services to markets by local authorities is poor as Councils have managed to provide certain services but not adequately and thus, the quality of infrastructure in these markets is poor. Examples of these markets are Kaunda Square stage 1, Kabwata Main, Kabwata Site and Service and Northmead. M.N. Mwinga (An assessment of tomato price variability in Lusaka and its effects on smallholder farmers; 2009) has noted that the condition of toilets in these markets is not conducive for public use as they are not regularly cleaned. Furthermore, these toilets do not even have running water, a condition which poses a serious health hazard to marketeers. Thus, whether in the first category or the second category, the quality of the markets in Zambia on the overall is poor. The exception to the rule are the markets which received some funding from the European Union as part of the latter’s pilot project on the construction of markets in Zambia. They were only ten of such markets out of close to a thousand markets that are run by local authorities throughout the country and
they are confined only to three cities; five in Lusaka, three in Kitwe and two in Ndola. These isolated markets have had some modern infrastructure as a result of the assistance from this pilot European Union project. However as will be shown, immediately after the intervention ended, some of them are experiencing gradual decline in the quality of the infrastructure in respect to Chelston market a scenario that suggests that the relatively high quality infrastructure at these markets could subsequently deteriorate to the level of the rest of the markets in the country.

As already established, powers of collecting market levies from marketeers have been given to local authorities (Markets and Bus Stations Act: 2007). The Act also states how the collected levies are supposed to be utilised. For example, Levies collected from markets are supposed to be used to pay for services provided by local authorities to markets. On the other hand, a notable feature of the above named markets in general is that though Lusaka City Council has been collecting levies from marketeers, the quality of services provided to the markets is poor and this presents a major source of conflict between the Council authorities and traders who do not see any justification in paying Council levies. According to a UN-HABITAT report (2010), traders are prepared to pay for waste collection when the charging system is transparent, services being provided are at locally acceptable prices and the quality of services is not poor. Thus, marketeers seem to be willing to contribute towards the expenses of garbage collection but because of Local Authorities’ failure to adequately provide quality services to markets, they have since declined to contribute towards the expenses of garbage collection. Poor infrastructure has also led to compromises in the health and security standards present inthese markets. It was noted by both local government officials and traders that most markets do not have facilities to store their goods after trading hours. According to N. Nkombo (2007), one of the Kitwe City Council officials explained that three quarters of traders in Chisokone B market had to keep their goods in the police camps, while some slept with the goods at night in the markets. This meant that these marketeers had to prepare food in markets making them prone to fire outbreaks. Some of the stalls were also made out of wood which made the market extra vulnerable to fires. In some markets, there was no lighting after dark. It is expected that, since these markets are public places, they should be provided with fire fighting facilities by the Local Authorities. This seemed not to be the case going by the number of fires which have gutted these markets. Thus, this study aimed at determining what the Lusaka City Council, a local authority in Zambia has been doing to ensure that markets are effectively managed.

3. Statement of the problem

Despite Lusaka City Council collecting daily revenue from markets, delivery of services to markets has not been adequate. Local Authorities have been criticized for failing to adequately manage fire outbreaks from markets, a situation which has resulted in marketeers loosing property worth millions of kwacha. Markets run by Lusaka City Council have a poor waste management system. This has led to situation where garbage in these markets has remained uncollected for several weeks. In addition, the drainage system in these markets is poor and this has resulted in a situation where these markets become flooded with water and at the same time waste water failing to freely leave the market. Furthermore, provision of water supply to markets has also been poor and this is despite the fact that provision of adequate water is important in the process of maintaining high levels of hygiene standards in markets. The problem has also been exacerbated by poor provision of toilet facilities to markets. As a result of all this, these markets become unpleased environment for trading especially during the rainy season. Poor hygiene standards have been a source of concern for many people who feel thatmarkets are a breeding ground for diarrhoea diseases such as cholera.

4. Methodology

Research design

This research used a mixed method of research design which combined both the descriptive and explanatory designs. The descriptive design involved obtaining in depth understanding of services offered by Lusaka City Council to the selected markets. The explanatory design was used to analyse a cause-effect relationship between identified variables and their effect on service delivery. This research used a mixed method of research design because the two methods complement each other thereby maximizing on the benefits of each design.

Data collection

Data for this study was collected between Monday 23rd December 2013 and Friday 31st January 2014. The instruments used in the data collection exercise were mainly personal interviews and structured questionnaires. Structured questionnaires which combined both open and closed ended questions were used to collect data from respondents. These questionnaires were administered, by the researcher, to Lusaka City Council as well as marketeers in the selected markets. The key informants, that is to say senior appointed officials of Lusaka City Council, provided qualitative data while respondents, that is to say a composition of support staff of Lusaka City Council and marketeers, provided quantitative data.

Sampling

The total sample size that was considered for this study was 264. The key informants were 18 and this was composed of 6 Senior appointed officials from Lusaka City Council, 3 Councilors who were also from Lusaka City Council (the 3 Councilors were from the 3 Wards were the markets are
located) and 9 Market Advisory Committee (MAC) representatives from the selected markets (i.e. 3 market representatives from each market). The composition of the 6 Senior officials was as follows: Deputy Director of Housing and Social Services; Deputy Chief Fire Officer, for Fire Brigade Unit of LCC; Manager, for Waste Management Unit; Assistant Markets Manager, for Finance (i.e. under Markets Unit); Senior Civil Engineer, who was under Engineering Services; and the Senior Administrative Officer who was under the Department of Housing and Social Services. In addition to the 18 key informants, 30 support staffs of Lusaka City Council were selected. 15 support staffs were purposively selected from the selected markets (i.e. 5 Lusaka City Council support staffs operating directly from markets were selected from each of the markets under this study). The remaining 15 support staffs were selected from the departments of Engineering services and Public Health. Thus, both the key informants and support staffs of Lusaka City Council were selected using Purposive sampling. This type of sampling subjectively determined what type of sample was representative of the population. Key informants, on the other hand, were conveniently sampled as they were easily and readily accessible in their offices at Lusaka City Council. Simple random sampling was used to select 216 marketeers from the selected markets. This method gave an equal chance to each marketeer to be included in the sample. Thus, a total of 264 waste sample size used in this study.

Data Analysis
Qualitative data was analyzed using the narrative technique of data analysis. This was done to help the researcher in the precise measurement and reporting of some characteristics or phenomena under study. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and Microsoft excel were used to analyse the quantitative data obtained from the respondents.

5. Findings and Discussions

5.1 Findings

Garbage management system in markets
In this section focus is on the role played by the Lusaka City Council in managing garbage in markets.

Markets management at Lusaka City Council fall under the Department of Housing and Social Services and the primary role of this department with regards to garbage management in the markets of Lusaka City is that of facilitation. In other words garbage management in the City of Lusaka falls under Waste Management Unit of Lusaka City Council. Thus, to effectively play this role of facilitation, the Department of Housing and Social Services has employed general workers to clean and collect garbage in Council run markets throughout the City and dump the garbage in designated garbage collection points. For example, according to the Senior Administrative Officer for the Department of Housing and Social Services at Lusaka City Council, 11 general workers out of the 12 general workers that are needed have been employed to clean and collect garbage from Old Soweto while six general workers have been employed and stationed at Chelston market so that they could also clean and collect garbage from Chelston market.

The study now discusses the nature of the garbage management programme at Lusaka City Council.

The nature of this activity as revealed by the Market Master for Chelston market is such that, garbage from markets is collected from two main points and these are primary garbage collection points and secondary garbage collection points (Interview with the Market Master for Chelston market on 23/01/2014). A primary garbage collection point is simply a point inside the market where garbage is initially dumped en route to the secondary garbage collection point. In other words, a primary garbage collection point relates to wheelie bins placed in strategic places of the markets where market users can throw their garbage. General workers employed by the Council to clean markets also throw garbage into these bins after sweeping the markets as noted by the Chelston Market Master. According to the manager for Waste Management Unit, Council general workers do the collection of garbage from the primary garbage collection points to the secondary garbage collection points if there are no Community Based Enterprises (CBEs) operating in the area where the market is located and he cited Old Soweto market as a case in point. On the other hand, if the market is situated in a locality where there is a Community Based Enterprise (CBE) assigned to collect garbage; it is the responsibility of the CBE to collect garbage from the primary garbage collection point to the secondary garbage collection point (Interview with the Manager-Waste Management Unit on 14/01/2014). Once garbage is collected from a primary collection point in a market, it is transported to a secondary garbage collection point which is usually a point outside the market where skip bins are found.

The collection of garbage from the primary collection point in a market is done using wheelie bins. It was revealed by the Market Master for Chelston market, that collection of market garbage from the primary garbage collection point in most markets is done using wheelie bins placed in the markets while collection of garbage from the secondary collection point is done using skip bins managed by Lusaka City Council through Waste Management Unit (Interview with the Market Master for Chelston market on 23/01/2014). For example, she revealed that Chelston market has wheelie bins for primary garbage collection. This was acknowledged by marketeers from Chelston market; all (100%) indicated that the Council had placed wheelie bins for primary garbage collection inside the market. With regards to Kaunda Square stage 1 market, another market closely examined in this study, the Market Master for this market revealed that the Council had placed bins in the market for primary garbage collection. This is supported by responses obtained from marketeers interviewed at Kaunda Square stage 1 market, majority (94.0%) said that the Council has placed wheelie bins for garbage collection in the market, 40% said that there were no wheelie bins for primary garbage collection in the market while 20% did not give a response to the question which was asked. Unlike Chelston and Kaunda Square stage 1 market where the Council has placed wheelie bins for primary garbage collection, the Market Master for Old Soweto said that the Council has not placed wheelie bins for primary garbage collection at the market (Interview with the Market Master for Old Soweto market on 03/01/2014). This was confirmed by the
marketees interviewed at Old Soweto market. 89.9% of those interviewed were of the view that the Council did not place wheelie bins for primary garbage collection at the market while 10.1% said that the council had placed wheelie bins in the market for primary garbage collection purposes. These results are similar to those of a study conducted by T.H. Gadagaetal (2004). Results of his study showed that Old Soweto market had no refuse bins and that garbage was piled around the working place every day, resulting in a repulsive stench being emitted. It is therefore, not surprising that, Old Soweto is one of the markets in Lusaka, facing garbage management constraints. It was for this reason that this researcher asked the Councillor for Harry MwaangaNkumbula, Kanyama Ward 11 over what he had done to ensure that management of garbage at Old Soweto market was improved. The Councillor said that, he had engaged private organizations such as Maher Investments, Uniturtle Zambia, Zambezi Drilling and SARO Agro Equipment which are within Kanyama Ward 11. These Companies have helped refuel Council trucks so that garbage is collected from the market. Though these Organizations have been engaged, garbage was found to be piled up outside Old Soweto markets secondary garbage collection point.

This study has revealed that collection of garbage in markets is usually delayed at secondary garbage collection points. According to the Market Master for Old Soweto, collection of garbage from the market is usually delayed at the secondary garbage collection point which is directly managed by the Waste Management Unit of the Council. The Council official further said that Waste Management Unit was supposed to collect garbage from the secondary garbage collection point four times in a week but that they had not been consistent (Interview with the Market Master for Old Soweto on 03/01/2014). This concern was also raised by the Market Advisory Committee member for Kaunda Square stage 1 market who felt that Waste Management Unit of the Council had not effectively managed garbage at the secondary garbage collection point (Interview with the Market Advisory Committee member for Kaunda Square stage 1 market on 09/01/2014).

Performance of Lusaka City Council in the area of Garbage management
This section discusses performance of Lusaka City Council in the area of garbage management in markets. This will be done by looking at the satisfactory levels of marketees with regards to the performance of the Lusaka City Council in the area of garbage collection from markets.

Results obtained from all the marketees interviewed in all the three (3) markets showed that 63.8% of all marketees seemed to be satisfied with the performance of Lusaka City Council when it comes to garbage collection from markets, 34.3% were dissatisfied while 1.9% did not respond to the question which was asked. An attempt was made to examine closely each of the three (3) markets with a view of establishing the levels of satisfaction from individual markets. Of the three markets which were closely examined, only Old Soweto produced different pattern of results. Chart 1.1 shows that 80% of marketees interviewed at Kaunda Square stage 1 market were satisfied with reference to the performance of Lusaka City Council in the area of garbage management compared to 18% who were dissatisfied while 2% decided not to respond to the question. It was also revealed by the Market Advisory Committee member for Kaunda Square stage 1 market that the Lusaka City Council had managed to collect garbage from the market, i.e. primary garbage collection points where wheelie bins are placed but had difficulties collecting garbage from the secondary garbage collection point where skip bins are stationed. Similar statements were also echoed by the Market Master for Kaunda Square stage 1 market who stated that the Council had problems collecting garbage from the secondary garbage collection point. Though marketees interviewed from Kaunda Square stage 1 seemed to be satisfied with the way garbage was being managed, this researcher observed that garbage at the secondary garbage collection point of the market had not been collected for over four (4) weeks as revealed by the Market Master for this market.

Marketees at Chelston market were also asked to state their satisfactory levels with regards to the performance of the Council in the area of garbage management in markets. Chart 1.2 shows that 95.7% of marketees interviewed at this market were satisfied with the performance of the Lusaka City Council in the area of garbage management inside Chelston market, while 4.3% were dissatisfied. It was also revealed by the Market Master for Chelston market that the general workers at the market regularly cleaned and collected garbage from the primary collection point to the secondary garbage collection point (Interview with the Market Master for Chelston market on 23/01/2014). Though chart 1.2 shows that the Council has performed better in the area of managing garbage from the primary collection points at Chelston market, it was observed that in some parts of the market, garbage was indiscriminately dumped despite the existence of wheelie bins which were placed in the various market streets. Furthermore, the Market Master for Chelston market said that though garbage was being collected from the primary garbage collection points in the market, collection of garbage from the secondary garbage collection point was not done as scheduled and this researcher also observed that garbage at the secondary collection point was piled up and had not been collected for over four (4) weeks at the time of this study.

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Marketees at Old Soweto were also asked to state their satisfactory levels in relation to the performance of Lusaka City Council in the area of garbage collection. Chart 1.3 shows that 53% of marketeers interviewed at Old Soweto were dissatisfied with the performance of Lusaka City Council in the area of garbage management at the market, 45% were satisfied while 2% decided not to respond to the question which was asked.

Chart 1.2: Satisfactory levels of marketeers at Chelston market on the performance of Lusaka City Council in the area of garbage management
(Source: Primary data)

Chart 1.3: Satisfactory levels of marketeers at Old Soweto market on the performance of Lusaka City Council in the area of garbage management.
(Source: Primary data)

**Garbage management constraints faced by Lusaka City Council in markets**

The previous section has shown different views expressed by marketeers with regards to the performance of the Lusaka City Council in the area of garbage collection from markets. The aim of this section is to show the main garbage management constraints faced by Lusaka City Council in markets.

The first constraint is in relation to poor collection of the market levy. This has had a negative effect on the management of garbage in markets run by the Lusaka City Council. It was revealed by the Market Master for Kaunda Square stage 1 market that Lusaka City Council collected about K3, 200.00 per month in form of market levy. The Market Master further said that, 40% of the collected market levy was deposited into a central account managed by Lusaka City Council while 60% was retained by the Market Advisory Committee (Interview with the Market Master for Kaunda square stage 1 on 09/01/2014). The Assistant Markets Manager in charge of Finance at Lusaka City Council also confirmed that 60% of the market levy was retained by Market Advisory Committees for management purposes of the markets (Interview with the Assistant Markets Manager-Finance at Lusaka City Council on 15/01/2014). The collected market levies have been used to procure toilet chemicals, cleaning detergents for the markets, payment of water and electricity tariffs. This money has also been used as payment for garbage management. The Market Master for Kaunda Square stage 1 market said that, the market was not remitting the 40% entitlement to Lusaka City Council due to poor collection of market levies from the market. The Council official observed that markets such as Kaunda Square stage 1 were being subsidized by other big markets such as New Soweto and City market. An attempt was made to establish whether or not marketeers from Kaunda Square stage 1 paid market levy to the Council. It was noted that majority (84%) of marketeers interviewed at Kaunda Square stage 1 market said that on a monthly basis, they paid market levy to Lusaka City Council. Apart from Kaunda Square stage 1 market, Old Soweto market is another market run by the Lusaka City Council which has difficulties in collecting levies from marketeers. It was revealed by the Market Master for Old Soweto market that of the 687 functional shops at the market, Lusaka City Council Cashiers were only able to collect K8, 000, 00 on a monthly basis (Interview with the Market Master for Old Soweto on 03/01/2014). The Market Master for Old Soweto said that the monies collected from the market were used to pay Waste Management Unit so that they could collect garbage from the secondary garbage collection point to the final dumping site. On the contrary poor collection of the market levy was as a result of poor service delivery on the part of the service provider. Therefore, marketeers were of the view that it was pointless to pay for a service which was not being provided.

Another constraint faced by the Lusaka City Council in general and Waste Management Unit in particular when it comes to garbage collection is lack of fuel for the trucks and other vehicles involved in the transportation of garbage from the secondary garbage collection points in markets to the final dumping site which is Chingwere landfill. This was a concern raised by all the three Market Masters from the markets which were closely examined. They claimed that delay in collecting garbage from the secondary garbage collection points was partly due to unavailability of fuel. According to the Assistant Markets Manager in charge of finances at Lusaka City Council, the Council lacked financial capacity to procure adequate fuel for its trucks and this had adversely affected garbage collection from markets (Interview with the Assistant Markets Manager-Finance at Lusaka City Council on 15/01/2014). Thus, even if some markets had been paying or subscribing to Waste Management Unit for garbage collection the money was not enough to adequately assist in garbage collection from markets. It was also revealed by the Assistant Markets Manager in-charge of Finance that garbage volume in markets was not only accumulated by market users (Interview with the Assistant Markets Manager-Finance at Lusaka City Council on 15/01/2024). He stated that residents of Lusaka had a tendency of dumping garbage outside...
markets or secondary garbage collection points, that is to say those points outside the markets where skip bins are located. This increased the financial burden of the Council and as a result of this; it became very costly on the part of Waste Management Unit to effectively manage market garbage. It became costly on the part of Waste Management Unit in that Lusaka residents were expected to pay for their garbage through the various waste management companies engaged by Lusaka City Council.

The other constraint faced by the Lusaka City Council when it comes to garbage management in markets is lack of adequate tools needed to effectively manage garbage in markets. This is in terms of trucks which are supposed to be used to transport garbage from the secondary garbage collection point to Chingwere landfill. The Cleansing Superintendent at Lusaka City Council stated that the Council had six (6) tipper trucks, of these trucks only three (3) were working; three (3) skip trucks, only one (1) was working; three (3) hookskips, only one (1) was working; three (3) compactors, only one (1) was working; and three (3) light trucks, only one (1) was working (Interview with the Cleansing Superintendent at Lusaka City Council on 17/01/2014). The Cleansing Superintendent further said that four (4) new refuse trucks had been bought and were soon to be handed over to Waste Management Unit.

6. Discussions

This study has shown that very little has been done by the Council to ensure that collection of garbage in markets is improved. Evidence of this is seen from the manner in which garbage has been managed especially at secondary garbage collection points of the markets, garbage collection points which in most cases are directly managed by the Waste Management Unit of Lusaka City Council. This researcher observed that, in all the three (3) markets which were closely examined in this study, garbage had not been collected from the secondary garbage collection points for over four weeks. These results are in contrast with those of the UN-HABITAT (2007) which showed that ‘only the Central Business District (CBD), hospitals, markets, and governmental and commercial institutions have been serviced on a regular basis in the immediate past’. Under normal circumstances, collection of garbage from this point is supposed to be done twice in a week as revealed by the Market Masters for all the three (3) closely examined markets. This was not the case at the time of this study. These results show that, there is need for the Council to improve on garbage collection from markets and this is the matter of concern for the Market Master for Old Soweto who felt that Waste Management Unit needed to do more in order to enhance collection of garbage from the market. One probable reason as to why some marketeers at Old Soweto market were dissatisfied with the performance of Lusaka City Council with regards to garbage collection from the market has to do with the non-availability of wheelie bins in the market. These bins are important as they are used for primary garbage collection inside a market. What this means is that, in the absence of such bins market users tend to resort to indiscriminate means of disposing their garbage as has been the case at Old Soweto and other Council run markets in Lusaka.

This researcher also observed that Council general workers at Old Soweto market were very selective with regards to places or sections within the market, where they collected garbage. For example, some marketeers in the Chicken Sales section of the market complained that garbage was rarely collected from the section for possible transportation to the secondary garbage collection point. It was also reported by the marketeers from the Banana Sales section of the market and some restaurant owners operating from Old Soweto market that, the Council general workers had a tendency of forcing marketeers to use their bare hands to lift the sack where they had dumped their garbage and throw the garbage in Council wheel burrows during collection of garbage from the shops. This is despite them (Council general workers) having protective clothings. This is not only a risk to marketeers but also market users or buyers as chances are that this marketeer may not even clean her contaminated hands after lifting the sack containing garbage especially that water is a scarce commodity at this market. Thus, if someone is selling food, he may end up contaminating the food and the buyer is the one who is likely to pay the price. These reports given by marketeers from Old Soweto market are an indication that very few marketeers at the market are satisfied with the way Lusaka City Council has been collecting garbage from this market.

As already established, for garbage to be collected from a market, the Market Advisory Committee of that particular market needs to subscribe to the Waste Management Unit of the Council. The money which is used to pay for this subscription comes from the levies collected from the marketeers. This researcher is of the view that poor service delivery to these markets on the part of the Council has resulted into non remittance of the market levy by marketeers. For example, the monthly market levy per stall for Kaunda Square stage 1 at the time of this study was K45 and the market had 300 functional stalls. Thus, it was expected that on a monthly basis, Lusaka City Council collected not less than K10, 000.00 taking all other factors into consideration. This researcher is of the view that if this money is collected, it may help the Council to effectively manage garbage at this market. On the contrary, it was revealed by the Market Master for Kaunda Square stage 1 market that Lusaka City Council only collected about K3, 200 per month in form of market levy.

This researcher also observed that in some markets of Lusaka, political interventions were non-existence. In other words, political parties do not even have structures in these markets, hence; neither collection of market levies from marketeers nor management of garbage by the local authority was affected. Examples of Council run markets which do not have party structures inside the market are Chelston and Kaunda Square Stage 1 markets. Though this is the case, it can be said that there are still some markets in Lusaka which have political party structures and a case in point of such a market is Old Soweto where the ruling PF has party structures. One Market Advisory Committee member who is also a member of the PF branch committee was of the view that political parties should have structures in markets. The Old Soweto Market Advisory Committee member went on to say that ‘Lusaka City Council have failed to manage Old Soweto and that if a marketeer refused
to pay market levy, members of the PF branch committee were called upon and that they (PF) compelled marketeers to pay market levy with less difficulties’ (Interview with the Market Advisory Committee member for Old Soweto on 02/01/2014). On the other hand, the Market Master for Old Soweto was not of the view that political parties should have structures in markets. According to the Market Master for Old Soweto market, if a marketeer is a cadre, it becomes very difficult to collect market levy from him as they claimed that they are the ones who voted for the ruling government and trading without paying levy is one way by which the ruling government can show gratitude for their being voted into power. It was further observed that if cadres are forced to pay market levy, they resorted to chasing Council officials and this has had a negative effect on the Councils much needed revenue for service provision.

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

7.1 Conclusions

This study has not only revealed the extent to which garbage is collected in markets but has also shown the system which the Council has been using to manage garbage in markets. Depending on where the market is located, the following garbage management systems are used: (a) the use of private waste companies especially in the Lusaka City Councils Waste Districts, and (b) Waste Management Unit partnering with CBEs for peri-urban areas. Despite the existence of these two systems, it was noted that the Council has been facing difficulties when it comes to managing garbage in the markets more especially from the secondary garbage collection points. The Council has not done enough to collect garbage from these points as evidenced by piles of garbage existing outside the markets.

Therefore, though some marketeers interviewed in this study were satisfied with the way the Council collected garbage from the markets especially primary garbage collection points of markets, this researcher observed that the Council had difficulties collecting garbage from secondary collection points and this was also attested to by Market Masters of the three selected markets.

This study has also established constraints faced by the Lusaka City Council when it comes to garbage management in markets. Firstly, lack of fuel was identified as a major problem faced by Waste Management Unit when it comes to garbage management in markets. It was noted that the Waste Management Unit lacked the financial capacity needed to procure adequate fuel for its vehicles. Secondly, this study has also established that the volume of garbage in markets is not only accumulated by market users. The community surrounding the markets have a tendency of not subscribing to the various waste management companies and thus resort to dumping waste outside the markets or secondary garbage collection points. The third constraint faced by the Waste Management Unit in managing garbage in markets is that the Lusaka City Council lacks adequate machinery in terms of trucks and compactors which are supposed to be used for garbage collection. Waste Management Unit also doesn’t have enough wheelie bins which are supposed to be used for primary garbage collection in the market. This study has established that, the fact that there are no wheelie bins to be used for primary garbage collection, market users have resorted to indiscriminate means of dumping garbage.

The study has also shown that Chelston market, a market belt with assistance from the European Union, has also faced problems in terms of garbage collection from the secondary garbage collection point. It takes a lot of time for the Council to collect garbage from this point at the market. In addition to this, the Market Master for Chelston stated that the market is in need of more wheelie bins which are used to collect garbage from the primary collection point. The market had ten (10) wheelie bins at the time of this study which were not enough as revealed by the Market Master for Chelston. Thus, in terms of garbage collection from markets, it is clear that the Council is facing difficulties to collect garbage even in those markets which were constructed with assistance from the European Union.

7.2 Recommendations

The study recommends that collection of garbage from markets be done frequently. In other words the Council should have a schedule on garbage collection from markets and efforts should be made to collect garbage on the assigned days.

The study further recommends that more garbage collection points be established inside the markets if indiscriminate disposal of garbage is to be reduced. As noted market users tend to indiscriminately dispose garbage due to the non-availability of wheelie bins in some markets.

The study also recommends that more trucks and compactors be bought as these are cardinal to garbage collection from markets. Lack of adequate vehicles has had a negative effect on the operations of the Council in so far as garbage collection is concerned.

The study recommends that there is need to sensitise market users on the importance of maintaining high levels of hygiene in the markets. The study further recommends that the Lusaka City Council should procure more fuel for Waste Management Unit as this will enable the unit to collect garbage timely unlike situations where collection of garbage from markets has failed due to non-availability of fuel.

References

