

**Transcription of interview with the MD of LAWMA Lagos on Community_Corner
(Inspiration FM).**

LAWMA M.D: Collections that goes around the question you asked about the Cart Pushers and the need for PSP to improvise.

INTERVIEWER: Yes

LAWMA M.D: So we've asked, we've had conversation with PSP on reforming the program.

INTERVIEWER: Mhen!

LAWMA M.D: The collection program, so over the last two to three months, we've had discussion around what we need to do, to ensure that we are more... they are more professional and as a regulator we keep an eye on what needs to be done. So one of the question we've asked them to do is, number one, improvise, there are areas where you can't get to because of accessibility, because of different modes,

INTERVIEWER: Exactly!

LAWMA M.D: so what you need to do is improvise. You might need to engage eeeh...

INTERVIEWER: The guy... the truck... the... the... Cart Pushers

LAWMA M.D: No, don't... no Cart Pushers? No! they have to make it formal, two wrongs can't make a right. Two wrongs can't make a right. You have to make it formal. We are happy to look at the informal market, if they are happy...

INTERVIEWER: But they can't not the fact, the gap that the informal market actually creates...

LAWMA M.D: So if they are happy to... if they are happy to be regulated, if they are happy to be regulated we will introduce them to the system because the way it works... my question to you is, an average Cart Pushers, we've seen them, we've studied them, we monitored them. All you see on median, are dumped by Cart Pushers.

INTERVIEWER: That's what I am saying, if we can work with them and regulate them...

LAWMA M.D: It's majorly done by them, so why do you bring someone who does not understand, and is not ready to be regulated, if they are ready to be regulated, we will welcome them with open hands.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah

LAWMA M.D: And I will be very honest with you, they have their own grooves and buddies, but it is wrong for someone to pick a waste hundred meters down the road and put on the median and in some instances, in most

instances LAWMA has over 150 bins all across the state. We've had situations with Cart Pushers who will dump and they will not even go and throw it in the bin. We have public bins that we pick on a regular basis. So if they want to be, if they are happy and they want to be regulated, we would... we would take them on. But the key question for us is; you cannot... two wrongs can't make a right, you can never have an unregulated person operating a waste sector. Because they can pick it and put it in the drainage, and put it...

INTERVIEWER: And block it

LAWMA M.D: I will give you an example in Shomolu, shomolu for example, we have a... we've been there to do a lot of enforcement and policing, and what we experienced there was, office of Drainage services for ministry of environment and Water resources cleared up the Drains, they cleared the drains a month later, we notice there are waste in the drains, how come? We investigated it, we went round, and on a Saturday that we turn up in there, we arrested over 23 Cart Pushers. What they do is they go into neighborhood, they charge people, take their waste, pick whatever recyclables they want in there, and pour the rest in the carnal.

INTERVIEWER: Which is causing a bigger problem

LAWMA M.D: How do you... how do you... it's a bigger problem overall, if the carnal are blocked, the roads are flooded, when said about inaccessible areas,

INTERVIEWER: Yes

LAWMA M.D: it does not have to be done by Cart Pushers. So we in LAWMA we have done a bit of research about Cart Pushers,

INTERVIEWER: Ok

LAWMA M.D: how can we regulate them, with the support from Ministry of environment. We've written out how we can let them operate, but you don't have anyone to..

INTERVIEWER: To really...

LAWMA M.D: Where are they?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah that's the thing

LAWMA M.D: You understand what I am saying...

INTERVIEWER: I think at the end of the day; people just want a clean environment however it is done

LAWMA M.D: You cannot regulate faceless, so you see Cart Pushers, where's the face. So that's the thing, if there's a face,

INTERVIEWER: They have a body you can relate with

LAWMA M.D: We could start a process, and I know that we, for example we have people that are recyclers, like informal recyclers on our... on dumpsites and different areas, they have a face, they have their own association, we talk to them through their association and then we manage their activities through that. But when it comes to the normal Cart Pushers, they have no face, they are not like a regular group, some of them are not even in a group, so those are the reasons why. But we are happy to look at it, like I said earlier, our PSPs, they can use barrows, wheelbarrows to go to those place and bring it out, and do that. And also, they can always talk to know, or regular, you can never see a regular Cart Pushers in an area, they are here today, tomorrow they are not there, they are somewhere else so it's very difficult.