

Toilet facilities are terrible, sanitation is non-existent, and communicable diseases have become rampant. Write a letter to the commissioner of health listing the causes of this terrible situation and its solutions. [2023 WAEC ENGLISH QUESTION]

Blk 14, House No. 10
Sunshine Estate
Asaba
15 October 2023

The Commissioner of Health
Ministry of Health Secretariat
Asaba, Delta State

Dear Sir,

Reasons for the Rise in Communicable Diseases and Their Solutions

I wish to respectfully draw your attention to the terrible sanitary conditions in our immediate environment in this city, which have resulted in a rise in communicable diseases affecting the inhabitants. This terrible situation is caused by several factors, which include improper disposal of refuse, lack of toilet facilities, and water shortages, among others.

Asaba is the capital of our dear state, but a stranger will not know this due to how rubbish and other waste products have overtaken the city's streets, markets, and neighbourhoods. Citizens just throw away food wrappers, water or soft drink containers, raw food items, and any other items they have finished using into the streets without care. These items block the gutters and drainage systems and make them stagnant bodies of repulsive and mosquito-infested water. This careless disposal of garbage is one of the reasons why there is an increase in communicable diseases seen in the city centre, and it is spreading to the surrounding areas.

It is also disheartening that the city does not have public conveniences for people to make use of when nature calls. The few toilets in public areas are so unkempt that they are likely to be disease traps for anyone foolhardy enough to make use of them. This situation has resulted in people practicing open defecation, which ought to have been eliminated in our society many years ago. Open defecation is very dangerous because rain water washes the waste back to streams and other bodies of water, which people often come in contact with either to drink or launder their clothes, since water shortages are common in the city.

To complicate matters further, there are long stretches of a lack of water supply in the city. Citizens do not have water to carry out sanitation activities such as keeping the toilets clean, washing market stalls, and equipment such as grinding machines, meat cutting slabs, etc. Bacteria flourish in such places and give rise to diseases that pass from one person to another, that is, communicable diseases.

Sir, to curtail the rise in communicable diseases, I suggest the following solutions. First, the government, through the Ministry of Health, should conduct awareness campaigns on the proper disposal of rubbish for the citizens. Refuse collection points should be established, and fines imposed on those who fail to use the collection points.

Secondly, every public space, such as markets, schools, recreation parks, and others, should be equipped with toilets and properly managed. Citizens would use those facilities if they existed. Thirdly, access to portable water should be easy for the people, as this will enable them to carry out activities in a sanitary manner to avoid spreading diseases.

In conclusion, it is very important to resolve the issues stated above to avoid a health emergency and to live a normal, happy life.

Thank you for reading, sir.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Rusan Longmam