



FACT SHEET

From the 17th of July 2015, once with the start of the Lebanese waste crisis, Sukleen and Sukomi have been under constant criticism and scrutiny. Numerous false accusations and derogatory remarks have been made with regard to their activities in Lebanon and subsequent role in the country's current waste crisis.

During the last couple of months, with the rise of the populist movement currently known as "You Stink" and the creation of "Civic Movement", we have been publicly criticised as having received a series of inappropriate privileges from the various Lebanese Governments between 1993 until today.

We have chosen not to publicly respond to all these allegations until now because, in our contractor capacity, we had been expecting the various departments of the Lebanese Government to provide clarifications to all accusations made against Sukleen and Sukomi. Since these have not been made, we would like to clarify the following for the general Lebanese public, activist movements in Lebanon, national and international media:

1. The misinformation with regard to the actual quantities to recycle, compost and dispose of as per Sukomi's contract with Client has been extensive. We would like to make it very clear that, under the Contract signed by Sukomi with Client, it was the latter's responsibility to provide additional land to expand the waste processing capacities. If the Client had abided by the contract terms and conditions and appropriate locations had been secured, the following would have been possible:
 - a) Sukomi would have been able to increase the sorting capacity of household waste. This has currently increased from 1,700 tonnes to 3,000 tonnes.
 - b) The quantity of organic waste composted would have increased to 850 tonnes instead of the current 300 tonnes.
 - c) The recycling capacity would have increased. Under Sukomi's contract, the recycling capacity provided for was of 160 tonnes. Currently, Sukomi's recycling centres receive a quantity of 216 tonnes, more than their current capacity.
 - d) The inert material for landfilling would have been of 690 tonnes only. Currently Sukomi landfills 2,484 tonnes due to the excess quantity of organic material which can no longer be treated given the limited processing capacity.
2. When our Contract was signed, Na'ameh and Bsalim sites were made available by the Client for our operations. However, following the Environmental Impact Assessment conducted, it was concluded that Bsalim was not suitable. Consequently, Sukomi has formally requested the Lebanese government to provide us with more locations to increase: the composting quantities of the waste, its segregation rate and the recycling capacity. Under the terms of our Contract, the Client assumed full responsibility for the increased quantity of waste to be landfilled if additional locations failed to be provided:
 - a) An increase in household waste for sorting,
 - b) An increase in organic material for composting,



- c) An increase in material for recycling,
 - d) An increase in inert material for landfilling.
3. In the absence of a Waste Management Master Plan on the level of the entire country, the Government lacked a clear strategy to move forward and ensure the sustainability of the daily waste management operations. As such, the Lebanese Government had little option but to extend Sukomi's contract and use Na'ameh landfill on a temporary basis and as a short-term extension to prevent the potential waste crisis. Thus, Sukomi has been obliged to extend Naameh landfill's operations following the requests in this respect made by the Lebanese government and in compliance with its contractual obligations. These extensions were done according to international landfill norms and standards.
4. Due to the climate, geographical location and current infrastructure conditions displayed by Lebanon, we had never advocated for a single waste management disposal technology. Being a contractor, we have fully complied with the requirements made by the Client, while advocating for an integrated solution that would have encompassed different feasible, suitable and adaptable technologies that would have suited:
- a) the local waste stream requirements,
 - b) the available secondary treatment of waste and
 - c) the limited land availability for waste disposal
5. It is worth mentioning that temporary and short-term viable technologies recently proposed by some environmental activists such as bagging, fermenting and drum composting have been assessed by our international experts as not being able to cope, in a feasible manner, with the volume of waste generated daily and without the risk of failing or lagging behind at different times.
6. We have initiated, at our own cost and following an internal initiative in this regard, a series of tests to limit the quantities of waste that were being landfilled and have completed detailed feasibility studies related on the implementation of the said solutions in Lebanon. Unfortunately, no decision was taken by the Client to transition the pilot-projects mentioned below to full scale projects, nor did we receive a formal reply to our proposal. Among the findings of the feasibility studies undertaken and their subsequent results, the following can be mentioned:
- a) Sukomi has built a tunnel composting pilot project that would have increased the quantity of compostable waste. It was built, commissioned and operational in 2007. Our project would have helped to reach 750 tons of processed waste per day, around 35% of the incoming waste from Greater Beirut and Mount Lebanon or almost 50% from Greater Beirut.
 - b) In 2011, Sukomi has also engineered and pilot-tested a new segregation process that would have increased the efficiency of the segregation rate of organic waste from non-organic materials from



- 65% to almost 95%. This process would have both increased the recyclables recovery rate from 10% to more than 20% and decreased the quantity of waste that is currently being sent to landfill.
- c) In 2014, we have built, tested and operated, on a pilot basis, a Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) plant that would transform high calorific waste into fuel to be used in the cement industry. Our proposal was to commission the said plants in the vicinity of cement factories in Chekka and Sibline, thus significantly reducing even further the waste stream going to the landfill.
7. Sukomi's contract related to the waste segregation covers only 3 sorting lines. Nevertheless, Sukomi has taken the initiative, at its own cost, to expand its waste segregation activities to 8 sorting lines - 2.5 times more than in the current contract it holds with the Lebanese Government - to handle the increased volume of waste received at the sorting plants.
 8. At its own expense, Sukomi has also acquired a gas to energy generator (GEG) that has been installed in Naameh landfill. This GEG produces sufficient electricity to run the whole landfill operations, thus minimizing our operations' environmental impact. Sukomi has also been able to provide electricity to Naameh's neighbouring villages. Three villages surrounding the Naameh landfill (Abey, Baawerta, Ain Drafil) have already been provided with 0.5 MW of free electricity. However, increasing the production of electricity to a larger scale 6-7 MW awaits a governmental decision.
 9. Na'ameh landfill is managed in strict compliance with the international landfilling management standards and its operations and associated processes undergo strict environmental audits and checks, ensuring that the surrounding areas' geographies and natural geology sites are not affected by the landfilling operations. Therefore, there is no high risk of illness or any other type of pollutant contamination for the residents of the areas around Naameh landfill, as highlighted by the Government appointed international and national experts who have audited the site.
 10. Regarding the accusation that the price charged by Sukleen and Sukomi per ton of waste is high, the recent tender process launched by the Lebanese Government on 24 August 2015 has clearly indicated that Sukleen's and Sukomi's prices are and have been currently lower than those of any other new bidder, especially since Sukleen's and Sukomi's contracts cover more services than the ones requested by the new Request for Proposal of the Lebanese Government.

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