

Acknowledgments

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A WASH Education Comic Book

By The Children of South LEKMA Cluster Schools,
Teshie, Accra

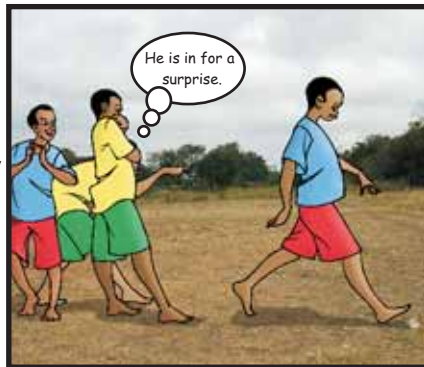


The game had been played for over seventy minutes. No goal had been scored. Suddenly, Kuma picked up the ball after a long pass from his defender; he raced past the central defender of KOKRO UNITED.



Just as he got close to the goal post, another defender from nowhere came and blasted off the ball. "OO", the fans of NYANSA FC shouted as the ball went high up and landed in the place they called the **D-Zone**, a dirty and smelly place where pupils of Kokro School go to toilet.

"What?!" Kuma shouted. "Who will go for the ball in the D-Zone? Certainly not me." He shrugged his shoulders. Almost every player decided that he would not go for the ball. Ato did not know why. The rest however knew why the place was called a **D-Zone**. He volunteered to do the brave thing. Some of his friends whistled and others jeered. Yet others cheered. Ato began to run towards the zone.



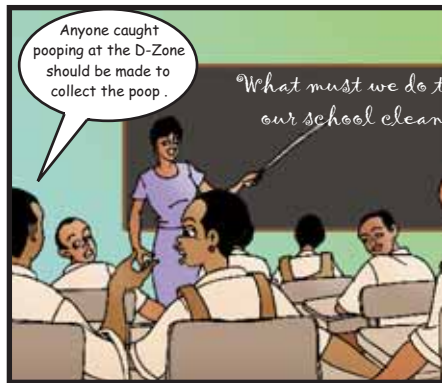
As Ato approached the D-Zone, he slowed down to a walk and now even where to step was a problem. Just as he picked his step, Nanor, who was looking on, shouted 'watch out!' But it was too late. Ato stepped into the mess. In trying to jump off, he slipped and fell.



"We told him it was the D-Zone," some of the friends teased. Others quickly went to carry him off. The game was abandoned.



The next day, the Head teacher of Kokro School called an assembly. "You have all heard what happened to Ato in that your so-called D-Zone. We were disgraced as a school. Now you see why the new toilet is important. So what should we do?"



The children and their teachers discussed at length and the students agreed that they would set up their own watchdog group to ensure that nobody went to the D-Zone area to defecate.



Three months later, it was all cleared. The D-Zone was now called the **GREEN ZONE**: a place with beautiful flower gardens, green lawns, trees and a vegetable farm. The new toilet called Mama Loo had been accepted. The children had water to flush because of the rainwater harvest tank.



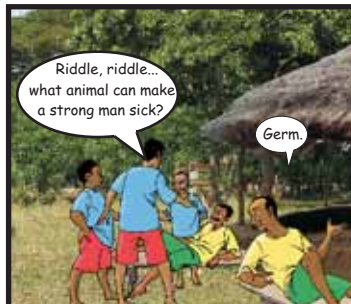
It was the day for another match. The pupils of Nyansa Cluster Schools did not want their team to go back, but they agreed with some convincing.



Ato did not go close to the green zone. He was however surprised to see small shed erected there. "Ei, what did they do to the place? He asked his friend. "Hmm..... your accident taught them a big lesson." Nanor responded. "So where do they go to toilet now?" Nanor pointed to the new toilet facility.



After the match, all the players were directed to the facility where they thoroughly washed their hands with soap under running water. They then returned to the Green zone for some refreshment.





Ato went in there to see things for himself. He remembered his nasty experience and smiled. This time he was not picking his steps and not being told to watch out. He used a proper toilet facility.



After he had finished easing himself, Ato washed his hands thoroughly with soap under running water and came out smiling broadly. They had nicknamed him **Ato the D-Zone** but that had changed things here for the better.

PATU'S TIPS FOR PROPER POOPING



Use proper toilet facilities like a house toilet, public toilet, Mama Loo, KVIP, and water closet when you poop. Defecating in the bush, at the seashore and in the gutters is improper and unhealthy.



After emptying your bowels, wipe your bum clean with clean paper or toilet roll and drop the used paper into the toilet or waste paper bin. You may also wash your bum with soap and clean water.



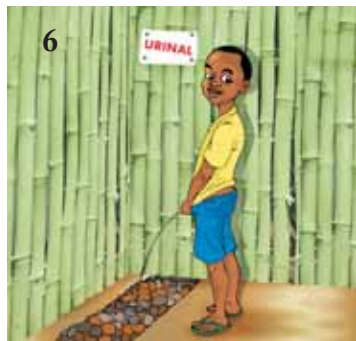
Wash your hands with soap under running water



Wash palms, the back of your hands, wrist and inside of your fingers. Make sure your finger nails are clean.



Dry your hands with a clean handkerchief or shake hands to keep dry. Do not use public napkins or towels to dry hands



Remember, it is important also to wash your hands with soap and water after urinating.



I AM BIGGER THAN THE DISEASE

Budu returned from school feeling very happy. He had exciting news for his siblings and friends. He did not meet anyone at home. Where are they all gone? At least Ako and Ameley should have returned earlier. Well, wherever they have gone to, they will come, he assured himself.

Quickly, he dropped his bag and went straight to the kitchen. He smiled at what he saw. "I am going to do justice to this one but first things first."

He fetched water and took the piece of soap. He was washing his hands when Ameley came.

Ameley: "Ei, Budu, Mister Hygiene. How long will it take you to wash those small hands?"

Budu: "Allow me to function. Didn't you hear all that education about why we should do so?"

Ameley: "So should you waste all the soap and the little water we have?"

Budu: "Ah, Ameley, how much is all these as compared to my health? Please, come and pour the water on my hands for me. Now, would you excuse me, I want to finish eating my food."

Ameley observed him with admiration. He was so devoted to the message.

Later, the duo chatting under a tree:

Budu: "Where were you when I returned?"

Ameley: "You don't know what happened to me. I think it was the food I bought on my way from school yesterday. It was behind that big gutter where people go and squat to do their own thing."

Budu's mouth opened wide in surprise. *"You mean after all the education you went to buy food at that place? Ameley, you've disappointed me."*

Ameley was up in defence immediately.

Ameley: "Oh, but part of the gutter had been covered and people buy food there every day anyway. The food had a nice aroma and I bet you would have loved to taste it."



Budu: "Temptations! God forbid. I guess the aroma attracted the flies too who were earlier attracted by the contents of the gutter.

Ameley: "Ahh! There were no flies!"

Budu: "Were you there all the time? But let's assume there were no flies. What about the dust?"

Ameley: "But that is normal everywhere!"

Budu: "Well, that normal is what kills people abnormally by giving them diseases like cholera and diarrhea."

Ameley: "Disease, come off it. As for me I am bigger than any disease"

Budu: "Really, Tell me the truth, did you wash your hands when you were about to eat that food?"

Ameley was silent for a while and that was a response.

Budu told Ameley about what the teacher said. When people defecate at the wrong place and it dries, it mixes up with the dust and carries disease germs that settle on foods around. That is why proper toilet facilities like public toilets, KVIP and water closets should be used.

Budu: "We should buy food sold under hygienic conditions only and wash our hands properly before eating. When we fail to do that we become ill"

Ameley: "I think you are right"

Budu: " So, you see how those germs got your stomach running. The only way you can be bigger than those diseases is for you to maintain good personal hygiene and make sure you wash your hands properly with soap and water before eating."



END





Every contribution counts



Sharing ideas



A picture speaks more than a hundred words



The "A TEAM"



Facilitators sharing their thoughts



Making learning fun!!!