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Ifaki Ekiti Methodist Church members advocating for water provision by making water available in the reservoirs.



...CONTINUED FROM 2ND PAGE

If this is the plumline against which water and sanitation is to be measured then we fall short of its implementation in many geographical areas in the country called South Africa or more colloquially called Mzansi.

The constitution is aspirational and one hopes that what we aspire for will come to fruition.

Why does government together with the excessively wealthy private sectors' energies and expertise not concentrate on realising the aspiration as the constitution instructs? Surely the number one priority must be the renewal of infrastructure upgraded to meet the needs of the majority of our citizens, from an infrastructure which only benefitted the minority whites under Apartheid? Should not the energy of relevant government departments be spent on a concerted fast-track approach to solving the housing, water and electricity crises? One acknowledges that alongside this are other major pressing issues like qualitative, timeous healthcare; education and so on.

We have shown how as a nation we have the ability to construct huge stadiums countrywide in a limited time period when we hosted the soccer world cup in 2010. The process of building these stadiums began in 2006. Yes, we have the ability; resources and skills; yet it would seem politics gets in the way and 'it is our turn to eat' axiom is activated as the norm.

To a large extent there are two

critical of a number of water challenges South Africa is facing.

1. Water restriction caused by drought
 2. and water control by the mining industry. (and other industries)
- The consequences of which result in death of citizens who protest; and citizens who succumb to drought related death.

Drought has always been a feature of South African water patterns.

The corruption we are experiencing as a country is no new thing. State corruption was introduced to South Africa by one of the first European governors in the 16th Century; and this trajectory has remained. Aside from the diabolical oppressive system of apartheid which caused daily violence to the majority of black Africans, both directly and indirectly; the Apartheid government corruptly looted state assets to set up major banks to service the minority with money from the state-owned enterprises like the electricity (ESKOM) and water departments. Many white beneficiaries became and remain billionaires as a result of these nefarious endeavours.

How the oppressed majority, naively, looked forward to our freedom fighters, whom it was thought were people of impeccable integrity, to eradicate all things corrupt and build a new nation which

offers equity for all. Alas thus far; even though small steps in that direction are evident; we have a long way to go. The previous white minority still benefit the most in terms of access to clean water; many of them have become smug and point to the perception that the current government cannot function without 'whiteness.'

The water crisis remains. The sad thing is that in many areas it need not be a crisis; because the crisis can be fixed. The crisis is growing; because of ageing infrastructure some of which is more than fifty years old. Not a day goes by when one drives along any of the streets in our major cities and suburbs where water gushes from a burst pipe. In some instances, roads have collapsed endangering lives.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it,

South Africa is already using 98% of all available water resources and, during summer it get worse.

Gauteng was recently left without water because, according to the Department of Water & Sanitation, it was too "close to the edge."

Story for illustration purposes only



and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. (Revelation 22: 1 to 5).



JUST WATER

EWN-Africa Publication.

ECUMENICAL WATER NETWORK AFRICA

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A Brief on Quest for Water Justice: Embracing "Blue Community" as a Response By Very Rev. Kolade Fadahunsi, Africa Regional Coordinator, Ecumenical Water Network Africa (of the Ecumenical Water Network, World Council of Churches)

Water justice...
A critical issue in Africa, where access to clean and safe water is often limited, particularly in rural areas. And the trampling on the rights of citizens to be part of the solution is creating a more devastating situation both now and in the time to come if nothing is done to address it urgently. **The Blue community...**

...a global movement that aims to promote water justice and ensure that all people have access to clean and safe water. **In Africa, Does the Blue Community initiative has the potential to make a significant impact on the lives of millions of people who currently lack access to clean water? Yes!**

One of the key principles of the Blue Community initiative is the recognition of

water as a human right. All people everywhere have the right to access clean and safe water for drinking, cooking, and sanitation.

A Typical day at Sabo community, Ibadan...
Girls and boys queuing at a privately constructed borehole to fetch water for a token. **a similar condition in communities in rural-urban areas in Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria.**



The Blue Community initiative emphasizes the importance of sustainable water management.

In Africa, water resources are often scarce and under pressure from fac-

tors such as climate change, population growth, and pollution. Sustainable water management practices, such as rainwater harvesting, water conservation, and watershed protection, are essential to ensure that water resources are preserved for future generations. **Another key aspect of the Blue Community initiative is the promotion of community participation in water management. In many parts of Africa, water resources are controlled by governments or private companies, leading to inequitable access to water. By involving local communities in decision-making processes, the Blue Community initiative aims to ensure that water resources are managed in a fair and transparent manner.**



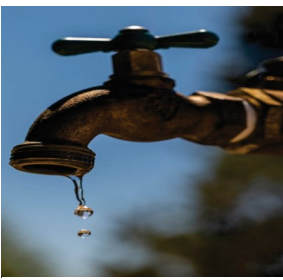
Gambia, Kenya and South Africa

As of October 2022, about 226 million people in Eastern and Southern Africa did not have access to basic water services, and 381 million people lacked access to basic sanitation services. The situation is worse in rural areas than in cities.

We are poised to promote the concept of Blue Communities through Church to Church advocacy and Interactions on Water as a human right.



STATE GOVT. LAUNCHED WATER SECTOR LAW AFTER 19 YEARS OF CONCEPTION



Water drop from a tap

On November 10, the Enugu State Government launched its water sector law to regulate issues on water generation and supply to establish a platform of providing citizens the person rights to access portable water and sanitation services.

The law, a six chapter document with over 100 pages, was launched about 19 years after it was conceived, in partnership with WaterAid Nigeria and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) with the aim of providing institutional and regulatory framework for the water and sanitation sector within the state.

“...We are not only working on providing water, but enough water for the people’s consumption...”
 “...but the citizens need to also play their own part by improving their pipes and taps to avoid breaking due to high pressure of water...”

The water law was enacted by the House of Assembly on July 27, 2021 but it was mooted in 2004 despite the fact that Enugu State suffers from constant water scarcity that affects source of livelihood and health.

However, the bill which also made provision for the involvement of the private sector in the state’s water management, was assented to on August 3, 2021, by the immediate past Government.

The Enugu state govt of Nigeria, stated it is not only working on providing water, but enough water for the people’s consumption, and are going to produce 60 cubic metres of water before November 2024.

The citizens were encouraged to play their own part by improving their pipes and taps to avoid breaking due to high pressure of water,”

By enacting the comprehensive law, Enugu has taken a significant step towards the

WATER CHALLENGES AND CRISES IN SOUTH AFRICA - THE LAND OF PLENTY

A brief personal reflection by Rev. Mike Vorster (Bishop)

Psalm 23 reminds us that the Lord Is our shepherd we shall not want;

God makes us lie beside still waters; is a reminder that this is the world which God wants for us; where we can have all our earthly and spiritual needs addressed. We shall not want and water will be plentiful so that we can relax; chill and enjoy the healing ripple of still waters.

We lie down in God’s green pastures; and are led beside still waters, our souls are restored.

However:

At times on this journey, we walk through the valley of the shadow of death; yet we need to courageously face the opposition. and always seek justice and equity for all.

The waters are not still; for the waters are disturbed and commodified, by the enemies of God’s everlasting desire for creation.

The issue of water is critical to the survival of humanity. In South Africa we are constantly faced with an energy crisis whereby our electricity is shut off for designated periods of no less than two hours a day throughout the country. This is euphemistically called ‘load-shedding’. Many people also face the reality

of water-shedding whereby there is no water for days on end. People going through experiences like this always say; we can live without electricity but we will not survive without water.

Then there are many parts of our country where people don’t have water and proper sanitation. Water is life. Life is water. South Africa like many countries in Africa is water-stressed. Every drop is precious; more precious than oil. You can’t drink oil.

South African song-group Stimela asks the questions in one of their songs: “What’s going on in the land of plenty. “There’s no justice in

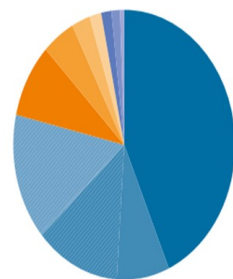
the land of plenty ... the young generations want to know what’s going on?”

South Africa has enough resources including water; to meet the needs of all its citizens, however for this to achieved requires huge effort by everyone especially those who have the keys to power Chapter 2 of the Constitution of South Africa provides that: “Everyone has the right to have access to sufficient food and water.” In order to give effect to this right Parliament has enacted the Water Services Act 108 of 1997.

We have all the correct legislation in place; now the policy needs to implemented. The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr Senzo Mchunu, tabled a budget of R40.291 billion for the 2023/2024 financial year in the National Assembly on Tuesday, 16 May 2023.

Contd. on pg 4...

Two out of five people without access to an improved drinking water source live in Africa



- Sub-Saharan Africa, 325
- Southern Asia, 149
- India, 92
- Eastern Asia, 114
- China, 112
- South-eastern Asia, 67
- Latin America & Caribbean, 36
- Western Asia, 20
- Northern Africa, 13
- Caucasus and Central Asia, 11
- Developed regions, 9
- Oceania, 5

VOICES OF WATER JUSTICE IN KENYA

Water justice is a critical issue worldwide, with many regions facing challenges related to water access, availability, and management. Kenya, as a developing nation, grapples with various water-related issues, affecting its communities and ecosystems.

Water justice in Kenya is a critical issue encompassing equitable access to clean, safe drinking water and sanitation. The journey towards achieving water justice involves addressing historical disparities, social challenges, and government policies to ensure universal access to this fundamental human right.

Kenya, located in East Africa, is characterized by diverse ecosystems, ranging from arid and semi-arid regions to lush highlands. Despite this diversity, the country faces significant challenges in ensuring water justice for its population. The issue extends beyond mere water scarcity, encompassing access, distribution, pollution, and the impact of climate change. Water-related challenges in Kenya are complex and multifaceted, affecting both urban and rural areas. Limited access to clean water disproportionately affects marginalized communities, exacerbating existing socio-economic disparities. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive understanding of the voices advocating for water justice in the country. Kenya is rated among the water scarce countries of the world. In terms of water quality, Nyanchaga asserts that Kenya’s water resources face serious threats from pollution, siltation, reclamation, pesticides, weed attack, and human activities.

Since water is a basic requirement for human survival, its development is crucial, and various administrative regimes have assigned varying degrees of importance to it. Water development in Kenya, like any other form of development, has faced various challenges.

In the context of Kenya Vision 2030, the water and sanitation sector aims to ensure water availability and improved sanitation for all, recognizing the economic and

social linkages identified in the Vision. The anticipated growth in industry, urbanization, and population necessitates addressing issues such as water scarcity, security, quality, infrastructure development, general management, and monitoring to meet the increasing demand for water and sanitation services.

VOICES OF WATER JUSTICE

In Kenya, the pursuit of water justice has given rise to diverse voices advocating for equitable access, sustainability, and community empowerment in water resource management. Local communities, often the most affected by water-related challenges, have been actively voicing their concerns and demanding justice.

At the national level, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like the Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF) contribute significantly to the discourse on water justice in Kenya.

In academia, scholars and researchers have also contributed their voices to the dialogue on water justice in Kenya. Notable publications, such as "Water services management and governance: past lessons for a sustainable future" by Hukka, Katko, and Seppala (1992), provide insights into historical challenges and the need for reforms in Kenya’s water sector.

KEY CHALLENGES IN ACHIEVING WATER JUSTICE

Achieving water justice globally and in specific regions like Kenya is a complex undertaking, marked by numerous challenges that impede equitable access to clean water resources. One of the key challenges is the prevalence of water scarcity exacerbated by climate change and unsustainable water management practices.

Inadequate infrastructure and poor water governance represent another critical challenge in achieving water justice.

Furthermore, social and economic

factors play a significant role in perpetuating water injustice. Vulnerable populations, including low-income communities and rural areas, face difficulties in affording and accessing clean water services.

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

Addressing the challenges of achieving water justice in Kenya requires a multi-faceted approach that integrates sustainable solutions at various levels. One key solution lies in the implementation of community-based water resource management initiatives.

Investment in modern and resilient water infrastructure is another crucial solution to water justice challenges in Kenya.

Furthermore, policy reforms and strengthened governance mechanisms are essential to overcoming challenges in achieving water justice.

In conclusion, the voices of water justice in Kenya echo a compelling narrative of resilience, advocacy, and the collective pursuit of a fundamental human right. These voices highlight the urgent need for addressing challenges such as water scarcity, inadequate infrastructure, and socio-economic disparities that persist in impeding universal access to clean water.

