

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE TRACKER

STATE OF THE WATER SITUATION IN BIG CITIES .WHAT ARE THE LEADERS DOING?



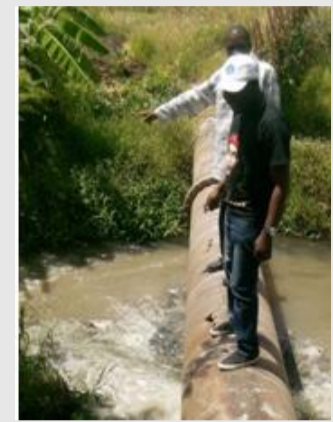
Residents of Bulawayo fetch water from a borehole | Mabvuku residents have not had running water in their homes for 8years | The Bulawayo City Council has installed a water meter pipe in Cowdray Park | Children forced to queue for water before heading to school

MINISTRY OF WATER ,MAYORS & CITY COUNCILORS OF HARARE AND BULAWAYO :WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO ADDRESS THE WATER CRISIS?

The new constitution now has a Bill of Rights that captures Social and Economic Rights that should be enjoyed by every Zimbabwean. The constitution now realizes 2nd generation rights such as the Right to health care, education and right to food and water.

This was as a result of inputs by the people of Zimbabwe and mainly civic groups that campaigned for the inclusion of these 2nd generation rights. Now that these rights are in the new constitution there is need for their monitoring, tracking their progressive implementation.

ZIMCODD as a social and economic justice coalition ,and from consultation of its stakeholders seeks to track through the Social and Economic Rights in the form of a social and economic justice tracker. The tracker will score the various implementing duty bearers.



Residents point to a burst waste pipe polluting a stream in Kambuzuma



City bosses divert loan cash to cars -Residents have to watch Harare City Council management in their top of the range cars amidst diseases and water shortages.

As enshrined in Section 77(a) of the Zimbabwean Constitution every person has *the right to safe, potable water and the State must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within the limits of the resources available to it, to achieve the progressive realization of this right.*

The right to water can only become a reality through the strengthening of the bulk supply side which is ZINWA's mandate as enshrined in the Zimbabwe National Water Act of 1998 and the distribution side which is the mandate for the local authorities.

From the community experiences gathered by the coalition, there are glaring revelations that in spite of the clear mandates of both the government arm (ZINWA), local authorities and constitutional provisions on the right to water in the bill of rights, the citizens are not enjoying the right and the progressive steps are not clear in making efforts to fulfill this right:

In Harare

- We the residents, are concerned with loopholes in public finance stemming from lack of transparency on the US\$144,4 million Chinese loan which did not go through public tender as well as the recent vehicle procurement scandal and dubious salaries and allowances.
- This is against a background of deteriorating services in the capital with areas such as Mabvuku not enjoying their right to water for almost 8years.
- The City of Harare says that it loses half of its treated water through leakages, gets 50% of its revenue from water but does not have a long term plan to solve the water crisis.

In Bulawayo

- The Ministry of Environment ,Water and Climate through ZINWA has not done much to provide bulk water. The Matabeleland Zambezi Water Project has remained a talk show without anything tangible despite the project deemed the permanent solution to Bulawayo and the regional water woes.
- The Bulawayo City Council is on record moving for the installation of pre-paid water meters. A project vehemently rejected by residents who raise pertinent issues and challenges on the implications of these meters.The residents view it as a violation of their right to water.
- The cases of these two major cities are a true reflection of the water situation in many other towns and cities in Zimbabwe, where water is treated as a mere privilege taken at anytime by the duty bearers without the citizens 'engagement.
- ZIMCODD considers it both the central and local governments' duty to address the looming water crisis by channeling proceeds from the vast natural resources in the country for social justice.
- The residents of Harare, Bulawayo, Masvingo, Mutare, Gweru and all the towns and cities call on you the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate ,Ministry of Local Government Public Works and local authorities to address the water crisis.

Local authorities, what is happening with revenue being collected?Re-prioritise on your budget lines to avail funding towards social service delivery such as water .

You are the duty bearers and us the rights holders will score each one of you as follows:

Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate

1. Provide bulk water to towns and cities ,in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) Standard which recommends at least 50litres/per day for a person. We call on progressive steps in the national budget towards allocation of funds to water provision.

Current Progressive Score 3/10

Currently there are no clear steps to alleviate shortage of water in towns and cities, instead some households in Harare such as Mabvuku,Tafara,Kuwadzana have not had the precious liquid for more than 8years whilst in Bulawayo progress on the Matabeleland Zambezi water project remains a pipe dream.

2. Revise Water Legislative Framework

You should craft a water policy framework that allows local authorities to deliver best services. This is through analyzing available policies and modifying them or crafting new ones. There should be harmony on existing legislations such as the ZINWA Act, Water Act and the Urban Councils Act. The Water policy should also be urgently adopted so that the water crisis is given the national recognition it deserves.

Current Progressive Score 5/10

Currently there is no coherence in the water policy. To score you well there is need to have a participative process to harmonize laws and policies towards water provision.

Ministry of Finance

1. Allocate funds from the national budget to the water cause.

We will monitor allocation of funds, to the water cause. There should be a deliberate move to put adequate resources to provide adequate water supply. Zimbabwe is endowed with vast natural resources hence part of the revenue should be channeled towards fulfillment of this right .

Current Progressive Score 4/10

Currently there is no clarity and transparency in the allocation of funds to alleviate the water crisis.

Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing

1. Avoid too much interference in Council affairs

The central government should have some administrative control over local authorities as it was. There should not be excessive interference that hampers operative autonomy. The major disadvantage of the municipal system is that it is liable to constant political interference at the expense of

efficiency, effectiveness and transparency in service provision.

Current Progressive Score %10

The example of interference in Harare shows retrogressive steps in giving autonomy to the local authorities, hence setting up the Provincial Councils will be a progressive move.

Local Authorities

1. We demand efficient provision of water

As residents and rate payers we will score you .We demand for efficient provisions of water in line with constitutional provisions Section 44 and 77(a)

2. Public Finance Management re-prioritize

Consult us the residents on public loans you contract and the allocation of revenue that you collect. Service provision should be at the centre of your core business.

Current Progressive Score 2/10

Your score is in the minus .Set the example by auditing the US\$144 million Chinese loan. Nurture systems of residents participation, transparency and accountability in public finance.

3. Reverse the privatization approach to water

Since water is a human right that should be accessible to everyone .Any local authority that goes ahead with the installations will be violating our right to water as provided in the constitution. Taking away the free threshold through the installation of pre-paid water meters will jeopardize the people 'social welfare most of whom are wallowing in abject poverty.

4. Abide by Justice Bhunu 's ruling

Justice Chinembiri Bhunu's ruling on the case of Farai Mushoriwa versus the Harare City Council ,handed down on the 30th April 2014,vindicates our calls for the fulfillment of the right to water as he ruled that council tendency of disconnecting water supplies without the order of the courts was tantamount to self -help by municipalities and a disregard of the Constitution of Zimbabwe ,of particular note Sections 44 and 77(a). We call upon you to abide by this ruling.

The launch and installation of prepaid meters will put your score in the negative instead prioritize water provision and ensure that households have running water at any given time.

5. Ring-fence the Water Account

Local authorities you should ensure that revenue generated from water supply is exclusively directed towards water works. It is an injustice to divert money generated from water supply for personal gain.

Current Progressive Score %10

Nothing done yet subjecting funds to misallocations, misappropriation and abuse.

When is the water crisis going to be addressed and why is it not being addressed with the urgency it deserves? During August 2008-June 2009 cholera outbreak, an estimated 95,531 suspected cases of cholera and 4,282 deaths were reported. We don't want history to repeat itself hence local authorities, act swiftly and address the water crisis.If we work together , the right to water in the new constitution can become a reality.

KEY

Category	Effective	Fairly Effective	Somewhat not effective	Not effective
Scale	7.5-10	5-7.4	2.5-4.9	0-2.4

WE DON'T NEED ANY LOANS, OUR RESOURCES ARE ENOUGH TO ADDRESS THE WATER CRISIS!

