
Ministry of Water Resources
Republic of Sierra Leone

“Water is life....”



“State of Water Supply in Sierra Leone - Challenges and Opportunities”

Presented by: Hon. Dr. Jonathan Bonapha Tengbe
Minister Of Water Resources

20th June, 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS :

- BRIEF BACKGROUND ON THE WATER SITUATION**
- KEY CHALLENGES**
- KEY OPPORTUNITIES**

BRIEF BACKGROUND ON THE WATER SITUATION :

- i. THERE ARE TWO UTILITIES IN THE SECTOR WITH ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND THE OTHER FOR RURAL WATER SUPPLY
 - ii. CURRENTLY LESS THAN HALF OF THE POPULATION HAVE ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER
 - iii. GENERALLY, PIPE BORNE WATER SUPPLY IS LARGELY LIMITED TO FREETOWN WHICH IS THE CAPITAL, BUT WITH THE MAIN DAM GROSSLY INADEQUATE TO MEET THE CITY DEMAND
 - iv. FOUR OUT OF THE SIXTEEN DISTRICT HQ HAVE NO WATER SUPPLY FACILITY AT ALL WHILST THE REST HAVE FACILITIES THAT ARE GROSSLY INADEQUATE TO MEET BASIC DEMAND
 - v. MOST RURAL AREAS OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT HQ RELY ON VERY FEW WATER WELLS AND SOLAR BOREHOLES WHILST THE MAJORITY RELY ON UNPROTECTED WATER SOURCES
 - vi. POPULATION GROWTH HAS LED TO DEMAND SIDE OUTWEIGHING SUPPLY SIDE LEADING TO IMMENSE PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION
-
-

KEY CHALLENGES :

- i. LOW CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ALLOCATIONS TO FUND MAJOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS THAT WOULD INCREASE ACCESS TO PORTABLE WATER.
 - ii. LOW TARIFF STRUCTURE LEADING TO LACK OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN TERMS OF CAPITAL INJECTION. THIS ALSO AFFECTS EXISTING UTILITIES ABILITY TO MEET THEIR O&M EXPENSES AND INVEST IN SUSTAINING CAPEX.
 - iii. VARIATION IN THE RATIO OF POPULATION GROWTH COMPARE TO INVESTMENT IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURES HAVE RESULTED IN INADEQUATE SUPPLY CAPACITY TO MEET DEMAND.
 - iv. CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEFORESTATION HAVE RESULTED TO CATCHMENT AREAS AND WATERSHEDS DRYING UP LEADING TO SHORTAGE OF WATER SUPPLY. THIS IS VERY OBVIOUS IN THE CAPITAL FREETOWN.
 - v. RELATIVELY NEW MINISTRY WITH LOTS OF CAPACITY GAPS IN TERMS OF HUMAN RESOURCE, LOGISTICAL, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT.
-

KEY OPPORTUNITIES :

- i. PLANS TO REFORM THE SECTOR THROUGH UNBUNDLING OF WATER GENERATION FROM WATER SUPPLY
 - ii. THE ENACTMENT INTO LAW THE NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AGENCY
 - iii. GOVERNMENT POLICY TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC, PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPP) IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS ESPECIALLY IN URBAN AREAS WHERE MARKET POTENTIAL DO EXIST
 - iv. EXISTING SHORT, MEDIUM TO LONG TERM WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS ENTAILING CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR POWERED BOREHOLES, CONTAINERIZE WATER SYSTEMS, GRAVITY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS, NEW DAMS, TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS, ETC
 - v. INTEGRATING SANITATION AND IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN FUTURE INVENTIONS
 - vi. ENHANCING CAPACITIES THROUGH SETTING UP NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER, FORMULATING CURRICULA FOR WATER ENGINEERS AND PROMOTING GRADUATE DEGREE IN WATER ENGINEERING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF SIERRA LEONE
-

