

MEDIA ADVISORY

October 6, 2021

African CSOs, Labour Activists to Organise First Africa Week of Action Against Water Privatisation

Civil society and labour activists from Africa campaigning against water privatization will organise the first ever Africa Week of Action Against Water Privatisation from 11-15 October 2021.

The week of action, which coincides with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Annual Meetings holding 11-17 October, will deepen push back actions against water privatisation in Africa through partnership of labour and civil society. Recognising the World Bank as one of the biggest drivers of water privatisation around the world, especially in Africa, the week of action taking place during its annual meeting will serve as an important counterweight to the pro-privatisation agenda. It will bolster the movement for the human right to water in Africa by identifying and deepening connections between struggles in 8 countries on the continent. The Our Water Our Right Africa Coalition, which is organising the week of action, also target deepening collective support for countries at risk of a range of water privatisation schemes, including across West, East, Central, and Southern Africa.

Activities lined out for the week of action include:

- An international press conference on 13 October at (2pm WAT)
- Meetings with policy makers across the region
- Awareness raising about the dangers of water privatisation through protest marches, social media engagements and townhall meetings with excluded communities.
- Endorsing of a position statement by the Our Water Our Right Africa Coalition

Participants at the virtual press briefing will include activists from Cameroun, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, and Uganda. US-based Corporate Accountability, Public Services International (PSI), and a leader of Black Lives Matter, Grassroots will participate.

Speakers will include Akinbode Oluwafemi of Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa, Dr. Melina Abdullah the Black Lives Matter, Grassroots, and Dr. Everline Aketch of the PSI. Others are Younoussa Abbosouka of Africa Center for Advocacy in Cameroun and labour activist from Senegal, Oumar BA.

Solidarity statements are expected from members of US Congress, Leo Heller, the second Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and Professor Sofiri Peterside of the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, among others.

The highpoint of the briefing will be the unveiling and launch of a report - ***AFRICA MUST RISE & RESIST WATER PRIVATISATION*** which catalogues threats of water privatisation in Africa and provides the pathway to addressing the water deficit on the continent within the realm of the public sector. The report makes implementable recommendations targeted at water corporations, national governments, regional bodies, and multilateral institutions.

For media enquiries contact:

Philip Jakpor, Director of Programmes, Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa

+234 803 725 6939 or jakporphilip@gmail.com

Lena Greenberg, Press Officer, Corporate Accountability +1 (646)6205344 or

lgreenberg@corporateaccountability.org

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