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Water for Life, Water for Health: The insatiable Quest for sustainable sanitized water in Nigerian Rural Communities

Presented by: Engr. Dr. Enebechi Chukwuemeka Theophilus (Reg. ID 965278)

Semccacei2019@gmail.com, theomeka9@gmail.com

Water Supply History in Nigeria

In Nigeria, under the Federal Ministry of water Resources, the public water supply is managed by water corporations or public utility boards in all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja. Local governments frequently support their efforts by providing water to small villages under their control.

A few rural settlements were given manually operated boreholes and wells, but due to constant breakage and a fall in the water table, these wells and boreholes produce little to no water during the dry seasons. Where they do not exist, water delivery services are unreliable, of poor quality, and unsustainable due to problems with management, operation, and pricing as well as failure to recoup expenses. Due to poor maintenance and a lack of operating finances, many water delivery systems exhibit significant deterioration and inefficient use of available capacity.

The United Nations Declaration of “the human right to water”

Fast forward to the present dispensation. The United Nations (UN) resolution 64/292 has it that “the human right to water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses,” This statement aptly ascribes to humanity the immutable right to have access to potable clean and sanitized water at all times. My country, Nigeria, is unarguably, among those covered by the content of the said UN resolution as a signatory to all UN charter and documents. Unfortunately, however, the realization of this goal is still a mirage for the teeming population of the rural populace in my country. Even among the city dwellers, access to clean, safe and usable water is rather utopia of a sort! This why we have chosen to address the issue as captioned above in order to chart a course aimed at ensuring the availability of this all-important commodity: **water!**

Rural communities' appalling lack of potable water for drinking and other domestic tasks is a reason for concern. For water, many rural residents travel several kilometers to ponds or streams.

Those who rely on wells for water in some localities have water shortages during the harmattan season.

In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of excellent health and gender equality, access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for all people must be ensured by 2030 (United Nations, 2018).

The sorry state of the citizens in the localities of my part of the world are actually worrisome and call for international attention and collaboration. The needed collaboration will complement the efforts of the local dwellers by bringing succor and relief to them by ensuring more qualitative lives and increased life expectancy and resulting longevity.

Traditional and Local Methods of Water purification in Nigeria

The high point of this presentation is an exposition of the traditional efforts made by Nigerians in different local communities to purify the water available to them for consumption and general usage. This is the crux of this special session.

Some of the popular methods are presented in this section to drive home the need for help from the international community so as to achieve the goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as enunciated by the United Nations. Boiling, filtration, sedimentation, extended storage, and sun radiation are some of the classic water purification techniques still in use today.

Concluding Remarks

Lack of timely and appropriate access to drinkable water in Nigeria's rural areas is a serious issue for Nigerian population. Analysis above suggests that the shortcomings of Nigerian policy in rural water supply sector are mostly responsible for this constraint.

Due to the limited availability of drinkable water from RWSSs, both men and women and their families have lower quality of life. The international community, embodied in the United Nations, are being called upon to the rescue so that the standard quality of life could be provided to the local citizens of my country, Nigeria.

Thank you for providing us with this rare opportunity of addressing this august interactive session.