



SOCIETY FOR WATER AND SANITATION

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PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE BY SOCIETY FOR WATER AND SANITATION (NEWSAN) ON THE COMMEMORATION OF 2017 WORLD DAY, 22ND MARCH, 2017.

The Society for Water and Sanitation (NEWSAN) the Civil Society Network on Water Sanitation and Hygiene wishes to on this 22nd day of March, 2017 join the rest of the World in celebrating the 2017 World Water Day.

On behalf of the National Executive Committee (NEC) and the entire members of NEWSAN we wish to congratulate the Nigerian Government and all partners in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector for being part of the 2017 World Water Day Celebration. But this Celebration would have been more meaningful if we have had sectorial achievements to go with it. There is no doubt that the Government and other partners have been doing so much to bridge the deficiency gap in the water sector but all the efforts have failed achieve the required results.

The Theme for this year's World Water Day is 'Why waste water?'

It is a well-known fact that no matter how common water is supposed to be it does not mean it available everywhere as only few places have it and some in abundance.

We are all familiar with the saying that, 'Water is Life and today we are adding to that that, Water is Wealth' Water is so invaluable that its contribution to that attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can never be over emphasized. That is why we must continuously remind ourselves of the importance of not wasting water and to also learn to ensure that our used water is in a state where it can be recycled or reused.

Zonal Coordinators

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Vision: 'Access to safe Water and Sanitation for all Nigerians.'

Today, we are emphasizing the important role of water in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) We all know that in this sector, water cannot afford to stand alone as we cannot talk about water without Sanitation and Hygiene and neither can Sanitation and Hygiene be discussed without Water that is why the four letter word W-A-S-H would remain an incomplete word without the 'W' and the 'W' will find itself in the same status with 'A-S-H' as Water and Ash are still used for sanitation and hygiene purposes as one cannot function effective and efficient without the other.

It is our hope that 2017 World Water Day will mark the beginning an Era of Success going by previous practice of the Nigeria Government where it failed to honour both its local and international commitments and supporting other partners' contribution by attaching importance to contributing Counter-Part Fund to bridge implementation gaps in the WASH Sector.

We will however not want to continue to dwell in the past but we will want March, 2017 to mark the 'Turning Point' in the History of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector in Nigeria where the Government and partners at both state and National levels will be committed to working with Civil Society Organisations in the sector to drive the process of attaining the SDGs.

Where all arms of government will realise that Water, Sanitation and Hygiene is the 'Gate-Way to Development' and honour their commitments ranging for budgetary provision and timely release for providing reliable facilities and services for the citizenry.

This 22nd day of March 2017 should make the beginning of our commitment to ending Open Defecation with the 2030 target in mind.

This 22nd day of March 2017 should mark the beginning of adopting appropriate implementation strategy for the implementation of Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) and where valuable achievement would be recorded to justify the resource utilized in the sector.

HAPPY 2017 WATER DAY.

ATTAH BENSON

NATIONAL COORDINATOR

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