

Testo della lettera da inviare a: [ourwaterourright@stopcorporateabuse.org](mailto:ourwaterourright@stopcorporateabuse.org) con il nome della vostra Associazione, e il Paese.

Akinbode Oluwafemi  
Deputy Executive Director  
Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria

Shayda Edwards Naficy  
Senior Program Director  
Corporate Accountability International

Dear Governor Akinwunmi Ambode,

We are organizations around the world committed to ensuring the human right to water is upheld and protected. We recently read with concern a statement from the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Léo Heller, regarding an environmental bill recently passed in Lagos.

We were alarmed to discover this bill criminalizes unauthorized water abstraction and distribution, which a majority of Lagosians depend on to meet their daily drinking, bathing and cooking needs.

We were equally alarmed to see that the bill prioritizes the payment of private contract and concession expenses before any other government expense, no matter how urgent. Having seen the unintended costs and harmful consequences of private water contracts and concessions elsewhere in the world, we are deeply concerned about the implications of this provision on the human rights and well-being of the people of Lagos.

As such, we echo UN Special Rapporteur Heller's plea to Lagos lawmakers to "reconsider the Bill and to conduct a proper and meaningful public consultation with all relevant stakeholders providing an adequate time for comments and opinions."

In addition, we are deeply concerned to see the Lagos State Water Corporation pursuing multiple concessions and other corporate contracts, including a 25-year concession for the Adiyari II project and a public private partnership (PPP) for the Odomola project. Based on many of our experiences in cities around the world, we know that PPPs and other privatization contracts often bring unexpected costs for cities, raise rates for consumers, and produce labor violations and infrastructure neglect.

Given these concerns, we wish to express our profound hope that you will:

- Do everything in your power to halt the implementation of the damaging environment bill recently passed by the Assembly.
- Withdraw current efforts to secure corporate concessions and contracts in the water sector.
- Commit to public funding of water and ensure robust and accountable democratic process for implementing any legislation relating to water and sanitation.

In conclusion, we are eager to see your administration commit to ensuring the human right to water through a democratic, public system. Your leadership on water will not only ensure all Lagosians can access clean, safe water -- it will also set an example for all of us around the world.

Sincerely,

cc: Dr. Samuel Babatunde Adejare, Honourable Commissioner, Lagos State Ministry of the Environment

Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Ajayi Obasa, Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly

Hon. Dayo Saka Fafunmi, Chairman, House Committee on Environment, Lagos State House of Assembly