



**WATER & COVID-19** 

# ONE YEAR AFTER DAMNING REPORT

WATER SHORTAGE STILL PERSISTS IN LAGOS

# Special Report #002 March, 2021





Period of Investigation: January 25, 2021 – March 5, 2021 Field Monitors: Philip Jakpor, Olatunji Buhari & Aderonke Ige

Photos: Olalekan Fagbenro

## Highlights:

- Visited waterworks functioning below installed capacity
- Most of the previously visited waterworks are still not producing
- Lagos residents resort to self help



he response of the Lagos State Government to the spread of COVID 19 is a microcosm of the panicky Nigerian response to the pandemic. Despite the barrage of public health messages encouraging citizens to take their hygiene seriously by regular handwashing with soap and clean water, government at all levels have done little to increase water supply, especially to the most vulnerable.

Lagos occupies a special place in Nigeria. In February 2020, when the index case from Milan, Italy, reportedly travelled through the city of 21 million people, and visited nearby Ogun State, citizens felt that nipping the virus was a must if the anticipated health crisis was to be prevented. The lockdown declared by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on March 24, 2020 is one of the measures taken by the state government. The Lagos government also began encouraging citizens to embrace handwashing with soap and water. The Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA) saw this as an opportunity to x-ray the parlous state of water infrastructure in Lagos and make critical recommendations on the way forward.

Between March 20, 2020 and June 24, 2020 CAPPA carried out fact-finding visit to waterworks in 11 local government areas of Lagos State to ascertain their functionality in response to the raging pandemic. The findings showed abysmal water production and distribution and desperate citizens left with no other option of accessing water than to exploit any and every available source, even the unwholesome. CAPPA subsequently produced a report titled *How Acute Water Shortage May Jeopardize COVID-19 Response in Lagos*, and officially made the document public on July 4, 2020.

Nearly one year after the report was released and with growing deaths and hospitalizations that have trailed the second wave of the pandemic, CAPPA decided to carry out follow-up visits. The fact-finding exercise covered the period January 25 – March 5, 2021 and deliberately targeted the high, medium and low income communities, especially waterworks not captured in the first report. CAPPA also found out that most of the waterworks covered in the previous report are still not producing optimally. For instance, Adiyan, Iju, Ota Ikosi, Surulere, Iponri and Magodo waterworks were not producing at the time of filing this report.



#### 1. Mende Water Corporation, Maryland Installed capacity: 2MGD Information Gathered

The CAPPA team visited the Mende waterworks twice (Janaury 23, 2021 and February 2, 2021). The facility was built to supply water to Ketu, Kosofe and Maryland communities. On the first date of visit to ascertain its operational status, the only staff seen in the premises said he could not volunteer vital information as that could only come from the operational



Mende Waterworks

When the CAPPA team revisited the facility on February 2, 2021, it was gathered that water production in the facility had been suspended since 2020 owing to the following reasons:

- Faulty segmentation tank
- Epileptic power supply

manager.

 Broken down boreholes (The facility had five and only three were working)

# 2. Isolo Water Corporation, Mushin Installed Capacity 3MGD

#### Information Gathered

The CAPPA team visited Isolo Water Corporation which supplies water to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH),



Isolo Waterworks

Papa Ajao and Isolo axis. The first visit on January 30, 2021 yielded little in terms of the intent of the visit as the security personnel were not able to volunteer much information. They asked the team to come back the following week to meet the Production Manager. A second visit was made on February 2, 2021 to obtain the basic information on production and possibly challenges. The CAPPA team learnt the following:

- The facility only struggles to get 1MGD per week and this is only between the hours of 6am-8am
- Electricity challenges hamper production
- Faulty machines and equipments (Borehole, Storage, Chemical dosing pump and Air store blower).
- Water meters are being installed in the area and those who are yet to install meters in their premises will still pay.
- Plans by the state government to impose heavy taxes on those that have boreholes and refused to connect to the public water.

## Regional water Supply Scheme, Otta-Ikosi, Agbowa

# Installed Capacity 4MGD

#### Information Gathered

The waterworks was built to serve the Lagos and Ogun communities in Agbowa, Igbehin, Imota, Itokin, and Ketu.
On February 13, 2021 when CAPPA team visited, it was gathered that current production is 1MGD in a week.
Even with the production capacity, it was learnt that pipes are yet to be laid to connect the adjoining communities water



Agbowa Waterworks

# 4. Ikorodu Mini-Waterworks, Ikorodu Installed Capacity 2MGD

#### Information Gathered

The CAPPA team visited the Ikorodu mini waterworks on February 13, 2021. It was gathered that the facility only meets 500,000 gallons of water per day, far below installed capacity. Reasons adduced to these are:

- Faulty and unrepaired pumping machine
- Only one functional borehole out of five
- Generator in good working condition but no diesel
- Epileptic power supply



Ikorodu Lagos road Waterworks

#### Alexander Avenue Water Corporation, Ikoyi, Installed capacity 2MGD

#### Information Gathered

The CAPPA team visited Alexander Avenue Water Corporation, Ikoyi on March 4, 2021. It was gathered that the facility was currently producing and distributing to the residents, mostly the affluent, with little hitch. The facility does not rely on the national power but is ocnnected to an Independent Power Plant (IPP), in addition to a standby electricity generator. It was further gathered that faulty equipment are fixed promptly.



Alexander Waterworks, Ikoyi

The facility supplies water to Banana Island, Park view and Osborne communities.

## 6. Onikan Water Corporation, Lagos Island Installed Capacity 2MGD

#### Information Gathered

The CAPPA team visited Onikan water corporation facility on March 4, 2021. It was learnt that the facility has been unoperational due to a fire that gutted it in year 2020. Since then water production has been suspended.

## 7. Isheri-Osun Water Corporation, Ikotun Installed Capacity 2MGD

#### Information Gathered

The CAPPA team visited the facility on January 27, 2021. It was gathered that the facility has been unoperational for nearly two years due to bad and broken pipes which littered the environment. It was gathered that repair on the submersible pumping machine has dragged on for months with no end in sight. CAPPA observed that the premises was unkempt.



Isheri-Osun Waterworks

### 8. Shasha Water Corporation, Akowonjo Installed Capacity 2.4MGD

#### Information Gathered

The CAPPA team visited the Shasha water corporation which was built to service the

Akowonjo axis on February 16, 2021. It was gathered that the facility has been shut for more than 10 years and no sign it will be revitalised soon. Some machines spotted within the premises were rust. The most peculiar observation was that the premises had become a parking lot for residents of the area. Broken down vehicles were also parked in the premises

#### Amuwo-Odofin Waterworks, Amuwo-Odofin Installed Capacity 3MGD

#### Information Gathered

On Wednesday March 3, 2021, the CAPPA team visited the Amuwo-Odofin Waterworks commissioned by the Alhaji Lateef Jakande administration in 1983. The facility was built to service the Amuwo-Odofin and Mile 2 communities. It was gathered that the facility has not produced a single drop of water or distributed any for upwards of three years. There is also no certainty how soon the situation will be resolved. Old rustic machines were seen



Amuwo-Odofin water works entrance

# 10. Igando Mini-Waterworks, Igando-LASU Road Installed Capacity 2MGD

in the premises and the open space at the entrance is now used as a praying ground.

#### Information Gathered

The CAPPA team visited the Igando Mini-Waterworks on March 5, 2021. The first observation by the team was how the facility was encircled by a thriving iron and

steel market. The premises were also overtaken by weeds. The team learnt that due to unpaid debts, the Power Holding Company (PHCN) cut power from the facility. This situation has persisted for nearly six months and no certainty when the bills will be paid, and light restored. The backup electricity generator in the facility was also faulty.



Entrance to Igando Waterworks

# **CAPPA Recommendations**



#### **CAPPA** Recommends the following:

- Lagos State Government urgently declare a state of emergency in the water sector
- Lagos State House of Assembly should immediately convene a session on the water crisis in the state with a view to finding a lasting solution
- Lagos State Government show seriousness in addressing the water challenge through integration of broad public participation in developing plans to achieve universal access to clean water
- Lagos State Government probe of funds released since 1999 for the rehabilitation of the existing waterworks in Lagos, including the N1.6 bn released under the Mr. Akinwunmi Ambode administration
- Lagos State Government reject all forms of water privatization and commodification.
- Lagos State Government fully upholds the human right to water as an obligation of the government, representing the people.
- 7. Lagos State Government build the political will to prioritize water for citizens, leading to a comprehensive plan that invests in water infrastructure necessary to provide universal water access, jobs, improved public health, and invigoration of the Lagos economy.



Children struggling to get water



Residents walk long distances to get water

# ONE YEAR AFTER DAMNING REPORT

# **Their Testimonies**



"Without water, we are as good as paralyzed! I have been living in Maryland for some time and I have never for once since public water running in our house. We usually get water from our boreholes which is not safe. It is unheard of, that at a time like this there is no water for people to maintain a proper hygiene and sanitation. The lack of access to water is enough to escalate the coronavirus cases in the state. Without water, there is no life. That is why I can never support the idea of government's attempt to restrain people from providing their own water by introducing licensing.Ramadan is fast approaching, we need water to perform ablution and break our fast before food, that is our important water is"- Folake Makinde, Mende

"I have been in living in Ketu for more than 10 years. Once there is no supply, we all resort to the mai ruwa for all our water needs.

We patronize them to get water to wash, clean and drink, which is too expensive.

We are ready to join hands and fight privatization with everything we have if we have to organize any action, we are ready for it. Water is life".

- Shayo Raimi, Ikotun

"I have lived in this community since 2003. We don't have public water. We rely on boreholes. If we don't have water, what do we wash our hands with. How can we fight coronavirus when there is no water to wash our hands. It is just so hard and we have to push to ensure that government revives public water infrastructure instead of avoiding responsibility and dumping it on the private sector which is only interested in profits"

- Benjamin Kpor, Palm Avenue, Mushin

"Constitutionally the function of government is to provide water for the people. Most of the people in the community generate water themselves. The first thing in life is security. Water is part of security of life. People have lost hope in government. We buy dirty water but if government can help it will be good. The electricity company are extorting money from us because they know we need the light to pump water. Water is an essential commodity. Water is life. We are surrounded by water. Government should provide water for us. If water cease in a community, everyone will cease to exists.

Anyone that takes away our water, take our life".

- Honourable Tosin Onamade, Ijede

#### STATUS OF ACCESS TO WATER IN LAGOS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS, 2021

Local Government	Water Facility	Installed Capacity Million Gallon Daily (MGD)	Production Production	Production report Date	Observation / Challenge
Kosofe	Mende waterworks	2.0MGD	0.00MGD	2nd February	Faulty segmentation tank, epilpetic power and broken boreholes
Mushin	Isolo water corporation	3.0MG0	1MGD per week	30th January & 2nd February	The facility only struggles to produce 1MGO per week. Electricity challenges hamper production. Faulty chemical dosir pump and Air store blower.
tkorodu	Otta-Ikosi	4.0MGD	1.00MGD	13th February	Pipes are yet to be laid connection adjoining communities and eletricity challenges.
tkorodu	Ronodu Waterwroks, Lagos road	2.0VGD	500,000	13th February	Faulty and unrepaired pumping machine, generator in good condition but no diesel and epileptic power supply
Eti-Osa	Alexander waterworks	2.0MGD	2.0MGD	4th March	The facility is producing with littl hitch. Faulty equipment are fixed promptly.
Obalende	Onikan waterworks	2MGD	0.00MGD	4th March	Unoperational due to a fire that gutted it.
Ikotun	Isheri-Osun	2MGD	0.00MGD	27th January	Unoperational for nearly two year due to bad and broken pipes
Alimosho	Shaha	2.4MGD	0.00MGD	16th February	No sign to show it will be revitalised soon. Old rustic machines were seen in the premises
Amuwo Odofin	Amuwo-Gdofin	: 3MGD	0.00MGB	3rd March	Old rustic machines were see in the premises and the open space at the entrance is now used as a playing ground.
Ikotun	Igando	2MGD	0.00MGD	5th March	Facility overgrown with weeds, unpaid debts, epileptic



Left to right: Funmi Sessi, NLC Chairperson, Lagos, Akinbode Oluwafemi, Executive Director, CAPPA and Achike Chude, Vice-Chair, Joint Action Front(JAF) at the public presentation of Water and COVID-19 Report in July 2020.





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