



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 27, 2008**

Policy Forum and HakiElimu have decided to dedicate this month's debate to the issue of water supply in Dar es Salaam. The debate is titled **"A Drop in the Bucket: How do we improve water supply to Dar es Salaam's poor?"**.

Dar es Salaam has grown from a town of about 50,000 inhabitants in the 1950s to a city of over three million to-date. Until the late 1970s, the city's water supply services more or less kept pace with the rate of population growth. But the availability and quality of water thereafter began to deteriorate. The responsible body at the time, the National Urban Water Authority (NUWA), failed to improve the declining services resulting from poor maintenance and lack of new infrastructure investment. Meanwhile, the demand for water continued to increase as the population swelled and suburbs expanded. By 1997, many households were no longer getting their water directly from the municipal supply and were instead reliant upon private vendors.

It was not until the early 1990s when efforts to curb the situation began. The government initiated reform of urban water supply by deciding to involve Private Sector Participation (PSP). This saw the contracting of a private operator, City Water Services (CWS) in August 1993 to manage the technical and commercial operation of the water and sewerage infrastructure in Dar es Salaam for ten years. For alleged contract breaches and 'poor performance', this agreement was abruptly terminated by the government less than two years later and replaced with the newly formed Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Corporation (DAWASCO). Water services in the city, however, are yet to improve and many poor residents still do not have access to clean reliable water.

Hence, such attempts at improving urban water supply raise several issues for discussion: Why did City Water Services fail? What needs to be done to make water supply and sanitation services in the city more reliable and affordable, especially to the poor? What achievements has DAWASCO recorded in the rehabilitation and extension of water supply facilities? These issues, along with the role that Civil Society and the media should play in such reforms will feature as part of the discussion during the Breakfast Debate on Friday, 30th of May 2008. Invited participants at the meeting include representatives of Government, private sector, civil society, donors, the media and concerned citizens. The discussions are held over light breakfast and enable participants to reflect and debate the issues.

The 7:30 People and Policy Debates are held on the last Friday of every month and this month the venue will be the **CENTER FOR ENHANCEMENT OF EFFECTIVE MALARIA INTERVENTIONS (CEEMI)** Conference Room along **Ocean Road/ Kivukoni Street**, from 0730 to 0930. Their main purpose is to examine and debate the extent to which policies serve ordinary people, and identify imaginative questions and solutions.

The debates are jointly organised by Policy Forum and HakiElimu. The main presenters for this month's debate are **Ben Taylor**, Policy Team Leader, WaterAid Tanzania; **Alex Kaaya**, Chief Executive Officer, Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Corporation and; **Francis Ato Brown**, Senior Sanitary Engineer, World Bank.

For more information, contact Richard Angelo by email PA2@policyforum.or.tz or telephone number 2772611.

Signed for Policy Forum
