

Section 77 of the Constitution

THE RIGHT TO SAFE, CLEAN AND POTABLE WATER

Why have a right to water?

Everyone must access safe, clean drinking water and sanitation for them to live a dignified life.

Water is very important for a healthy life. No one can exercise other rights (to work, to life, to education etc) if they do not enjoy their right to water.



What is the right to water?

- It is a basic human right that is essential for a healthy life
- The right to water is the right of everyone to access sufficient, safe, accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses. This water must be;
 - Available;
 - Good quality,
 - Accessible (you must be able to get it)

The Constitution on the 'Right to Water'

- Section 77 (a) of Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment No. 20) guarantees the right to safe, clean and potable water
- This provision reflects Zimbabwe's obligations to provide water to people in Zimbabwe as required in the human rights instruments that the country has accepted that include;
 - The African Charter on the Rights of the Child



- Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa

The United Nations also passed a Resolution in 2010 recognising that water and sanitation is a human right.

Other laws include the Water Act of 1998, National Water Authority Act of 1998. Provision of Clean and potable water is essential for the full enjoyment of the right to life and other rights like right to health.

This means that the government of Zimbabwe must provide water to everyone - boys, girls, women and men.

Every year 22 March is set aside to commemorate water; it is the *'World Water Day!'*

What must the government do?

The government must;

- Respect the right to water by not interfering with the enjoyment of this right
- Protect the right to water by preventing any interference that makes it impossible to enjoy this right to water
- Fulfil the right to water by taking action to ensure that everyone enjoys this right
- The central government and local authorities have a duty to provide clean and potable water in Zimbabwe.



For further information please contact:

National Office

Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights
6th Floor, Beverley Court
100 Nelson Mandela Street, Harare
P. O Box CY 1393 Causeway
Harare, Zimbabwe

Tel: +263 4 764085/ 708118/ 705370
Cell: +263 772 257 247

Matabeleland & Midlands Office

3rd Floor, Barclays Bank Building
Cnr 8th Avenue/ JM Nkomo Street
Bulawayo
Telefax +263 9 72201
Cell: +263 773 855 635

Manicaland & Masvingo Office

Ground Floor, Winston House
Cnr 1st Street/ Second Avenue
Mutare, Zimbabwe
Telefax +263 20 60660
Cell: +263 773 855 718

24 Hour Hotlines

National: +263 772 257 247
Manicaland/Masvingo: +263 773 855 718
Matabeleland/ Midlands:
+263 773 855 635

Email: info@zlh.org.zw
www.zlhr.org.zw

Follow us: @ZLHRLawyers on Twitter
Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights
on Facebook