

Workers and Unions in Nigeria pile pressure on the Lagos State government to backtrack on plans to privatise water

(18 March 2015) On 10 March 2015 trade unions and civil society organisations in Nigeria organised a rally to press their aversion to the plans of privatising Lagos Water supply. The rally started at 11am and ended at after 1:30pm with the delivery of a petition jointly signed by the Environmental Rights Action (ERA), Corporate Accountability International (CAI), Public Service International (PSI) and the Amalgamated Union of Public Corporations, Civil Service Technical and Recreational Services Employees (AUPCTRE). EPSU supports our colleagues in Nigeria.

Water is a public service and should be under public control

Three water unions, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and 10 CSOs collectively marched through the city and speeches were made at the entrances of the Parliament and the office of the state governor, Raji Babatunde Fashola. Carrying placards, with inscriptions such as, “We say no to privatization”, “water is our right”, “Water is for the people, not business”, and “We say no to sale of our common assets”, they said government was hiding under the guise of Public Private Partnership (PPP) to privatise the water company. The proposed PPP agreement would lead to privatization of Lagos State Water Company and workers’ retrenchment. Several TV and radio stations were on ground to cover the march. People along the route expressed total support for the action. Wazobia FM - the radio station with the widest listenership in Lagos streamed the rally live as well as Radio Nigeria, which has the widest reach Nigeria-wide.

More about the protests in Lagos:

<http://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west>

<http://thenationonlineng.net>

<http://www.nigeriancurrent.com/ck88-news>

<http://www.thecable.ng/gallery/lagosians-protest-privatisation-water>

<http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles>

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2015/03>

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