

SUMMARY OF A PRESENTATION MADE IN COMMEMORATION OF 2006 WORLD HABITAT DAY AT KACHERE TOWNSHIP IN BLANTYRE CITY BY JACKSON MTUNGILA.

THEME: CITIES, MAGNETS OF HOPE

TITLE OF PRESENTATION: PORTABLE WATER AND IMPROVED SANITATION IN SLUMS

Introduction

Urbanization has several advantages but also brings a number of challenges, many of which stem from rural population influx into the cities- the magnets of hope to find new lease of life. The readily available and affordable accommodation is congested slums without or with scarce portable water and improved sanitation facilities. Combat of rural-urban migration may take a long time through which period the need for the basic utilities intensifies. Hence, it is imperative to find ways of immediately providing for better and sustainable potable water and sanitation facilities to save and improve life in the slums.

Causes of Poor Water and Sanitation Facilities in Slums in Malawi

1. Search of better means of living in cities as a result unreliable rains in the recent past, loss of soil fertility and increased cost of living in the rural areas
2. Land scarcity in rural areas due to population increases
3. Poverty among slum dwellers
4. Unplanned slums by government and city planners

How to Ensure Portable Water and Improved Sanitation Facilities in Slums

1. Economic empowerment of people in the rural areas to make them stay in the villages to reduce urban influx
2. Development of rural growth centres to curb rural-city migration by establishment of infrastructures namely local markets, selling and distribution points to boost trade; processing industries, for example small scale agro-processing plants, machinery and structures; promotion of diverse agro-investments e.g. growing of fish; and construction road networks to promote mobility.
3. Economic empowerment of slum dwellers through provision of loan facilities that attach conditions that enhance access to improved sanitation and portable water
4. Establishment and enforcement of policies to ensure landlords and slum dwellers provide for and care for water and sanitation facilities
5. Development and provision of low cost housing, and water and sanitation facilities e.g. communal water and sanitation points

The Importance of Portable Water and Improved Sanitation in Slums

This includes reduction of water-borne and sanitation infections which include Cholera, Dysentery, Diarrhea, and Malaria.

It is governments and every one's responsibility to ensure that people in slums have access to portable water and improved sanitation. **Water is life, save it; Sanitation is dignity, have it.**

(The author is a student at The Polytechnic, University of Malawi)

WORLD HABITAT DAY COMMEMORATION ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES

The following pictures depict some of the activities that were carried out to mark WHD commemorations organized by Concerned Youth Organisation at Kachere Township in Blantyre City, Malawi.

Photo 1



Representative of Country Manager for Gift of The Givers Foundation handing over donation items to Harvey (Executive Director, CYO)

Photo 2



Commemoration ceremony in progress: front sixth from left is Representative of Country Manager for Gift of The Givers Foundation, next in WHD Commemoration T-shirts is Harvey and Sydney.

Photo 3



Madalitso left and a colleague in a drama scene in front of the audience

Photo 4



Donating to some of slum dwellers: From left; Richard (member, CYO), Harvey, Martha and Lilian (members), Kachere (Village Headwoman), Beneficiary, Local Community Official

Photo 5



Donations made to Mayamiko Orphanage. Front left (in blue T-shirt) is Sydney Kalipo, CYO Officer and front right is Executive Director for the orphanage.