
JAMAICA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS



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July 3, 2016

Mr. Alister Smith
Executive Director
World Bank Group\
Washington DC
USA
eds07@worldbank.org

Dear Mr. Smith

The Jamaica Association of Local Government Officers (JALGO) hereby requests that you ensure that the World Bank Group:

- 1) stops supporting water privatization, including water public-private partnerships (PPPs), and
- 2) adequately addresses the concerns expressed in U.S. Congresswoman Gwen Moore's recent letter to President Jim Yong Kim.

Water privatization, including PPPs, have failed time and time again from India to the Philippines to Nigeria, causing skyrocketing tariffs, cutoffs of families who cannot afford to pay, worker layoffs, corruption and mismanagement, quality problems, and major accountability, transparency and governance problems.

In April, U.S. House Representative Moore issued a well-publicized letter to the World Bank Group highlighting the troubling conflicts of interest that arise from the World Bank Group's activities as part-owner of water corporations and government advisor on water privatization. We strongly echo these concerns and insist that the IFC divest from all water corporations, and allow development decisions around water to be driven by people and their legitimate representatives. Furthermore, we would like to emphasize the importance of the World Bank Group ending all support for water PPPs, including through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA).

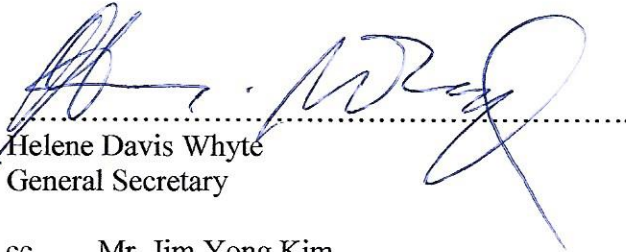
According to the WB's own research, the benefits of PPPs for extending water access are at best unproven, at worst nonexistent or even counterproductive. We are also seeing a growing wave of water re-municipalizations, which reflects on-the-ground, long-term experience with PPPs. Given the dubious benefits to the poor, the high and growing controversy, and the more frequent decisions to reverse privatizations, we suggest that the World Bank Group immediately cease advocating, endorsing, and imposing PPPs in the water and sanitation sectors.

With this track record, the World Bank Group should not be supporting water PPPs. Therefore, we are writing to ask that you use your influence as an Executive Director of the World Bank to ensure that:

- the Board immediately addresses Representative Moore's letter and all World Bank Group entities' support for water privatization, soliciting input from civil society and issuing a report detailing its discussions and determinations,
- the World Bank halts all funding and promotion of water PPPs, and
- the IFC divests from equity in water corporations.

Please respond to inform us of the progress that has been made in addressing this issue, and to let us know how we can be more involved.

With gratitude for your attention to this critical issue,



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Helene Davis Whyte
General Secretary

cc Mr. Jim Yong Kim
President, World Bank Group

Ms. Peteranne Donaldson
Alternate Executive Director

Mr. David Boys
Public Services International

Mr. Mark Langevin
Public Services International