

UPDATE ON MEHA ACTIVITIES (JULY 2017 TO MARCH 2018)

•MEHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 1ST JULY 2017

Agenda items included:

- a. To give update on MEHA activities
- b. Election of new Office Bearers

MIEHA NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS (2017-2019)

SN	Position	Elected Member	Phone number	email address
1	President	Kondwani Mamba	0995650623/0888307670	ngangakulaiti@yahoo.com
2	Vice President	Penjani Chunda	0999520319/0888320319	penjanichundaYmail.com
3	Secretary	Taonga Kasomekela	881712317	noel.kasomekera@gmail.com
4	Vice Secretary	Thomas Mchiphha	888599606	masot2007m@gmail.com
5	Treasurer	Gloria Jeremiah	999934523	gloriarakantema@mail.com
6	Vice Treasurer	Morris Tengatenga	999987943	<u>morisstengatenga@gmail.com</u>
7	Publicity Secretary	Fred Mwandida	99989429	fredmwandida@gmail.com
8	Executive Member	Elias Chimulambe	888944304	e.chimulambe@dfid.gov.uk
9	Executive Member	Susan Wallani	999354875	anathasu@gmail.com
10	Executive Member	Rudolf Zinkanda Banda	999391066	rudolfzinkandalabanda@yahoo.com
11	Executive Member	Gomezghani Nyasulu	998473780	gngomenyasulu@gmail.com

MIEHA HANDOVER MEETING

- Following the July 1 elections, a handover meeting was conducted on 29th July, 2017 in the Capital City -Lilongwe

**MALAWI ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (MEHA)
STATEMENT ON WATER SITUATION IN AREA 18 A, RESIDENTIAL
AREA, LILONGWE MALAWI.**

- Following the sewage spillage incident that occurred in Area 18A, Lilongwe, MEHA carried out a water quality scientific investigation on 30th July, 2017 to ascertain the suitability and safety of the water for human consumption. The Association conducting this investigation immediately the Lilongwe Water Board issued a statement advising residents in Area 18 to start consuming the water.

Findings from the Investigation

Sample no	Growth	Organism
1	No Growth	None
2	Growth	E. coli
3	Growth	E.coli
4	No Growth	None
5	No Growth	None
6	Growth	E.coli
7*	Growth	E.coli

Action by MEHA following the results

- MEHA publicized its findings through one of the leading national Dairy Newspapers advising the people in area 18 in Lilongwe to stop using the water until further investigations are done. Lilongwe Water Board was also advised to stop supplying the water to public until further management are put in place and water safety measures were taken. MEHA also appealed to NGOs to support it with resources so that water monitoring should be a routine exercise in the area and the entire country

**MALAWI ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (MEHA)
STATEMENT ON ALLEGED DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE INTO SHIRE
RIVER BY HIPPO VIEW AND SHIRE LODGES, LIWONDE
MALAWI.**

- Following reports from the public and media houses of disposal of raw sewage into the Shire River by Hippo View and Shire Lodges, MEHA carried out a physical investigation on 3rd October, 2017 to verify the rumour. Specifically, MEHA wanted to; 1) assess availability of functional sewage treatment system, 2) assess evidence of direct discharge of sewage into Shire River.
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Findings

- The two lodges are using onsite treatment of sewage using septic tanks.
- Septic tanks are periodically desludged and the contents are disposed of in a prepared non-residential site which is about 1.2km away.
- The premises have well-functioning septic tanks and soak ways.
- The Septic tanks and soak ways are more than 50m away from Shire river
- The Septic tanks and soak ways are more than 80m away from Southern Region Water Board (SRWB) intake
- Shire lodge pumps water from Shire river. The water is used for irrigation and human use.

- Further investigations through interviews, revealed that communities in Liwonde town usually experiences foul smell that emanates from spillage of sewage due to blockage of main sewer pipe. This blockage usually happens where the Hospital sewer pipe joins the main sewer pipe
- Conclusion
- Physical inspection of the two premises was not showing any evidence of direct discharge of sewage into the Shire river.

Action by MEHA following the Findings

- MEHA publicized its findings through one of the leading national Dairy Newspapers advising on the following recommendations:
- Further investigations including chemical and microbiological analyses need to be conducted to confirm this finding.
- Need for stakeholders to coordinate in conducting routine inspection of similar institutions in the country.
- Strongly recommend that Liwonde Town Council and Machinga District Health Office should abate the nuisance of sewage spillage which causes foul smell around Liwonde town.

Action by MEHA following the Findings.....

- Hippo and Shire Lodges should construct a proper waste water treatment plant
- Malawi Environmental Health Association should be supported to carry out detailed independent water quality surveillance investigations in the country
- Communities should conduct household treatment of water drawn from Shire river before use

MEHHA ADVOCACY MEETING

1. Office of the President and Cabinet advocacy meeting on housing of Sanitation and Policy on 23rd August, 2017

- Following the disagreement between Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD) on the housing of Sanitation Policy, The OPC invited stakeholders for a meeting to discuss on the way forward. The invited stakeholders were from MoH, MoAIWD, Ministry of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Local Government and Malawi Environmental Health Association.
- Outcomes: 1) MoH to Chair the National Sanitation Coordination Unit while MoAIWD is the secretary. 2) Sanitation policy to immediately be reviewed

MEHA ADVOCACY MEETING.....

2. MEHA attended a Presidential Enquiry Task Force meeting on the Area 18A sewage contamination incident

- This showed that MEHA's recognition at National level. Very few organization were consulted by the task force. Objectively, MEHA was invited to give technical recommendations on the issue

MEHA PARTNERSHIPS AND COALITIONS INITIATIVES

- MEHA participated in the Jamaican Conference on Environmental Health in October
- Has had partnership meetings with Amref Health Africa, Wateraid, Pumpaid, Siku Group of companies and Times group
- MEHA attended a Human Resources for Health workshop that was organized by NOM
- MEHA attended a Theory of Change meeting that was organized by Amref Health Africa

FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP

- MEHA has a memorandum of understanding with Amref Health Africa to work with government in promoting the implementation of community health strategy
- Through this partnership, MEHA will also be financially supported to carry out its operational activities (See attached work plan)

MEHA QUARTERLY MEETINGS

- Since Elections MEHA has so far conducted two quarterly meetings in October and January

Key issues discussed:

- Establishment of MEHA secretariat
- Revision of MEHA Constitution
- Revision of MEHA fees
- Development of strategic plan (see attached work plan)
- Monitoring of Chigolo project
- Strengthening Partnerships
- Updating of MEHA Members inventory

UPDATE ON CHIGOLO PROJECT

Introduction

During the 2016 WEHC, IFEH identified proposed a WASH project at one of the rural primary schools in Salima District. The project was implemented by Assembles of God Care and supervised by MEHA

OUTPUT

One borehole was drilled and two toilets (one for girls and another for boys) constructed at chigolo primary school of Mtambo village Traditional Authority Kuluunda in Salima district. Both the bore hole and toilets will benefit 814 leaners (414 girls and 400 boys). Of the 414 girls, 196 are adolescent and these will in a special way benefit from menstruation sanitation facility part of the girls toilet.

Tenwa Mzengenza-MIEHA member on the official opening day



MIEHA Vice President (in shirt) during one of monitoring visits



One of the adolescent girls explaining the Challenges they were facing and how the New toilet will help them reduce absenteeism From School when they are menstruating

