

ሀገራችንን ገሥግሥ ክጠጠር ማለት ማለትም ማለት ነው።
ሀገራችንን ገሥግሥ ማለት ማለትም ማለት ነው።
ሀገራችንን ገሥግሥ ማለት ማለትም ማለት ነው።

4. ዓላማዎች

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systems in the
BenishangulGumuzRegionalState.

4. Objectives

This Proclamation has the following objectives:

1. To facilitate the implementation and enforcement of the of the national policy provisions pertaining to the rural domestic water supply sub sector, particularly those principles pertaining to devolution and management autonomy to the lowest possible local level, community based management, recognition of water as an economic good, improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of water and sanitation services, recovery of operation and maintenance costs, basic principles;

2. To promote self help and self reliance of rural communities in the planning, implementation as well as sustainable operation and maintenance of rural domestic water supply systems and generally to contribute to the empowerment of rural communities to identify and deal with local development issues by organizing themselves into legally recognized community based rural domestic water supply user's associations;

3. To clarify the duties and responsibilities as well as strengthen and enhance the capacity, knowledge and management skills of water and sanitation committees including their liability under the law for

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any damage they cause in the performance of their functions;

4. To ensure that the composition and diversity of Water and Sanitation Committees satisfies in a balanced manner the requirements of participation of stakeholders, particularly women, and that of merit and competence;

5. To solve the need for a reliable supply of water with adequate qualities for domestic purposes as well as to promote the health and sanitation problems of its members;

6. To better coordinate the knowledge, resources and labour of rural domestic water users in the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of water supply water supply systems;

7. To do all things necessary and expedient for the accomplishment of the aforesaid objectives.

PART TWO

ESTABLISHMENT OF RURAL DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY USERS ASSOCIATIONS

5. Formation and Registration of Rural Domestic Water Supply Users Associations

1. Rural domestic water supply users' associations shall be established in various areas of the Region pursuant to the provisions of this Proclamation.

2. The formation, registration and supervision of rural domestic water users' associations shall be in line with provisions of the Civil Code of Ethiopia on the formation of

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by the General Assembly of the association;

5. Assist in the maintenance of the water supply system where called upon by the water and sanitation committee.

PART THREE
ORGANS OF THE ASSOCIATIONS

12. Organs of the Association

The Association shall have:

1. A General Assembly,
2. An executive water and sanitation committee,
3. The necessary staff

13. The General Assembly

1. The General Assembly is the highest authority of the association, composed of each and every member thereof.
2. Where calling to a meeting of all members of the association is deemed impossible and impractical because of their large numbers, the by-laws of the association may provide that persons elected by members in a Gots, Sub-Kebelles or Kebelles from among themselves and consisting of equal numbers of females and males may constitute the General Assembly of the Association.
3. A meeting of the General Assembly shall be called once a year, to review the achievements and the problems of the water supply system. The chairperson of the water and sanitation committee shall present a progress report concerning progress, problems and achievements of the association during the year under review.
4. Other meetings of the General Assembly may

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Association activities as well as accept, subject to such qualifications as the General Assembly may see fit, such report and accounts;

7. Approve the dismissal or acceptance of members from Association;

8. Elect and dismiss from office all or any member of the water and sanitation committee;

9. Prepare policy related guidelines for the effective and efficient management of domestic water supply;

10. Collaborate with government organizations, nongovernmental organizations, the private sector and funding agencies in technical and financial matters as well as, where appropriate and cost effective, in contracting out services to service providers.

15. The Water And Sanitation Committee

1. Rural domestic water users associations shall have water and sanitation committees which shall be elected by and accountable only to the General Assembly of the association.

2. Water and sanitation committee members shall be elected only from the members of the association.

3. The number of water and sanitation committee members shall be determined in the bye laws of the Association but shall be no less than 7 individuals of which (whenever possible) the majority shall be women.

4. Criteria for election shall emphasize merit and competence.

5. The term of office of water and sanitation

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- committees shall be three years.
6. Notwithstanding sub-article 5 above, the initial term of service for 35% of the board members shall be four years thus allowing a staggered replacement of outgoing members.
 7. Members of the water and sanitation committee may not be elected for more than two consecutive terms unless two thirds of the members of the association present and voting support their re-election.
 8. When the members of the water and sanitation committee leave their office for whatever reason, they have the obligation to submit for inspection the activities performed during their term of office.
 9. The water and sanitation committee shall hold a regular meeting every month and additional meetings as required, at its own discretion.
 10. The quorum for water and sanitation committee decisions shall not be less than two thirds of the members of the committee.
 11. In the absence of the chairman, the secretary shall act as chairman in charge.

16. Powers and Duties of the Water and Sanitation Committees

The powers and duties of the water and sanitation committees shall be as laid out in the bye laws of the association. Without prejudice to the generalities herein, the water and sanitation committees shall in particular perform the following duties and responsibilities, which shall also be included in the by-laws of the associations:

1. Have full autonomy of control and management over the revenue that the water supply system generates and the overall financial affairs subject to the general directives given and policies approved by the General Assembly of the association;
2. Based on methodology developed and given to

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them by the regulatory body, review water tariffs and charges for other services in a manner that will cover at least the operation and maintenance of the water supply system and related structures in consultation with consumer communities and implement the same upon agreement and consensus;

3. Subject to the general directives and policies approved by the General Assembly, have full procurement autonomy to purchase goods and engage the services they require, including contracting out for services which require special skills to service providers for more effective and efficient operation and maintenance of the water supply systems and getting into management contracts, as well as to make any arrangements they find efficient and cost effective for carrying out such procurements;

4. Ensure that its members are provided with training regarding the operation and maintenance of the system, the protection of the supply sources from pollution and wastage as well as regarding the sanitation facilities required to keep its members from water borne diseases and other diseases;

5. Ensure the availability of equipment, materials and spare parts required for the maintenance and upkeep of the water services;

6. Keep in contact with woreda water offices as regards the provision of technical assistance and advise;

7. Maintain the minutes of its own meetings in writing;

8. Keep proper records of financial transactions as well as maintain records of physical assets of the association;

9. Keep an up-dated registration of members with

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basic data;

10. Prepare the annual work program and budget of the association and implement the same upon approval;

11. Ensure that the rights and obligations of members are correctly observed;

12. Call the meetings of the General Assembly and report about the finances and activities of the association.

13. Employ and fix the remuneration of such staff as may be found necessary for the day-to-day management of the system based on salary and benefits plan approved by the General Assembly;

14. Send on copy of the financial and activity report, when submitting the same to the General Assembly;

15. Execute such other decisions as may be made by the General Assembly.

17. Liability Of Water and Sanitation Committees

Water and sanitation committees shall be collectively and individually liable under the law for any damage they cause intentionally or negligently in the performance of their functions.

18. Source of Funds

1. The funds of the association shall consist of:

- a. Income from the sale of water as well as fees and charges from connections of pipelines and related other activities,
b. Revenue obtained from property sales;
c. Contributions made by the members of the association as per decisions of the General Assembly,
d. In cash or in kind contributions from the various other bodies such as humanitarian organizations and individuals.

2. The funds of the association described

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herein above shall only be used for the following purposes as prioritized below:

- a. covering all operation and maintenance costs,
- b. undertaking rehabilitation or expansion works,
- c. providing public sanitation facilities;
- d. meeting any other developmental needs of the community as approved by the General Assembly of the association.

19. Indivisibility of the Assets of the Association

The assets of the association shall not be divided among its members or any other party.

20. Books of Accounts and Annual Reports

All Associations shall hold complete and accurate books of accounts in manner and format that will be prescribed the regulatory body.

21. Financial Year

The financial year of the associations shall be the financial year of the Region.

22. Audit and Inspection

- 1. The regulatory body or a body designated by it shall audit the accounts of an association hereunder established, at least once a year within three months of the close of the fiscal year.
- 2. The audit report shall be submitted to the General Assembly and the regulatory body.
- 3. The regulatory body may also, at any time, make or cause to be made by such person as it may assign a surprise inspection of the association's work execution, documents and financial conditions.

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organizing, strengthening, and develop the technical and managerial capacity that will lead them to self-sufficiency and sustainability as well as the enforcement of the provisions of Articles 468 to 482 of the Civil Code of Ethiopia.

2. It shall take all other necessary steps that are consistent with and ensure the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this Proclamation.

26. Policy Implementation

The regulatory body shall ensure that the basic policy statements stated in the federal water resources policy with regard to rural domestic water supply, including the principles of community-based management, operation and maintenance cost recovery, are adhered to.

27. Categorization

The regulatory body shall, as a matter of priority, develop criteria for determining which water supply systems or collection of water supply systems can be organized in to self-sufficient associations of primary or higher level taking into account:

1. The benefits of economy of scale;
2. Complementarities of system types and technologies,
3. The need to ensure that the water and sanitation committees function effectively as management committees,
4. The need to have hired personnel to take of the day to day operation and maintenance of the water supply systems including collection of water charges,

