



Date: 26<sup>TH</sup> April, 2021.

## **STATUS OF EWRC'S PACKAGE WATER ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2021, the Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission (EWRC) embarked on an enforcement exercise to sanitize the package water industry and subsequently shut down non-compliant package water factories. This was on the basis that over 70% of package water companies in Freetown have failed to obtain a license from the Commission to operate such businesses as mandated by the SLEWRC Act of 2011.

This exercise is being undertaken in the wake of several public notices issued in 2019 & 2020, together with workshops and several trainings conducted in 2019 to ensure that operators understand the provisions of the Package Water Regulations and the implications for non-compliance.

As a follow-up to issued notices, letters were also delivered to factory owners in January 2020 to notify and prompt them to regularise their statuses by October 2020. This was shortly followed by a notice to all non-compliant companies to stop production until they obtain a license from the Commission.

It should be noted that in order for a water company to be granted a license by the Commission to operate a water business, the outlined steps below should be followed:

1. Obtain Certificate of fitness from Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS)
2. Obtain an Analysis Certificate of the Water Quality Test from Sierra Leone Standards Bureau (SLSB)
3. Obtain a Certificate of Registration of Factory from the Ministry of Labour
4. These certificates form the documents required by the EWRC to grant a Bottle and Sachet Water Production Licence with a license fee included.

Despite the Commission having being in operations for the last six years and assiduously working with package water companies through the Salone Pure and Bottling Water Association as highlighted above, a number of package water factory owners have maintained that they are not aware of the Commission nor the need to come under regulation hence the low number of package water companies that have completed the license process with the Commission.

In order to guarantee the health and safety of the consuming public, the Commission instituted the enforcement action to sanitize the industry based on the following key reasons:

- Most water companies do not meet the required standards of operation provided by the Bottle and Sachet Water Production Licence Regulations of 2019.
- Some of these bottles and sachet water companies don't produce quality products as shown by their water quality test status.
- It was found out that the products from these factories have not undergone quality testing as certified by Sierra Leone Standards Bureau or any other approved laboratory.

- Most package water companies operate in poor sanitary conditions
- The unwillingness by non-compliant companies to regularise their statuses with the Commission.

The Commission's sanitization efforts have seen a number of companies being shut down in a bid to ensure the distribution of safe portable drinking water to the public. Below is a list of those companies that are found wanting due to non-compliance with the Commission's licensing requirements.

For further information, please contact the Compliance and Docketing Department of the Commission at No. 55 Berwick Street, Freetown or on +232 78275317.

#### PACKAGE WATER COMPANIES SHUT DOWN BY THE COMMISSION FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Column1	Name of Factory	Date of Shutdown	Address	Reason For Closure	Region/Area
1	Blama Pure Water	26/03/2021	58 Fourah Bay Road	Confrontation with authorities and No licence from EWRC	Central Urban
2	Galaxy Aqua Pure Water	26/03/2021	11 Elk Street	No documentation	Central Urban
3	Hope Purified Drinking Water	26/03/2021	71 Soldier Street	No supporting documents	Central Urban
4	Masem Family Water	26/03/2021	115 Fourah Bay Road	No water quality test	Central Urban
5	My Choice Pure Water	26/03/2021	39 Kennedy Street	No supporting documents	Central Urban
6	Perfect Purified Water	26/03/2021	7 Elk Street	No water quality test	Central Urban
7	Plan Family Spring	26/03/2021	90 Fourah Bay Road	Expired documentation	Central Urban
8	Ram Spring Water	26/03/2021	11 James Street	No water quality test	Central Urban
9	Malzid	26/03/2021	47 Robert Street	No water quality test	Central Urban
10	Tumac Pure Water	26/03/2021	135 Fourah Bay Road	Incomplete documentation	Central Urban
11	Kings Beverages (Aqua Bravely)	07/04/2021	Regent-Grafton Road	Expired documentation	Western Urban

<b>12</b>	Asalam Pure Water	07/04/2021	161 Kissy Bye Pass Road	Incomplete documentation	Central Urban
<b>13</b>	Fruity Pure Water	07/04/2021	26 Queen Elizabeth Road Kissy Dockyard	No documentation	Central Urban
<b>14</b>	Mary's Pure Water	07/04/2021	Kissy Dockyard	Incomplete documentation	Central Urban
<b>15</b>	Imam Sadiq Investment Hayat Pure Water	07/04/2021	21B Kissy Bye Pass Road	No licence from EWRC	Central Urban
<b>16</b>	Ohio Pure Water	07/04/2021	61 Bye Pass Road	Incomplete documentation	Central Urban
<b>17</b>	Regent Spring Pure Water	07/04/2021	1 Wilberforce Road Regent Village	No water quality test	Western Rural
<b>18</b>	Amka Pure Water	07/04/2021	38F Water Street	No documentation	Western Urban
<b>19</b>	Ani-Lima Pure Water	07/04/2021	1B Old Railway Line, Tengbeh Town	Incomplete documentation	Western Urban
<b>20</b>	Aberdeen Natural Spring Water	07/04/2021	6 Kincardine Street, Aberdeen	No water quality test, Non-compliance, No documentation	Western Urban
<b>21</b>	Mary Fresh Purified Drinking Water	08/04/2021	25 Main Motor Road, Congo Cross	No water quality test	Western Urban
<b>22</b>	Diamond Pure Water	08/04/2021	13 Vinell Dive, Congo Cross	No documentation	Western Urban
<b>23</b>	Sera's Purified Drinking Water	08/04/2021	54 Johnson Street, Aberdeen	No documentation	Western Urban
<b>24</b>	Dominion Pure Water	08/04/2021	Cockerill North, Off Wilkinson Road	Incomplete documentation	Western Urban
<b>25</b>	Foe Pure Drinking Water	08/04/2021	52 Babadorie Lumley	Incomplete documentation	Western Urban
<b>26</b>	Vee Fresh Purified Water	08/04/2021	Water Street Congo Town	No licence from EWRC	Western Urban

	Drinking Water				
<b>27</b>	Unity Crew Pure Water	08/04/2021	3 Wharf Road, Navy Drive, Murray Town	No water quality test	Western Urban
<b>28</b>	De-Light Pure Water	08/04/2021	4 Johnson Lane, Aberdeen	No water quality test	Western Urban
<b>29</b>	Jamboria Pure Drinking Water	09/04/2021	5 Regent Road, Lumley	No documentation	Western Urban
<b>30</b>	Promised Land Pure Water	09/04/2021	21 Kamayama, Regent Road. Lumley	No licence from EWRC	Western Urban
<b>31</b>	Puchu Pure Water	09/04/2021	8c Carlton Carew Lane	No documentation	Western Urban
<b>32</b>	Precious Natural Spring	09/04/2021	293 Kamayama, Regent Road, Lumley	Incomplete documentation, No licence from EWRC	Western Urban
<b>33</b>	Walcos Spring	15/04/2021	17 Emerson Bockarie Drive, Adonkia	No documentation	Western Rural
<b>34</b>	Kemzo Aqua Fina	15/04/2021	Mensura Lane Hamilton, Beach Road	No documentation	Western Rural
<b>35</b>	Fabulous Water Company	15/04/2021	Solo B Drive	No documentation, No water quality test	Western Rural
<b>36</b>	Global Water Company	15/04/2021	Kissy Road	No documentation	Central Urban
<b>37</b>	Super Fresh	16/04/2021	New London, Congo Cross	No documentation	Western Urban
<b>38</b>	Parade Pure Water	16/04/2021	3 Point Street	No documentation	Western Urban
<b>39</b>	May Spring	16/04/2021	27 Femi Turner Drive, Goderich	No documentation	Western Rural
<b>40</b>	Super Sip	16/04/2021	29 Upper Gbendembu, Goderich	No documentation	Western Rural
<b>41</b>	H.b & Co Purified Drinking Water	16/04/2021	2 Main road, Adonkia	No documentation	Western Rural

<b>42</b>	Climax Pure Water	16/04/2021	7 Old Signal Hill Road	No documentation	Western Urban
<b>43</b>	Aqua Care	16/04/2021	2g Babadorie Lumley	No documentation	Western Urban
<b>44</b>	Fereh Enterprise Pure Water	16/04/2021	71 Cockerill North Wilkinson Road	No documentation	Western Urban
<b>45</b>	Sweet Dreams	16/04/2021	West Brook Street, Off Waterloo Street	No documentation	Central Urban
<b>46</b>	Muna Water	16/04/2021	10 Peter's Lane, Marjay Town, Goderich	No documentation	Western Rural
<b>47</b>	Nour Best Drinking Water	16/04/2021	48 Peninsular Road, Goderich	No documentation	Western Rural
<b>48</b>	Adventure Pure Water	21/04/2021	12 Off Freetown Road, Goderich	No documentation, No water quality test	Western Rural
<b>49</b>	Seven Star Pure Drinking Water	21/04/2021	8 Adonkia Road, Goderich	No documentation, No water quality test	Western Rural
<b>50</b>	Mandy Taste	21/04/2021	37 Pike Street by Prison Canteen	Expired documentation	Western Urban
<b>51</b>	Aqua King	21/04/2021	Lakka	No documentation	Western Rural
<b>52</b>	Ramsam	22/04/2021	92 GH Sanders Mayenkini, Calabatown	Incomplete documentation	Western Urban
<b>53</b>	Salliya Pure Drinking Water	22/04/2021	58 New London, Kossogh Town	Fail water quality test	Western Urban
<b>54</b>	Fourah Bay Water	22/04/2021	135A Kissy Road	No water quality test	Central Urban
<b>55</b>	Saman's Pure Drinking Water	22/04/2021	1 Hasting Market Road	No documentation	Western Urban
<b>56</b>	5-Star Pure Drinking Water	22/04/2021	6A Ken-George Venue, Ferry Junction, Kissy	Fail water quality test	Eastern
<b>57</b>	Healthy Life	22/04/2021	New London, Koivaya Amara Drive	No water quality test, Incomplete documentation	Western Urban

	Well Body Pure Drinking		2 War Wounded Camp, Grafton		Western Urban
58	Water	22/04/2021		Fail water quality test	
	Clean Health		Benz Garage, Blackhall Road		Eastern
59	Water	22/04/2021		No documentation	
	May Kord Spring		1 Palampo Wata, Kossoh Town	No proper documentation	Western Urban
60	Water	22/04/2021			
	Family Concern		New London, Old Dam Road, Kossoh Town		Western Urban
61		22/04/2021		No water quality test	

### **Analysis of data obtained from enforcement exercise**

- There are thirty-two (32) water companies without SLSB or MoHS documentation.
- Ten (10) water companies were without SLSB Water quality analysis
- Eight (8) water companies were without the Ministry of Health's Fitness certificate
- Sixty (60) water companies without licence from the Commission
- There was a company with expired documentation. The factory was therefore temporarily shut down after evidence proved that the Commission had made several attempts to get them to renew their license.

### **Conclusion**

Some water companies were found to have tampered with the Commission's seal, hence attracted fines as seen fit by EWRC.

The Commission is keen for consumers have access to safe and clean drinking water hence its drive to sanitize the package water industry and ensure that compliant factory owners are taken through the various steps to ensure just that.