



The Minister of Land, Water and Environment, Mr. Tesfai Gebreslasie, called on the general public to apply judicious and economical use of water, as the resource is declining in quality and amount, while demand keeps on growing. Asmara, 2 October 2010 - The Minister of Land, Water and Environment, Mr. Tesfai Gebreslasie, called on the general public to apply judicious and economical use of water, as the resource is declining in quality and amount, while demand keeps on growing.

In an interview he conducted with ERINA as regards the Water Resource Proclamation No. 162/2010, the Minister stressed the paramount importance of introducing judicious water resource management in view of the fact that there exists no river or stream in the country that flow for the entire year. In this connection, he stated that cautious and active popular participation in water management is a prerequisite for the success of the on-going nationwide endeavors towards achieving food security.

Mr. Tesfai went on to say that a number of wells have been dug in different parts of the country for the purpose of promoting irrigation farming, which in turn negatively affected underground water resource. In accordance with the newly adopted Proclamation No. 162/2010, any national engaged in activities related with water resource is required to obtain legal permit from the concerned party, he elaborated.

Noting that the Proclamation has been ratified in a manner that conforms to investment ventures in Eritrea, the Minister said that the issue is being given priority taking into account the nation's available water resource potentials.

Moreover, Mr. Tesfa explained that there are plans to strengthen the activities of water management committees entrusted with the task of raising public awareness regarding judicious utilization of water so that the implementation of potable water supply projects in all areas could attain the desired goal. In this connection, he urged the society at large to enhance contribution to this end.

The Minister went on to indicate that it is high time to apply efficient, sustainable, clean and safe utilization of water resource so as to make effective use of such resource.

Minister urges general public to apply judicious utilization of water resource

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The Proclamation comprises 7 Chapters and 35 Articles on various topics, including ownership and management of water resource, water resource planning, environment impact assessment, pollution prevention and abatement and water quality control, in addition to the issuance of Legal Notice No. 117/2010 on regulations for issuing permit for the importation or exportation of Ozone depleting substances (ODS) and equipments or products based on ozone depleting substances.