

To His Excellency, the President

Ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Jane Siwela and this statement is delivered by Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe. My statement is on issues to do with access to clean drinking water and sanitation, human rights and environment.

Zimbabwe's challenges in terms of clean water provision and sanitation arises from the dilapidated infrastructure which has for years not been concentrated on and has not been rehabilitated. As a result, there is a lot of water challenges in both urban and rural settlements. As a result, there has been numerous outbreak of waterborne diseases such as Typhoid and Cholera. The main challenge that is there is, there is need to capitalize and invest in the infrastructure relating to water where the Government must give local authorities grants through even devolution funds to prioritize the establishment of water infrastructure in both rural and urban settlements for purposes of making sure that there is adequate supply of clean and portable water.

Relating to the second challenge on environment, the environmental challenges in Zimbabwe are mainly as a result of the mining and agriculture activities which are not properly regulated as the country do not have strong laws relating to mining and agriculture. The recommendations to have the mines and minerals amendment bill coming to Parliament is still after ten years just a promise which has not yet been fulfilled as no bill has been tabled in Parliament to address these issues. This also relates to the laws relating to environmental management as well as the agricultural land use laws which are also not yet amended to protect and address the challenges that the country has been facing in this respect. And as a result we have had a lot of challenges where there are disasters and there has been loss of lives of human beings as well as livestock and wildlife and Zimbabwe has not done so much in terms of actually addressing these challenges which are currently not addressed for a very long

time and recommendations are that the Government must speed up the amendment of these laws relating to mining and agriculture as well as in its fiscal planning give more money to the Environmental Management Agencies so that they can monitor around the environment.