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Title of the Article Reviewed: Water Privatisation in South Africa

Quality of Summary

The summary of the article is very concise and compact, and the topic is adequately introduced. The paper is easy to read and provides some of the important fact on the topic. There two ways in which the article could be improved:

- 1. The articles could briefly outline the different forms of water services privatisation in South Africa, describing (briefly) what each type constitutes. There have been several types of water privatisation from ring-fencing/commercialisation of water departments in municipalities to the actual involvement of private sector actors through Built Operate and Transfer (BOT/BOOT), management contracts, etc. The paper can provided the readers with a brief overview of these arrangements without going into the technical details. Here a short discussion of various forms of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPS) will be useful to the readers.
- 2. The paper needs to provide an indication of whether privatisation has led to improved and access for the poor and quality of services generally. This assessment cannot be avoided in the discussion on privatisation. While the paper implicitly suggests that involvement of the private sector has led to improvements, such as the repair of broken water metres and fixing leakages, it does not state clearly whether this recorded improvement can be attributed to the private sector actors or not. Further, the paper needs to include the issue of widespread protests in poor communities most of which are about water and sanitations services.

Structure and Style

The structure and style for the article is appropriate for the broader readership which Wikipedia targets; it is easy to read and follow. The article uses simple and clear sentences accessible to a broader readership, including high school readers.

Content

The content of the article is adequate for a summary on the topic. However, the article can be improved by considering the two suggestions made above. The article can also be improved by taking into account recent literature and facts on the topic; it certainly needs to be updated to include the most recent data and other relevant pieces of information.

International and Local Dimension

The article is fairly balanced in its discussion of the topic. However, the international dimension on water privatisation is lacking. Examples of similar experiences in other parts of the world will be of great value to this discussion.

References

For a review article on the topic, the references are fine, but there is need to add recent literature on the topic.