



No 310 Herbert Macaulay, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Sabo-Yaba, Lagos  
@NaijaFederation • federation@justempower.org

a movement of the urban poor for dignity and development

11 October 2016

His Excellency, Akinwunmi Ambode  
Executive Governor of Lagos State  
Office of the Executive Governor  
Alausa, Ikeja  
Lagos



3:40pm

Dear Sir

**DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE RETRACTION OF 7-DAYS' NOTICE TO WATERFRONT COMMUNITIES ACROSS LAGOS STATE**

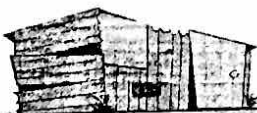
With due respect, Your Excellency, we are a movement comprising the poorest residents of Lagos State from over seventy informal settlements—and ever growing. We have come together, knowing that unity is our strength, to seek partnership with Government to protect our dignity and bring development to our communities.

We refer to our letter to Your Excellency dated 4 October 2016, which was delivered alongside a peaceful protest by hundreds of urban poor residents that we staged that day calling for partnership toward a pro-poor urban agenda in Lagos.

During our peaceful protest, we were addressed by the Senior Special Advisor on Civic Engagement and invited for a meeting the following day, 5 October 2016. We were pleased to attend this meeting, at which we presented the concerns of three different constituencies of the urban poor: (1) persons living in informal settlements, (2) persons working in the informal economy; and (3) persons living with disabilities. At the close of that meeting, we agreed to have another meeting today, 11 October 2016, to present our policy proposals on core issues of housing, security of tenure, and protection of livelihoods to help Lagos become an inclusive megacity.

It was with great shock and dismay, therefore, that we heard Your Excellency's public announcement on 9 October 2016 purporting to give 7-days' notice of demolition to all informal waterfront communities across Lagos State.

We are deeply concerned that this announcement seems to be a continuation of the anti-poor policies of Lagos State against which we protested last week. How can we engage in dialogue about partnership toward long-term solutions with an eviction threat hanging over our heads?



SHACK / SLUM DWELLERS INTERNATIONAL  
[ SDI ]

*agbajowo la fin soya*

*pili pili toloton mi je po godo tolonayo*

*unity is our strength*



Consequently, and with heavy hearts, we hereby denounce Your Excellency's announcement of 9 October and demand official, immediate retraction. We have no choice but to suspend all dialogue until such notice is retracted.

Should this notice not be retracted by end of the day on 12 October 2016, we use this medium to inform Your Excellency that we will be embarking on mass protest across the State. Our communities are full of law-abiding, if impoverished, residents of Lagos State. We belong in the city and we have a right to the city as well as a right to shelter and to livelihood. Forced eviction is not only unlawful; it is also ineffective. It will also not solve whatever problems your administration hopes to solve. It will not set Lagos on the path to being a global megacity. The only path to real megacity status is to embrace the urban poor and partner with us to find lasting solutions to challenging urban problems such as security and development.

You may reach us at No. 310 Herbert Macauley Way, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Sabo-Yaba, by email at federation@justempower.org, or on any of the following numbers: 08170206386, 08036088915 or 08039214391. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely yours,

**Ago Egun (Bariga) Community**



Akapo Agemo (Otun Baale)



Ajegun Francis



Prophet Moses Oyinbo


**Ebute-Ilaje (Bariga) Community**



Iwalokun Jide



Oladipupo Aramide *Areomiye*



Ikuesan Cecilia

**Orisunmibare Community**



Prince Kehinde Michael



Comfort Akinde

**Sogunro Community**



Clement Avlessi



Sylvanus Anthony

**Ofin (Ikorodu) Community**



Balogun Isiah



Mehento Abel



Mehento Nicodem

**Ajagbe Sari Iganmu Community**



Olaniyi Luke

**Okun Ayo Community**



Doris Momoh

Ade Otekoye



Rosemary Ani

**Abete Ojora Community**



Funmilayo Yahaya

**Itun Agan Community**



Edamisan Ipinsokan



Alex Asogbon



Babatunde Joseph

**Mosafejo Oworonsoki Community**



Koja Kamin

**Tarkwa Bay Community**

Ben Boco



Adeshina James



Yomi Balogun



**Olufunke Majidun (Ikorodu) Community**



Ibojo Sinmidele

**Tomaro Community**



Olusuyi Seun



Oyedere Ronke Omowumi



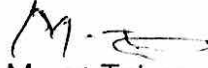
Adeleke Oluwaseun



**Baiyeku (Ikorodu) Community**



Peter Adogun



Marot Taiwo



Jamiu Waheed

**Oko Agbon Community**



Hunkpe Jack



Hunge Agnes

**Irede Community**



Kasarachi Nicholas E.



Haruna Anthonia

**Otumara Ilaje Community**

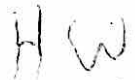


O.B. Agbede

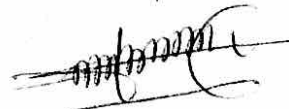


Oju Jude

**Otodo Gbame Community**



Dansu Hunkpe



Ahisu Celestine

Patience Ibojo



Cc:

1. Senior Special Advisor on Civic Engagement, Lagos State
2. Nigeria Country Director, World Bank
3. Nigeria Country Director, UN Habitat
4. Nigeria Country Director, Amnesty International
5. UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing