



No 310 Herbert Macaulay, 3rd 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, 3rd 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 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

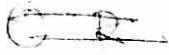
Tomaro Community



Olusuyi Seun



Oyedere Ronke Omowumi



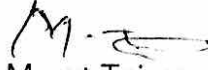
Adeleke Oluwaseun



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

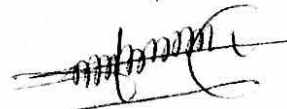


Oju Jude

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