



SUBJECT: CLEARANCE OF WATER FRONT COMMUNITIES IN LAGOS

His Excellency Akinwunmi Ambole
The Executive Governor of Lagos State
The Governor's Office
Alausa, Ikeja,
Lagos State
NIGERIA

Dear Sir,

It is from a position of great concern, and with an offering of support, that we write you. It is our hope that our communication to you initiates a dialogue and a process of determining investments that allows the Lagos State government to achieve its urban goals and also ensures that your poorer citizenry living in the waterfront communities, and other marginal lands, achieve more sustainable neighbourhoods.

Our experience across more than 700 cities in Africa, Asia and Latin America, allows us to convey to you the invariable futility of slum clearance. Exercises that only serve to shift the problem to other sections of cities, compounding the incidences of poverty and raising the levels of public discontentment.

It is clear to us that your current focus on the water front slum communities, and the conditions that have led to a decision to demolish the shanty housing, can be turned around into opportunities for the State government to redevelop these areas. We see the opportunity to achieve the economic and socio-political ends that underlie these eviction efforts and to do so with much less attrition on the affected populations.

We immediately offer you and other relevant authorities visits to cities of comparative size that have faced and overcome equal challenges of urban informality. This would be an opportunity to meet counterparts in equivalent government positions, to study projects and the strategies, policies, and thinking behind them.

We, however, wish for you to have a stay on the planned eviction actions; to allow for the time for comparative learning, for dialogue and the development of solutions.

Your intervention in this matter will go a long way in allaying heightened anxiety within the communities. I will remain in touch in order to develop our proposals further.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Muturi

SDI.

office: +254 20 267 7770

mobile: +254 722 249 360