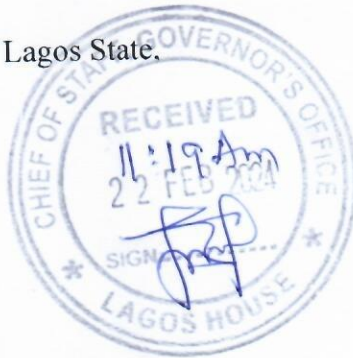


Remi Olowolabi & Co.

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21st of February, 2024

The Executive Governor of Lagos State,
His Excellency,
Babajide Sanwo-Olu
Governor's Office,
State Secretariat,
Alausa.
Ikeja.
Lagos State



Dear His Excellency,

RE: CASE OF ILLEGAL ALLOCATION OF LAND IN THE STATE, THREAT TO LIFE & PROPERTIES OF THE RESIDENTS OF IBIJOKE AND OLASIMBO STREETS, OREGUN, LAGOS STATE. ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMVENT THE EXTANT PROVISIONS OF THE LAGOS STATE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION LAW, ATTEMPT TO FOMENT CIVIL UNREST TO BRING ABOUT BREAK DOWN OF LAWS AND ORDER IN THE STATE.

The above subject matter refers.

We are solicitors to Ibijoke & Olasimbo Community Development Association, Oregun, Lagos State (hereinafter referred to as our client) on whose behalf, authority and unequivocal instruction we write to you in respect of the above mentioned subject matter.

Our client has referred to us the Lagos State Environmental Management and Protection Law, 2017. Contravention Notice dated 15th day of February, 2024 served on the community with an instruction to respond to same. Our client has further briefed us as follows:

1. That the community was fortunate enough to have an efficient drainage system in place, which has played a vital role in preventing flooding and ensuring the safety and well-being of the residents. As a matter of fact Honourable Abiodun James Faleke has even facilitated the grading and tarring of the streets. While the project is ongoing, the ministry of Environment has illegally and surreptitiously allocated a setback (the canal) on the tail end of Ibijoke/Olasimbo Streets to certain group of mechanics as their workshop. To this end, the mechanics have made a culvert at the Government setback beside the drainage (Canal) under high tension. This development is not only illegal but also unconstitutional as it has far-reaching legal and security implications.

2. That the community has suffered and experienced myriad of security issues ranging from armed robbery, house breaking, Vehicle vandalism, theft, cultism, refuse dumping, kidnapping, open defecation etc and the canal passage is always the escape route for these criminal elements. Recently, in November, 2023; two Kidnappers were caught with two Children from the community escaping through the Canal Setback.
3. Based on the aforesaid, our client erected a barricade like every other community (Julie Estate, Peace Estate, Lawal Estate, Saddatu Street, Etc.) to cordon off these criminal activities and forestall other environmental infractions and degradations within the community.
4. Our client was surprised to receive a contravention notice requesting the community to remove the barricade.
5. Further investigation by our client revealed that some Officials of Ministry of Transport & Environment connived to illegally allocate the community canal setback to the mechanic as their workshop.

However, upon a professional appraisal and evaluation of the facts of this case, we will like to respond as follows:

1. That it is the primary duty of the Lagos State Government to at all times ensure security of lives, properties and good health of the residents. The Notice to remove the barricade erected by our client will undoubtedly and inevitably expose our client to security and environmental challenges.
2. The purported allocation of the setback to mechanics is illegal, unlawful, unconstitutional and without any legal justification whatsoever as it negates and violates the extant provisions of the Lagos state Environmental Management and Protection Law 2017. **Section 118(1) of the Lagos state Environmental Management and Protection Law 2017** prohibits and makes it unlawful and illegal regardless whether the use or its occupation was permitted or not. It provides inter alia:

“Notwithstanding any permit given under any law, a person shall not:
(a) Construct or put any structure on drainage alignment, sewers, rail tracks, footpaths or on the required road or setbacks
(b) Use any road, street or other setback as a mechanic workshop or motor park”

3. It is clear from the provisions of the above law that neither the Ministry of Environment nor Ministry of Transportation possess the power, authority and or fiat to allocate the canal setback for any use whatsoever. It is ridiculous and antithetical for both the Ministry of Environment and Transportation which should be more interested in the upholding of the law and protection of lives and properties as well as good health of the residents to now turn around and allocate the canal setback for a group of mechanic use and workshop is not only illegal but reprehensible in all ramifications. Both the Ministry of Environment and Transportation rather than concern themselves with assisting the Honourable Governor in achieving and delivering the dividends of democracy to the citizens in the state, they are on rampage, frolicking around perpetrating illegality in the state and fomenting strife among the citizens.

NOTE THAT the implications of the above illegal act of Both the Ministry of Environment and Transportation are profound and our clients are deeply concerned about the potential consequences, which may include:

- i. **Flooding:** Blocking the drainage system would disrupt the natural flow of rainwater, leading to severe flooding during heavy rains.
- ii. **Property Damage:** Floodwaters could cause extensive damage to homes, Vehicles, and infrastructure within the community.
- iii. **Health Hazards:** Stagnant water from flooding can become a breeding ground for disease-carrying vectors, posing a significant health risk to the community.
- iv. **Economic impact:** The economic repercussions of flooding, such as damage to businesses and loss of property value, are substantial and far-reaching.
- v. **Theft:** The possibility of attracting various strangers to the community that could inadvertently lead to cases of robbery, theft and burglary cannot be over-emphasized.

As a law abiding community, our client kindly requests the immediate intervention of your good office to prevent this crisis from occurring. We implore your good office to wade into this matter with a view to:

- i. Investigate the purported relocation of the mechanics' workshop to the canal setback and prevent possible drainage blockage.
- ii. Collaborate with local authorities to ensure the drainage system remains free and unobstructed.
- iii. Remove the culvert granting access to the restricted area and install a government sign-post to prevent further entry.

Please, find enclosed pictorial evidences of the current situation in the location for your review and necessary attention:

- Picture 1: The culvert built by the mechanics to gain entrance to the setbacks and under the high-tension wire.
- Picture 2: The canal/ Drainage
- Picture 3: The waste and refuse dump around the canal/drainage.
- Picture 4: The Ibijoke Street undergoing construction facilitated by Honourable Abiodun James Faleke

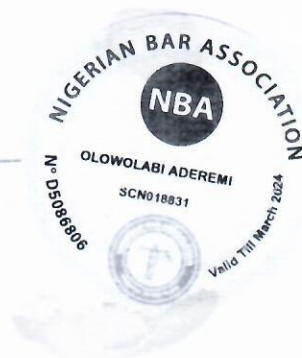
Accept our highest professional regards and esteem.

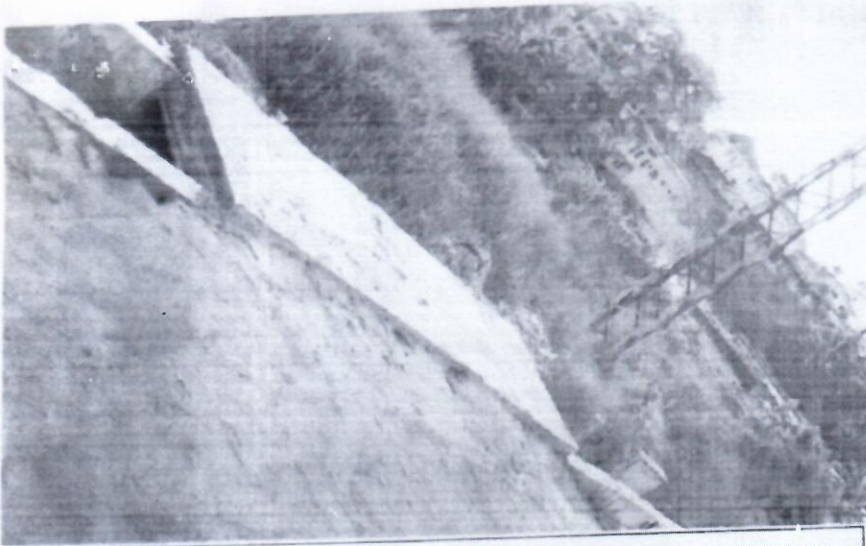
Yours faithfully,

For: Remi Olowolabi & Co.



Aderemi Olowolabi Esq.





PIX. 1 - MECHANICS CULVET LEADING TO THE DRAINAGE SET-BACK



PIX. 1 - MECHANICS CULVET LEADING TO THE HIGH TENSION



PIX. 2 - CANAL/DRAINAGE



PIX. 3 - WASTE & REFUSE DUMP AROUND THE CANAL/DRAINAGE SECTION OF OLASIMBO STREET

