



MAKOKO/IWAYA WATER FRONT

Motto: One Mind One Love

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NIGERIAN SLUM /
INFORMAL SETTLEMENT
FEDERATION

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Lagos, Nigeria

MAKOKO COMMUNITY REJECTS FORCED ENUMERATION & DEMANDS COMMUNITY-LED REGENERATION PROCESS

Today, the Nigerian Slum / Informal Settlement Federation stands in solidarity with the Makoko community to reject any attempts at forced enumeration or any other steps to proceed with upgrading or regeneration without the community leading the process.

About a year ago, the Makoko community was shocked to hear that the Lagos State Ministry of Waterfront Infrastructure Development (MWID) had allegedly granted an approval to a private developer, FBT Coral Estates Ltd, to sandfill the entire Makoko / Iwaya Waterfront area. This announcement sparked fears of forced eviction, displacement, and destruction of their way of life among tens of thousands of residents of the area.

In light of these fears, the Nigerian Slum / Informal Settlement Federation assisted its members and the leaders of Makoko community to conduct an opinion survey across nearly six thousand residents of the different villages of Makoko/Iwaya Waterfront. This survey found that **97% of residents were opposed to the proposed redevelopment by FBT Coral Estates Limited** as they had not been consulted or given their consent for the project. The vast majority of residents were in favor of community-led redevelopment.

As the fears mounted, the leaders of Makoko community with legal assistance from Justice & Empowerment Initiatives (JEI) wrote to the office of the Lagos State Governor, which resulted in a series of positive meetings with the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development and the Lagos State Urban Renewal Agency (LASURA) where alternative concepts for planning and developing communities on water were presented by NLÉ Works. In these meetings, residents were reassured that they would not be displaced and that the Lagos State Government was fully committed to working with the people of Makoko/Iwaya Waterfront to plan and implement the redevelopment that would benefit residents.

In line with these commitments, residents of Makoko community have over recent months worked with Nigerian Slum/Informal Settlement Federation to carry out the numbering of houses and preliminary census of four of the villages of Makoko/Iwaya Waterfront. This community-led process lays the foundation for participatory planning toward community-led upgrading in partnership with the Lagos State Government and civil society partners. Indeed, in just March 2021, some of this data was presented in a meeting convened by LASURA as a show of the community's good faith efforts in support of regeneration.



agbajowo la fin soya
pili pili toloton mi je po godo tolonayo
unity is our strength



Therefore, it was a shock to receive reports recently that the private developer, FBT Coral Estates Limited, and the Lagos State MWID intended to come for their own enumeration of Makoko / Iwaya Waterfront despite the objections of the community. Sadly, all efforts by the community representatives to engage with FBT Coral Estates Limited to insist that engagement around any intended plans and concept/principles for any redevelopment should come before any such enumeration have proven abortive.

We therefore have no choice to make the position and demands of the community public:

- 1. *We are ready for the people-centered regeneration of our communities, provided that it aligns with several key requirements:***
 - a. The residents should not be displaced from the community;***
 - b. The community should not be sand-filled, but rather we should be able to continue our traditional way of life, culture, and livelihoods on water;***
 - c. The redevelopment should improve the quality of life for residents while remaining affordable for all classes of people living in the community.***
- 2. *The community must be at the center of the process, of planning and implementing the upgrading / regeneration of our community; and***
- 3. *We reject and stand against any forced enumeration or top-down planning.***

SIGNED:

FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MAKOKO/IWAYA WATERFRONT:

Honourable Samson Vituwa, Makoko/Iwaya Waterfront Communities Secretary

Isaac Dosugan, Church Lane Community Religion Leader

Aladetan Kulujo, Apollo CDA Chairman

Staycool Sofiegha, Ijaw Community Secretary

Okimiji Ebiwo, Apollo Community Elder

Abosede Ajimosun, Iya Oloriere of Apollo

Ojo Aduke, Iya Alaje of Makoko

Ahisu Oke Migbewhe Community Elder

John Washington Toniyan, CDA Chairman

Omoniye Oluwa Segun, Apollo Community Youth

FOR NIGERIAN SLUM/INFORMAL SETTLEMENT FEDERATION, LAGOS CHAPTER:

Sani Mohammed, Federation Policy and Advocacy Coordinator

Dezyno Imole, Federation Profiling Coordinator

Timothy Oladeinde, Federation Policy Advocacy Coordinator, Apapa LGA

Mohammed Zanna, Federation PCEI Coordinators

Moses Sangoloke, Federation Policy Advocacy Coordinator, Somolu LGA

Junior Maiyipa, Federation Policy Advocacy Co-Coordinator, Lagos Island

Sunday Ogah, Mainland LGA Policy Advocacy Coordinator

Mohammed Yunus, Federation Policy Advocacy Coordinator, Ajeromi/Ifelodun LGA

Mary Akintude, Amuwo-Odofin LGA Policy & Advocacy Committee

Jane Oladeinde, Federation Community Paralegal at JEI

Busola Lawal, Federation Community Paralegal at JEI

John Hunpati, Federation Makoko Coordinator

For more information, contact: Honourable Samson Visuwa (08055850269, 08177561446);
Sani Mohammed (07069508411, 08123143760)

ABOUT US: *The Nigerian Slum/Informal Settlement Federation is a movement of the urban poor for our dignity and development, made up of community savings groups in hundreds of slums and informal settlements here in Lagos and other cities. In addition to community-led economic empowerment through our savings groups, we work with our member communities to undertake citywide slum profiling, mapping, and enumeration to understand our development challenges and opportunities to feed into our collective advocacy for a better urban future. We are supported by Justice & Empowerment Initiatives – Nigeria (JEI) and affiliated with Slum Dwellers International, a global network of slum dwellers' federations.*