

Landlords from Afikpo, Ojike, Urualla, Elechi Beach and Abba Waterfronts Communities in Port Harcourt have pledged their support to Governor Amaechi and his government's decision to demolish shanties in Port Harcourt and subsequently redevelop them into world class suburbs.

In a letter written by the landlords of the above named waterfronts communities dated 21st August 2009, the landlords pledged their commitment to the Governor and extricated themselves from the suit filed by some chiefs and indigenes seeking to restrain the Rivers State Government from carrying on with its planned demolition of waterfronts in Port Harcourt.

To further buttress their support for the Governor's initiative, the landlords had gone to the Port Harcourt High Court to swear to an affidavit that they are fully in support of the Governor's plan to rid Port Harcourt of shanties and slums and distance themselves from the suit filed against the Rivers State Government on waterfronts development.

This affidavit was attached to the letter written to the Governor by the landlords of Afikpo, Awkuzu, Ojike, Urualla, Elechi Beach and Abba waterfronts community.

They include Tabotamuno Awoh Tariah, Otuka Georgewill, Victoria Douglas, and Benjamin Cotrell for Afikpo Waterfront; Dimabo Pankin Braide, Chief Owusu Amadree, Ijeoma Chuwena and Henry. T. Harry for Akwuzu Waterfront; Ibiba Gilis, Tobubelem Briggs, Christian Cottrell, Eneah Fred and Opirite. N.G. Batubo for Ojike Waterfront.

Others include, Deacon Okorinama Jack, Ejoor Otokito, ThankGod Osoma and Ronami Sylvanus Tebeda for Urualla Waterfront; Tekena Batubo and Banigo Otonye for Elechi Beach Waterfront; and Obene Iderima, Hon. Charles Micky for Abba Waterfront amongst others.

Waterfronts Demolition: Communities In Court

...Protest Attacks On Amaechi



Gov. Amaechi

In the affidavit forwarded to the office of the Rivers State Governor through his Special Assistant on Waterfront Development, the

Landlords stated that it is a collective decision by the Landlords of the 5 earlier named waterfronts communities to support any development that

government wants to embark upon for the interest of the people.

The landlords declared in the affidavit thus: "we are individual landlords that own buildings in different waterfronts in Diobu which are marked for demolition by the Rivers State government; we are not against the State Government in executing their proposed demolition and payment of compensation to owners of affected properties; we are not part of any suit filed against the government in any High Court or Customary Court as aborigines; that the government should treat our matter fairly with dispatch with the urgency needed in developing the areas."

The landlords also stated that they had accepted the government's offer of compensation and ensured a peaceful coexistence during the enumeration and evaluation exercise at these waterfronts.

Commenting on the development, the Senior Special Adviser to Governor Amaechi on Media and Publicity, Mr. David Iyofor commended the landlords for their support and praised them for backing the Governor's decision to redevelop Port Harcourt Waterfronts. "Governor Amaechi plans to transform the waterfronts into a modern housing and commercial district that would be safe and clean for people to live in. Whatever disagreement that is being expressed on this issue can effectively be addressed through dialogue bearing in mind that everyone seems to agree that the shanties and slums dominating these Waterfronts must give way for proper development of the area. Government is always ready to talk with all stakeholders." Iyofor said.

...Incessant Death Threats On My Life, An Unnecessary Distraction ~Barr. Osima Ginah

The Commissioner for Urban Development in Rivers State, Barrister Osima Ginah has vowed that the incessant death threats to his life since the planned waterfront demolition exercise will not deter him from working within the ambits of the law to implement a stellar blue print for urban development in the state. "I am ready to die for Rivers State if need be and no amount of threat on my life or any obstacle or intimidation in any form will deter me from carrying out my legal task both as a Commissioner of Rivers State Government or as a son of the State. He continued: "Let me reiterate that if restoring the city of Port Harcourt back to its garden city status and pursuing a design that will free the city of every criminal tendencies and make it one of the revered cities in Nigeria will cause me my life then I am ready to lay it if that will actualise the dream of making Rivers State the State of our dream". He was speaking at his residence during a recent

courtesy call on him by Elders of the Rivers State Action Congress (AC) led by its Chairman, Chief Allen Opunjiakor.

Chief Allen on behalf of the AC Elders commended Ginah for his forthrightness in carrying out his duties as Commissioner even in the face of pressure and intimidation. In his response to the Elders concerns about his security, Ginah described the threats to his life as an unnecessary distraction, he stated, "As a Christian, I know that God made my appointment to serve in this administration possible, I would not rest on my oars as long as I have this confidence. In addition, the Governor's support has served to make all these challenges worthwhile as we all join hands to move the state to the next level".

Ginah took the opportunity of the visit to refute claims that his Ministry is being used as a witch-hunting tool against real or perceived enemies of government, reiterating that government urban

development initiatives, including the waterfronts demolition exercise are well thought out plans geared towards creating an enabling environment for commerce, where human and capital development will thrive successfully. He also called for continued support of the development programmes of Governor Amaechi.

In his closing remarks, Elder Allen commended the Commissioner for the great job he is doing and assured him that the party leadership is behind his effort to demonstrate what AC as a party could do if we have more of our people in this administration. "We will ask our Women Group not to relent in its prayer for the Governor and his cabinet for clearer vision to move the State forward. Barr Ginah finally commended the elders and the AC leadership for ensuring support for those of them in government in order to give out their best for the common good of the State.



Barr. Osima Ginah