13th March, 2018

Mohammed Musa Bello (Mr.),
Minister, Federal Capital Territory
Kapital Street, Off Obafemi Awolowo Street,
Garki Area 11,
Abuja

Dear Sir,

ALLEGATIONS OF INAPPROPRIATE APPROVALS OF STATUTORY RIGHTS OF OCCUPANCY FOR LARGE PLOTS OF LAND TO PROMINENT POLITICAL OFFICE HOLDERS

The above subject matter refers.

Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA Resource Centre) is a non-governmental organization and non-partisan human rights and development league. It has the mandate to protect and promote universally recognized human rights, accountability and environmental justice in Nigeria and Africa, in accordance with international standards.

Sahara Reporters newspaper via a report published on the 12th March, 2019¹, conveyed in the report that the Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT) allegedly approved large portions of land of about 6,000 square metres each by signing out statutory rights of occupancy to known politicians hence, the need for this freedom of information request.

It was reported that among the beneficiaries of the said signing out are the Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT), yourself, the Chief of Staff to the President, Mr. Abba Kyari; former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Babachir Lawal; current Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Gida Mustapha; former Director-General of the Department of State Services, Mr. Lawal Daura; Minister of Transportation, Mr. Rotimi Amaechi; Minister of Aviation, Mr. Hadi Sirika; the Senate President, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki and other prominent names whose allocations’ right of occupancy (R of O) have been delivered.

It was reported as follows and I quote:

"The Minister personally took care of himself, members of the federal cabinet, principal officers of the two chambers of the legislature and many of President Muhammadu Buhari’s aides with two choice allocations of 6,000 square metres each. Separate choice plots in Maitama and Garki districts were received by each beneficiary. Other beneficiaries of the land allocation largesse with only a plot each are non-principal officers of the National Assembly and fringe aides within the Presidency" ....

Also captured in the report under reference are scanned copies of the alleged granted statutory right of occupancy certificates and we have carefully combed out, some vital details from the Certificates as follows for ease of comprehension;

1. Certificate No. 019506
   Name: Abubakar Olubukola Saraki
   Address: 48, Lake Chad Crescent, Maitama, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria
   New File No: KW 62891
   R of O Date: 20/07/2018

2. Certificate No. 019535
   Name: Abubakar Olubukola Saraki
   Address: 48, Lake Chad Crescent, Maitama, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria
   New File No: KW 62897
   R of O Date: 20/07/2018

3. Certificate No. 019529
   Name: Lawal Daura Musa
   Address: 2, Fela Anikulapo kuti, Gwarinpa, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria
   New File No: KT 62803
   R of O Date: 23/07/2018

4. Certificate No. 019230
   Name: Adamu Adamu
   Address: 23 21 Road, Gwarinpa, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria
   New File No: BA 64475
   R of O Date: 13/6/2018

5. Certificate No. 019285
   Name: Hadi Abubakar Sirika
   Address: 425 Dennis Osadebey Crescent, Apo Legislative Qtrs, Abuja, FCT
   New File No: KT 62719
   R of O Date: 27/6/2018

6. Certificate No. 019325
   Name: Abba Kyari
   Address: 6, Yahaya Imana, Kaduna, Kaduna, Nigeria
   New File No: BO 63294
   R of O Date: 11/07/2018

7. Certificate No. 019227
   Name: Mohammed Musa Bello
   Address: 15, Ibrahim Atta Road, Jimeta, Yola, Adamawa State, Nigeria
   New File No: AD 62497
   R of O Date: 13/06/2018

8. Certificate No. 019249
In line with our mandate to promote accountability and foster transparency, and in view of the above report, bearing in mind that the Land Use Act vests in the Governor of a state to grant statutory right of occupancy, we hereby demand for the urgent confirmation and verification of the above relayed report and the above certificates of occupancy as we believe that records available to your institution will clarify the numerous questions in the mind of the populace as regards this alleged inappropriate signing off of large plots of land to political leaders.

Our request is legally backed by the provisions of Section 2, 3, and 4 of the Freedom of Information Act, 2011.

We look forward to your utmost cooperation and the prompt receipt of the requested information and in any event, within seven (7) days of this application as provided under the Freedom of Information Act, 2011.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Olanrewaju Suraju
Chairman