



2nd May 2024

THE CHIEF OF STAFF
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
JUBILEE HOUSE
ACCRA

Dear Madam,

**PETITION: ALLOCATION OF EPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S BUNGALOW TO THE HON.
MINISTER OF INTERIOR, MR. HENRY QUARTEY**

We write to bring to your attention a matter of utmost urgency regarding the impending forceful eviction of the Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from his official Residence. We implore the intervention of your office to prevent this unjust and unfair action of the Ministry of works and Housing.

The EPA has occupied the said bungalow for the past 50 years, establishing it as an integral part of its operations and a vital component of its infrastructure. Throughout this half-century tenure, the residence has not only served as a symbol of the Agency's commitment to environmental protection but has also facilitated its daily functions, including meetings, official engagements, and accommodation for visiting dignitaries.

The EPA, like many other public institutions is confronted with several financial challenges. Any undue strain, such as the sudden loss of its official residence would severely impact the EPA's ability to fulfill its mandate effectively, potentially compromising ongoing environmental protection efforts and endangering public health and safety.

It is pertinent to note that the Minister for the Interior has historically been allocated an official residence, similar to the arrangement enjoyed by the EPA over the past five decades. The sudden decision to reallocate this property to the current Minister, raises questions of fairness and equity. The long-standing occupancy of the EPA in the residence establishes a precedent that should be respected and upheld, especially in light of the Agency's vital role in safeguarding the nation's environmental interests.

The impending eviction, if not swiftly resolved, will exert undue pressure on EPA management, thereby incapacitating the Agency to adequately address the needs of its workforce. This includes fulfilling current salary obligations, implementing collective agreements, and financing essential environmental protection initiatives. The ripple effects of such a disruption would not only undermine employee morale but also compromise the Agency's ability to attract and retain talent, further exacerbating its operational challenges.

Such treatment not only undermines the EPA's long-standing occupancy rights but also reflects a broader pattern of unfairness and injustice. It sends a troubling message regarding the government's commitment to upholding the rule of law and respecting the rights of its agencies and employees. Moreover, it sets a dangerous precedent that could embolden similar actions against other institutions, eroding trust in the government and undermining the stability of our democratic system.

Failure to address this matter promptly and decisively may lead to serious agitation among EPA staff, potentially culminating in labour actions and other disruptive measures. The uncertainty surrounding the fate of the Executive Director's residence has already generated anxiety and frustration among staff, threatening to disrupt Agency operations and compromise its ability to fulfill its statutory obligations. Swift action is therefore imperative to restore confidence, preserve stability, and uphold the integrity of the EPA.

In light of the above, we humbly request the immediate intervention of your office to prevent the forceful eviction of the Executive Director of the EPA from his official Residence. Your timely action in this regard will not only uphold the principles of fairness and justice but also safeguard the effective functioning of the EPA in fulfilling its critical environmental protection mandate.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We eagerly await your swift and favorable response.

Thank you.

Signed:
EPA Division of PSWU -TUC

Cc:

1. The Hon. Minister Designate
Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI)
Accra
2. The Hon. Minister
Ministry of Works and Housing
Accra