

## **Press Release**



### **SURVEYOR GENERAL CANVASSES FOR CREATION OF ENFORCEMENT UNIT TO TACKLE ENCROACHMENT OF FLOOD AREA DURING HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

.....CALLS ON THE SECURITY AGENCIES TO COLLABORATE MORE WITH OSGOF IN FIGHTING CRIMES AND INSECURITY IN THE COUNTRY

Surveyor General of the Federation (SGOF) Sur. Abudulganiyu Adeyemi Adebomehin has canvassed for creation of enforcement unit in his office to tackle encroachment of flood area especially during housing development in Nigeria , he made this remarks as guest speaker while on TVC News' Breakfast television programme with the topic: Mapping a Brighter Future: Enhancing Nigeria's Development Through Accurate Mapping, aired earlier today.

Sur. Adebomehin stated, "The floodplains are where some people like to go and build their houses, despite warnings. But we don't have that enforcement unit.

Now, talking about the enforcement unit, if we need a whole lot of amending. Is there an act or whatever by the National Assembly for them to see reason why we should go to be part of international best practice, Are you independent from the normal government operations? The reason is you said you give warning this is the floodplain and people go to build. Do you have capacity to come up with a notice and say, no, what government wants to do in this area negates environmental details? Do you have capacity to stop people? And if not, why? What is the international best practice?

“We have what we call forest maps and when you talk about security, apart from the fact that we don't carry guns, we don't carry ammunition, anybody who fails to listen or abide by those maps we produce, will be by the Office's Protection. That's what we call it. He said OSGOF has the relevant information and data on where the flood plains are in Nigeria, however, when people encroach, there is no special power given to the office to enforce compliance unless there is act of parliament through enforcement that could make his office to stop encroachment of flood plains in the country.

He also noted that OSGOF possesses accurate data and maps that identify flood-prone regions across the country. However, the absence of legislative support limits its capacity to enforce compliance. “We have forest maps, environmental maps, and critical security-related geospatial data. But unlike security agencies, we do not carry arms or have legal backing to enforce map-based decisions. Anyone who ignores these maps effectively undermines national safety and planning,” he added.

Surv. Adebomehin lamented the lack of consistent collaboration between OSGOF and some security agencies, stating that while some agencies recognize the Office's role and consult accordingly, others overlook its relevance entirely. “OSGOF is the only agency that truly understands and defines Nigeria's geographic realities. Our data is sovereign and scientifically grounded. Yet, not all security stakeholders engage us before taking action on the field,” he concluded.

## **Henry David**

Head (Information and Public Relations)

Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation

21<sup>st</sup> May, 2025