



*From the High Commissioner*

**NIGERIA HIGH COMMISSION**

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Ms Janice Hadlow  
The Controller  
British Broadcasting Corporation Channel 2  
(BBC 2)  
P O Box 122  
Glasgow  
G2 3WT

**WELCOME TO LAGOS – A SINISTER DOCUMENTARY**

The Nigeria High Commission has watched, with dismay and disappointment, the first of the three-part series of your sinister documentary of the above-stated caption, which was featured on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

Quite frankly, the High Commission is at a loss as to comprehend the real motives behind showing a documentary of this nature in the year of Nigeria's Golden Jubilee Anniversary of its independence from the United Kingdom. Even by your own admission and standards, you have only succeeded in assaulting your viewers with 'upsetting scenes', that fail to reflect the true and complete story of life in Lagos. For a television station such as the BBC, with its wide coverage and credibility, one would have expected greater demonstration of professionalism and the basic ethics of journalism in the production of the documentary.

While not denying that slumps and ghettos exist in Lagos as the documentary shows, it is a global phenomenon, attendant on the development of mega-cities. Even in London, it is not uncommon to see people (not Nigerians) scavenge dustbins in search of food and other 'valuables'. Certainly, there are other aspects of life in Lagos and other salubrious parts of the city worthy of being shown to your viewers. It is therefore a perverse demonstration of lack of balance and fairness that your crew would focus only on that aspect of life in Lagos, without showing the other side of the city.



What is more galling and most disconcerting is your refusal to document the excellent performance of the incumbent Governor of Lagos State, who is widely acknowledged to be doing his utmost best to address the challenges facing a city the size and complexity of Lagos. The Governor has found a ready partner in the Federal Government of Nigeria, which has taken on board the renewal of Lagos as a special project.

The Nigeria High Commission would therefore like to register its strong rejection of this documentary as a deliberate distortion of life in Lagos, totally unwarranted and a calculated attempt to bring Nigeria and its hardworking people to international odium and scorn. Continued broadcast of this documentary is clearly in bad taste and should therefore be condemned.



**Dr Dalhatu Sarki Tafida, OFR**  
**High Commissioner**

His Excellency, Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN  
Executive Governor of Lagos State  
Government House  
Alausa-Ikeja  
Lagos.  
Nigeria.

Mr. Henry Odein Ajumogobia, SAN  
Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Wuse-Abuja  
Nigeria.

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Overleaf is referred for your information and records, please.

  
**Dr Dalhatu Sarki Tafida, OFR**  
**High Commissioner**