



Client Alert:

Lagos State Restricts Construction Site Operating Hours to Promote Safety and Well-being



The Lagos State Government has introduced a significant directive aimed at improving health and safety in the construction sector. In a public directive issued by the Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr Oluyinka Olumide, all construction activities across the state are now restricted to the hours of 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM from Monday to Saturday. This restriction is to be strictly adhered to by all construction companies, institutions, and agencies operating within Lagos State. Relevant enforcement agencies have been directed to ensure full compliance.

This move is a welcome development in the regulation of construction practices in Lagos. It mirrors best practices in other jurisdictions such as the United Kingdom, where construction activities typically run from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM on weekdays and until 1:00 PM on Saturdays, with work generally prohibited on Sundays and public holidays unless special permission is granted by the local council. In Lagos, a similar concession may be granted to construction sites seeking to operate outside the stipulated hours, provided a formal application is submitted to the Lagos Building Control Agency and assessed on its merit by the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development.

The primary objective of this regulation is to promote public safety, reduce environmental disturbance, and prevent structural failures. Building collapses, noise pollution, and overworked labourers have been recurring concerns in Lagos, and this directive is a timely intervention. Residents are encouraged to report any construction site found violating the new time restrictions to the appropriate authorities for necessary action.

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The construction industry is globally recognised as one of the most hazardous sectors. According to a 2024 report by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, one in every five workplace fatalities in the United States occurred in construction. In Nigeria, the statistics are similarly alarming. Between 2014 and 2016, construction accounted for 39.2% of all reported workplace injuries and 34.9% of workplace-related deaths. These figures underscore the urgent need for stronger health and safety controls in the industry.

Several factors contribute to construction site hazards in Nigeria, including working at height without protection, use of unskilled labour, poor site management, lack of adherence to safety protocols, and general negligence. However, the issue of unreasonable operational hours has received little attention until now. The Lagos State Government’s new restriction addresses this gap and sends a strong signal that worker welfare and public safety must not be compromised in the name of rapid development.

Going forward, construction companies and contractors must review and adjust their project timelines and schedules to align with the new directive. Site managers are expected to enhance internal compliance systems, while industry associations and labour unions can use this opportunity to advocate for broader reforms in construction safety standards. For any site that requires an exemption, early and well-justified applications should be made through the appropriate channels.

Overall, this development is a commendable step toward professionalising the construction industry in Lagos and making it safer for both workers and residents. It reflects a growing commitment by the Lagos State Government to adopt international best practices and create a more humane urban development environment.

For more information and clarification on the above, please feel free to contact woye.famojuro@famsvillelaw.com, rachael.olayemi@famsvillelaw.com, or uzochukwu.kpaduwa@famsvillelaw.com,

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