



Public Utility Workers' Union of TUC - Ghana

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PRESS RELEASE

STATEMENT BY PUBLIC UTILITY WORKERS' (PUWU) UNION OF TUC, GHANA IN RESPECT OF ILLEGAL TAKEOVER OF AND DEMOLITION OF PROPERTIES OF GHANA WATER LIMITED IN ASHANTI REGION

The Public Utilities Workers Union (PUWU) wishes to 'draw the general public attention on the unfortunate and escalating situation involving the illegal takeover and demolition of the company bungalows and lands belonging to Ghana Water Limited (GWL) in the Ashanti Region.

Following earlier incidents and rising tensions over attempts by private developers to encroach on the company lands and bungalows occupied by key management and operational staff, we formally engaged the Government Transition Committee on the matter. After being duly briefed, the Committee directed that all works by the private developer be halted to allow for proper verification, dialogue, and institutional resolution of the dispute.

In addition, the Union engaged the Board of Directors of Ghana Water Limited, who further escalated the matter to His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, in recognition of the sensitivity of the land issues and the need for a peaceful, lawful, and culturally respectful resolution.

Regrettably, despite these high-level engagements and explicit instructions for restraint, our staff have faced increased threats and harassment from private developers with some daring to demolish and erect their own structures to replace the existing ones.

You will recall that when we addressed the press in Kumasi last year on the same issue, it was to draw the public's attention to the demolition of one bungalow. Today, it is no longer one, but several critical company properties that have either been demolished, encroached upon, or placed under threat. This disturbing trend raises serious concern that, if left unchecked, all Ghana Water Limited properties within the Ashanti Region could eventually be consumed.

This concerted attack by private land prospectors demonstrates a clear disregard for due process, and institutional engagement. More importantly, the demolition of company bungalows that houses the Chief Manager, Regional Management and other essential staff reflects a troubling disregard for the critical role Ghana Water Limited plays in providing potable water to the people of the Ashanti Region. These residences are not mere accommodation units but integral to ensure operational readiness and rapid response of Management, technical, and security personnel who work continuously to ensure uninterrupted water supply.

*All communications should be addressed to
The General Secretary*

We wish to place it firmly on record that Ghana Water Limited has occupied and used these lands and bungalows for decades in the furtherance of its public service mandate and any unrestrained attempt to forcibly displace staff or destroy company property directly threatens public service delivery, industrial harmony, and national interest.

The Public Utility Workers Union (PUWU) of TUC Ghana therefore states unequivocally that should the relevant authorities fail or refuse to take the necessary and immediate action to halt these illegal activities and protect company property before December 31st, 2025, the Union will have no option but to **ADVISE OURSELVES**.

This decision has not come lightly. It is a measure of last resort, forced by continued inaction despite repeated warnings and engagements at the highest levels.

In that event, management of Ghana Water Limited and the Government must not apportion blame to the workers or their Union. The responsibility will rest squarely with those who, despite clear notice and opportunity, failed to act to protect public assets, staff welfare, and the uninterrupted supply of potable water.

While we remain committed to executing our public service mandate without fail and indeed empathize deeply with the public, who will be affected by any disruption in water supply the would result from our actions, we however wish to urge the people of the Ashanti Region and the general public to stand with us in this fight to protect public property and public service. Our struggle is not against the public; it is for the public.

This pointed siege against the assets of GWCL does not only threaten the safety and security of the staff but also deny them the peace of mind required to deliver quality and reliable service to the public.

Already we face imminent threat of service disruption from the activities that degrade our water sources nationwide and so a turn on the physical assets such as land and bungalows put us in dire situations. We believe that safeguarding Ghana Water Limited's property today is essential to safeguarding livelihoods of many households and potable water delivery tomorrow.

We remain committed to dialogue, peace, and lawful processes. However, we will not remain passive while actions that undermine public service delivery and institutional integrity continue unchecked.

Thank you.

**Yours faithfully,
FOR: PUWU OF TUC-GHANA**



**TIMOTHY NYAME
GENERAL SECRETARY**