

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Ensuring Safety: The Critical Role of Certificates of Occupancy in Ghana's Built Environment**

Accra, Ghana - Recent tragic incidents of multi-storey building collapses in Accra have once again highlighted the importance of ensuring compliance with building safety regulations. As the President of the International Facility Management Association (IFMA) Ghana Chapter, I urge all stakeholders to prioritize the issuance and enforcement of Certificates of Occupancy (CO) before allowing occupants into multi-storey buildings.

A Certificate of Occupancy is more than just a document; it's a guarantee that a building has met the required safety standards and is fit for habitation. The Ghana Building Code, 2018 (Section 145), outlines the requirements for occupancy permits, emphasizing the need for certification letters confirming compliance with the Code.

We commend the efforts of regulatory bodies in enforcing building codes, but more needs to be done. As facility management professionals, we are committed to promoting a culture of safety and compliance.

We call on building owners, developers, and authorities to:

- Ensure COs are obtained before occupancy, as mandated by the Ghana Building Code
- Conduct regular inspections and maintenance
- Prioritize occupant safety and well-being

Let's work together to prevent building collapses and save lives.

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