

PRESS STATEMENT

RE: ALLEGED POWER THEFT AT REHOBOTH ESTATE

The attention of Rehoboth Estate has been drawn to publications in various media outlets regarding alleged power theft at our Social Housing Estate in Kweiman, Accra. We wish to set the record straight on this matter.

We note with concern that these stories were hurriedly published without affording Rehoboth Estate the opportunity to present its side of the story, a conduct that defies the basic ethics of journalism and fair reporting. This one-sided narrative has painted an inaccurate picture of our operations and business ethics.

As a developer, Rehoboth Estate engages third-party contractors to build houses for sale to the general public and does not directly manage electrical installations or the workers of the independent contractors. It is important to clarify that the block factory mentioned in some reports is owned by a vendor, separate and distinct from Rehoboth Estate. To clarify further, the block factory was set up by the vendor about a month ago to support the creation of pavement slabs. The application for connection to the grid for the block factory was made directly by the vendor to ECG without any involvement from Rehoboth Estate. ECG is clearly aware that Rehoboth Estate is not the owner of the block factory, as the owner of the block factory made an application directly to them. Furthermore, the ECG district office has been paying frequent visits to the estate, so it is implausible that they would overlook any illegal activity related to the production of blocks.

While electricity provision is the constitutional right of citizens and the statutory responsibility of the Government of Ghana and the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG), Rehoboth Estate has demonstrated exceptional commitment by investing our own resources in comprehensive electrification infrastructure. We have independently funded critical components, including

poles, electric wires, and a recently installed transformer, all at significant cost and without government subsidies, but in compliance with ECG demands. By undertaking the electrification of our expansive 80-acre estate, Rehoboth Estate has effectively saved ECG an estimated GHS 60,000,000 in infrastructure costs. ECG benefits directly from Rehoboth Estate's private investment, as they gain many customers and a stable stream of income without having to invest any of their own money. This substantial investment underscores our unwavering dedication to delivering properly serviced, high-quality, affordable estates.

Regarding the meter situation, Rehoboth Estate submitted applications and made full payments for meters for the houses as far back as 2023. However, ECG has only installed a portion of these meters, leaving a substantial number outstanding due to their own supply constraints. Our inquiries have revealed that ECG currently lacks sufficient meters to complete the installation for each house in the estate, a challenge facing many Ghanaians, both individuals and companies, across the country. Following the prolonged delays in meter installation, Rehoboth Estate formally petitioned both the Managing Director of ECG and the Minister of Energy in April 2023, urgently requesting their intervention to resolve this critical issue. Despite these high-level petitions and numerous follow-ups, our appeals for intervention went unheeded, leaving our legitimate requests for proper electricity connections unresolved for over two years.

It is crucial to understand that all electrical connections, including meter installations, were undertaken by ECG staff, as statutorily required. Furthermore, due to the nationwide shortage of meters, ECG has established its own arrangements with occupied properties for payment of fixed or estimated sums until meters are supplied and properly installed.

As a developer whose primary business is selling completed homes, Rehoboth Estate has absolutely no interest in facilitating any illegal connections for properties already sold and occupied by residents or contracted to independent contractors to build. Such allegations are not only unfounded but also contrary to our business model and ethics.

The scale of the purported illegal connections has been grossly misrepresented and exaggerated in media reports. We wish to categorically state that, out of the approximately 400 housing units mentioned in these reports, 150 units are still under construction and, therefore, not connected to any power supply. Of the completed units, the vast majority are owned by Ghanaians living in the diaspora who have invested in these properties but have yet to return home to occupy them. This fact makes the allegations of widespread power theft not only inaccurate but statistically impossible, as unoccupied properties would have no reason to be illegally connected to the grid. This fundamental misrepresentation of facts has unjustly damaged our reputation in the real estate sector.

We wish to assure the public, our clients, and stakeholders that Rehoboth Estate is a law-abiding company committed to providing affordable housing to bridge the significant housing gap in Ghana. We do not and will not engage in any illegality that would jeopardize our reputation, built over years of dedicated service to Ghanaians.

We are pleased to inform the public that electricity has been restored to the estate, and Rehoboth Estate is working closely with ECG to address all concerns regarding this matter. We remain committed to maintaining transparent and professional relationships with all regulatory bodies and service providers.

We hereby caution the media and all concerned to desist from further publications that may undermine the reputation of our business without proper verification of facts. Rehoboth Estate reserves the right to seek legal redress for any defamatory publications that harm our business interests.

Thank you.

Management,
Rehoboth Estate