



Hon. Charles Keter, EGH

Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum,
Ministry of Energy and Petroleum,
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Dear Hon. Charles Keter,

RE: Seeking Government's withdrawal from coal mining activities

We write to you as Greenpeace Africa, deCOALonize and communities from Lamu & Kitui.

About Greenpeace Africa:

Greenpeace Africa is a growing movement of people acting to protect the environment. Our campaigns use peaceful, creative confrontation to expose environmental injustices around the world and develop solutions for a green and peaceful nature. Greenpeace exists because this fragile earth deserves a voice. It needs solutions. It needs change. It needs action.

About deCOALonize:

The deCOALonize campaign provides a platform that aims to unite movements and initiatives working to end the age of coal in Africa and move to clean, renewable energy. We are uniting diverse campaigns with a call to halt new coal infrastructure in Africa.

We acknowledge that the Kenyan government is committed to power the country with green and renewable energy by 2020. We echo the sentiments of President Uhuru Kenyatta in his state of the nation address dated 4 April 2019; where he reassured the country that Kenya is a global leader in green energy with 85 percent of our energy coming from renewable resources. President Uhuru Kenyatta has further showed commitment in advocating for the use of green energy to check the challenges of climate change and variability. In his address to the Conference of parties, the president said "Climate change is no longer a myth, it is here with us and we cannot turn a blind eye to it. Green is definitely the way to go." Kenya is among 195 countries that are signatories of the 2015 Paris agreement as a commitment to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.



As community of stakeholders in Kenya, we would like to bring to your attention that these coal projects:

- 1. Threaten the livelihoods of citizens of Lamu County and the surrounding areas** that depend on Indian ocean and other resources for their basic needs. With likely increased river erosion, noise pollution, health hazards and a decrease in the groundwater table as a result of the Lamu coal powered fire plant, there will inevitably be a loss of culture fisheries, social forestry and major destruction of agriculture.
- 2. Threaten to destroy the unique, extraordinary rich Lamu Old Town, the oldest and best-preserved Swahili settlement in East Africa, retaining its traditional functions, as a recognised UNESCO World Heritage site.** The proposed Lamu powered COAL plant will pollute the air by releasing toxic gases which will impact people, animals, trees, plants and land. The plant will contaminate the rivers by discharging used, warm water into the ocean.
- 3. Threaten to add further havoc to an already deeply distressed global climate system.** The proposed Lamu power plant, once in operation will emit millions of tons of CO₂ for years, therefore adding a further major load to an atmosphere that is already saturated with greenhouse gases.

Kenya is endowed with the significant renewable energy resources such as: geothermal, solar, wind and tidal. Geothermal is one of the best of forms of *base load renewable energy* with an estimated potential of 17,000MW. Kenya's 2030 target of 4,060MW is not ambitious enough - with the right regulations in place this goal could easily be tripled. Therefore, policy focus should aim for significant investments in renewable energy (and particularly geothermal energy) and the elimination of any further exploration and investment in the unnecessary, expensive, polluting coal fired power stations. The world is phasing out fossil fuels energy sources such as coal and divesting towards renewable energy sources in order to mitigate the climate crisis and reduce carbon footprint.

It is against this backdrop that we write to the Kenyan government through the ministry of Energy to withdraw their support and projected investments into coal-power and instead invest in renewable sources of energy. The benefits of investing in renewable sources of energy cannot be overstated; enormous benefits include: a clean and healthy environment, creation of much needed jobs, powering the manufacturing sector which is part of the “Big-4 Agenda” and tripling the number of people connected to Kenya’s power grid, to reach 60 percent of the population by 2020.

As you lead the Ministry of Energy, you have the opportunity to refocus the Government’s efforts; to constantly press the cabinet to put our aspirations of renewable energy investments at the center of government policy so that Kenya can meet its target to reduce carbon emissions and achieve a 100 percent reliance in renewable energy.



We wish you well CS Keter, and offer you our unwavering support in the urgent work that needs to be accomplished.

Yours sincerely,

Greenpeace Africa and deCOALonize Campaign coalition in solidarity with Kenyan activists and the local communities in Lamu and Kitui.

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