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**To the Ambassador Wu Peng**

Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Kenya

P.O Box 30508-00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: 00254-2726851 272112559

Fax: 00254-2726402 2711540

Website: <http://ke.china-embassy.org>

Email: [chinaemb\\_ke@mfa.gov.cn](mailto:chinaemb_ke@mfa.gov.cn)

12 June 2019

Dear Sir,

**RE: An open letter to the Chinese Corporations to stop coal mining and coal-fired power plants in Kenya.**

The above subject matter refers.

**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 write to the government of the People's Republic of China - host of the World Environment Day 2019 themed "beat air pollution". The Lamu community have learnt that Chinese corporations intend to support the construction of 1,050 MW coal-fired power plant in Lamu, as well as, establish coal mining in Kitui. We have received this knowledge with deep concern, as we consider the Lamu coal-fired power plant serves as a direct threat, not only to the livelihoods of the local population and to the World Heritage Centre in Lamu, but also to the world's climate.

The Chinese government through the National Development and Reform Commission and National Energy Administration plans have committed to make China a world superpower in the production of renewable energy sources and slow the reliance of fossil-fuels as part of the energy mix. Our communities and organisations therefore fail to see how Chinese investors and state owned corporations could be in support of such a project.



**As community of stakeholders in Kenya, we would like to point out to the Chinese companies that this project:**

- 1. Threatens the livelihoods of citizens of Lamu County and the surrounding areas** that depend on Indian ocean and other resources to fulfil 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. Threatens 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. Threatens 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.

**Greenpeace Africa, deCOALonize** and the local communities in Lamu and Kitui believe that mining and investments in coal cause more problems than coal-fired electricity could ever hope to solve. With abundant renewable energy resources across the continent, countries in Africa should be looking to leapfrog dirty development based on fossil fuels, and instead invest in cleaner, more affordable renewable energy technology. The communities in Lamu and Kitui advocate for the right to live in a healthy and clean environment powered by renewable energy.

There is an urgent need for Chinese corporations to put their full weight behind financing the energy transition which the world urgently needs to tackle the rapid climate emergency, away from burning of fossil fuels and towards full realisation of the potential of renewables.

Sincerely,

**Greenpeace Africa and deCOALonize submits this letter in solidarity with the local communities in Lamu and Kitui.**



**CC: Chief Administrative Secretary & Principal Secretary Renewable Energy,**  
Ministry of Energy & Petroleum,  
Nyayo House,  
Kenyatta Avenue,  
P. O. Box 30582 – 00100 Nairobi, Kenya  
email: [casps.renewable@energy.go.ke](mailto:casps.renewable@energy.go.ke)

**Principal Secretary,**  
**State Department of Energy**  
Ministry of Energy & Petroleum,  
Nyayo House,  
Kenyatta Avenue,  
P. O. Box 30582 – 00100 Nairobi, Kenya  
email: [psenergy@energy.go.ke](mailto:psenergy@energy.go.ke)