

From: \_\_\_\_\_

To: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject: Averting Environmental and Social Impacts of the Lamu Port Project**

The purpose of this letter is to appeal for your support to stop the legal violations of the natural resource rights of the Lamu community made by the Government of Kenya (GOK) through the lack of consultation prior to the construction of the Lamu port, and demand for an independent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out on the same.

While I commend the GOK for looking at efforts to modernize our nation, I am perplexed that up to today no efforts have been made to consult the Lamu community members nor to inform them about the port plans. Additionally, no EIA has been carried out whereas the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) 1999 section V and NEMA environmental code of conduct clearly stipulates that not only does consultation have to occur during the planning of the project, but also the EIA, and the expert carrying it out must be impartial.

In view of Lamu's unique eco-system, the marginalized status of its local communities and its recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the drastic changes from the development of the Lamu port and the related 'Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor development plans will undoubtedly result in a decline in the region's bio-diversity and its indigenous economies. The GOKs intent to fast track the Lamu port project without fully considering, mitigating, or publicizing the potential impacts is therefore an issue of great concern.

Although I agree that Kenya as a country will stand to benefit from the port, I am in doubt that the economic development for only one part of the country on the one hand, and the ecological, social, cultural and economic destruction of the Lamu archipelago and its indigenous communities, on the other, is a reasonable 'trade-off'. I therefore urge you to support for halting of the port construction until all the community demands as per the attached petition are also taken into consideration so as to reduce the ecological and social impacts of the project. These are:

- 1. The GOK publicly shares all information on the proposed project to the local communities;**
- 2. The GOK publicly facilitates for a comprehensive environmental impact assessment to be carried out by independent experts;**
- 3. A participatory process is undertaken with the local communities involved in the assessment of the impacts and planning of the proposed project;**
- 3. The land rights violations against the indigenous Lamu communities are adequately investigated and addressed before any further development plans are inaugurated.**

As per Section III (16) of EMCA 1999, the EIA must: (a) Take into account anticipated environmental, social, cultural and economic impacts; (b) Analyse alternatives to the proposed project; (c) Propose mitigation measures to be taken during and after implementation of the project; and (d) Develop an environmental management plan.

I hope that based on these, you can join me to support the cause of the Lamu people by lobbying the respective government bodies to halt the port project until all these requirements and demands are addressed.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,