

8 May 2019

Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Kenya

Address: WOODLANDS ROAD, P.O.BOX 30508 (00100) GPO, NAIROBI, REPUBLIC OF KENYA

NGONG ROAD, P.O.BOX 48190 (00100) GPO, NAIROBI, REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Tel: 254-20-2726851

Fax: 254-20-2726402/2711540

Email: chinaemb_ke@mfa.gov.cn; consulate_ken@mfa.gov.cn

C/O: Overseas Chinese Affairs, Information and Public Affairs Section Office, Economic and Commercial Counsellor Office

Ms. Ambassador Su Baohong and Counsellor Guo Ce:

Greetings - we again contact you in regards to concerns regarding the proposed 981.5 MW Lamu Coal Thermal Power Plant in Kenya, which is being financed by ICBC and constructed by Power Construction Corporation of China and Electric Power Design Consulting Co., Ltd.

On 14 February this year, we hand-delivered a formal statement to Chinese Embassy staff outlining environmental, social, climate, legal, and public questions regarding the feasibility and impacts of the Lamu coal plant. Our intention in delivering this letter to the Chinese Embassy was to initiate a healthy, open dialogue between Chinese and Kenyan stakeholders in order to discuss how Chinese investment can actually contribute towards a shared vision of sustainable development on Kenyan - not others' - terms. Although Chinese Embassy staff committed to reach out to us again in response to our concerns, we have yet to hear any reply despite several attempts to follow up with your staff by phone and email.

Particularly in the wake of the Belt and Road Forum last month in Beijing, we are disappointed that the rhetoric regarding an "open, green, and clean" BRI cooperation has yet to translate into reality in our country¹. The urgency of climate change demands that the world immediately transition away from fossil fuels, especially coal, and so the decision to support a coal power plant anywhere in the world in this day and age is at best imprudent, or at worst, willfully ignorant of the reality of climate change which we Kenyans must already face².

We also note that although the Kenyan government may support this fundamentally misconceived project against the interests and will of its own people, Save Lamu, our DeCOALonize anti-coal coalition, and other local communities and organisational partners

¹ <http://en.people.cn/n3/2019/0429/c90000-9574038.html>

² <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/relevant-links/2017-06/climatechangekenya2010web.pdf>

hope that Chinese stakeholders and investors can do their fair share in respecting our belief and decision to fundamentally reject the Lamu coal project. As mentioned previously, the Lamu coal plant would not relieve but in fact exacerbate energy access issues in our country, according to Kenyan energy experts.

As such, we again ask that you encourage ICBC to consider suspending financing to this project because of the serious design and community consultation flaws in the project. In particular, we would like to encourage ICBC to conduct a full, credible analysis of renewable energy alternatives before proceeding with the coal plant.

Please let us know if you are able to meet in person and discuss any guidance you may have in this matter. We would be very grateful to hear any advice you may have. Otherwise, a lack of response will suggest an unwillingness to listen and engage with the Kenyan public, and we may be obliged to consider publicly protesting Chinese involvement in financing and developing the coal plant, in addition to Kenyan government entities for allowing this project to move forward.

Given the previous lack of response, we ask that you please confirm receipt of this letter by contacting me and our team at savelamu@gmail.com by 15 May 2019.

We earnestly hope that open, healthy dialogue can help support friendly and transparent relations between the peoples of Kenya and China. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Abubakar Mohamed Almudy
Chairman, Save Lamu