



Press Release French
WED
June 6th 2019

For Immediate Release

MESSAGE FROM THE PACJA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

This year's World Environment Day theme, "Beat Air Pollution" could not have come at a better time. The world has come to the realisation that air pollution, the unseen killer, is not only killing the human lot, but also derailing our growth economically.

That Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) can now be linked to the death of many children should not just be an alarm, but a cause for immediate action.

Governments can control the emission of poisonous gasses in traffic jams by improving infrastructure and enforcing laws that restrict adulteration of fuels; by ensuring industrial areas are far from residential areas; by encouraging tree planting for the carbon exchange; by involving many SMEs, youth, women and all indigenous people in REDD+.

We must have in mind the need for our families to be complete. We need the elderly, the middle-aged, youth, and the little children. Who will work if this silent killer finishes the work force that is our youth and the middle-aged? Who will occupy the space of our aging parents if we let this silent killer claim their lives? How can we bury our little children, yet we bore them to live and take care of us when we age? Why must we eat contaminated food because the air has polluted our plants' food, our rains and our atmosphere?

And so today, as we mark the World Environment Day, let's remember, that this is no longer a mere climate change effect issue, but a crisis we must address with the urgency it deserves. Addressing it alone will provide opportunity for our jobless youth to get employment.

Partnership with the willing and the mandated is important, because alone, we will not tackle this monster. Unity of purpose is important, because divided we all die. We need

everyone, researchers, academicians, farmers, womenfolk, children, doctors, politicians, mechanics, SMEs, big industries, the energy sector...EVERYONE!!

Commitment is also key, because the air pollution, like all other climate change threats, is committed to finish us.

Yes, as Africa, we may be suffering for the sins committed by more developed nations, but we must not sit and wait to die. Let us do something. As PACJA, we have done our part on the climate justice front by pushing African Governments through their legislatures to formulate and implement laws that ensure their citizens get the best of climate. We continue to engage and empower end consumers of the effects of climate crisis in the grassroots all over Africa to act in REDD+ and also push their governments by being parts of decision-making processes.

On this World Environment Day, I call upon everyone to join us in this fight. You and I were born to live... and to live long. Let's not give space for this silent killer. Beat Air Pollution!!

Thank You.