



PAN AFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE

PRESS RELEASE ON GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE WALK

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For Immediate Release

Calls for Kenyan Government to do more in Climate Action

President Uhuru Kenyatta has been called upon to push for green climate funding from developed nations to help mitigate the climate crisis in Kenya.

In a march to mark the end of the Global Climate Strike week running from September 20 to 27, hundreds of Kenyans walked eight kilometres, led by a children's band from Mathare, Nairobi, with a message that Climate Action could not wait any longer, and that the political support was key in achieving climate justice.

Speaking at the end of the walk that started from the Kenya Meteorological Department on Ngong Road to the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, in Kabete, David Mungai, said it was important that the Government pushes further and everyone joins in the fight against climate crisis "like yesterday".

Prof Mungai, who is the Director of the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies vowed to work closely with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Oxfam, the Kenya Platform for Climate Governance (KPCG) and all other stakeholders to champion climate action and ensure humanity lives better.

"Climate Action is needed yesterday," said Prof Mungai.

Oxfam's Pan-African Programme Lead Alvin Munyasia said a study the organization had done along the horn of East Africa showed that after Cyclone Idai and Kenneth, about 13 million people were left suffering climate induced challenges, especially food insecurity. The cyclones hit the Southern Africa earlier in the year, killing hundreds and displacing thousands, besides destroying property worth billions of shillings.

Mr Munyasia said Oxfam would work with PACJA in more than 30 African countries to spearhead climate action. He said they would also push for climate funding as a way of helping the communities at the frontline of climate change.

The walk to mark the end of the global week-long Climate Strike was organized by PACJA, in conjunction with several Civil Society Organizations.

Speaking at the Wangari Maathai Institute, KPCG Chair David Jesse said: “We need proper institutional mechanisms for climate governance and financing.”

He urged government and the private sector to join in the fight for climate justice and encouraged migratio from fossil fuel to cleaner energy.

Charles Mwangi, a Thematic lead at PACJA said the Wangari Maathai Institute venue was symbolic for climate justice considering the now deceased Nobel Peace Laureate Wangari Maathai’s contribution in the fight for climate justice and the well-being of the biodiversity in Kenya and around the world.

He encouraged climate action by individuals, the Government, corporates and regional economic blocs. **“We did not inherit this planet from our ancestors, rather we borrowed it from our children”**. We must take care of the future of our children,” said Mr Mwangi.

Women and children were not left behind in the walk, despite the gloomy and chilly weather in the morning.

“The world has spoken. Our children also have. Even the most introvert of the world’s people are now speaking out. The climate crisis is real and the world cannot keep quiet anymore. Let us do something,” said Meryne Warah, a climate enthusiast who participated in the walk.

The global climate strike started as a result of a Swedish child’s protest that saw her sit outside the country’s Parliament to express her dislike of the laxity with which climate action was being implemented.

Speaking at the UN this week, Greta Thunberg, the girl, said “You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words.”

Kenya’s President Uhuru Kenyatta also spoke at the event and outlined Kenya’s efforts towards migrating to cleaner energy.