

**HON. SAM CHEPTORIS,
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT,
KAMPALA-UGANDA.**

12th/August/2021

Dear Sir,

RE: REQUEST TO IMMEDIATELY ADDRESS THE GAPS IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS TO SAVE ECOSYSTEMS FROM PLASTIC POLLUTION.

The above refers

On behalf of Youth for Green Communities (YGC) and the undersigned signatories, WE take this opportunity to thank you for your ministry's leadership and all the efforts undertaken to protect the environment and other natural resources across the country.

YGC is a youth-led public policy research and advocacy non-profit organisation whose main objective is to influence environment and natural resources governance to benefit the poor, vulnerable and mitigate climate change impacts respecting associated rights. We work to promote green communities.

Further, we appreciate the Ministry's efforts to ensure that government respects and implements both the national and international best practices intended to protect the environment including the **Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995 as amended, National Environment Act, 2019, NEMA ACT, Wildlife Act, 2019, National Forest and Tree Planting Act, 2003 IUCN resolutions and recommendations, clean seas Campaigns, clean energy campaigns** and among others.

While we appreciate the above efforts, we note that Uganda continues to face various environmental challenges as a result of plastics because **total ban on plastics cannot be enforced under the current laws**. Such cases include the rising levels of water bodies like L. Kyoga and Victoria causing to flooding and this has led to loss of many lives, gardens, property and other associated challenges.

Furthermore, plastic pollution continues to accumulate plastic items, debris, and particles in the environment which becomes disastrous to animals, plants, and humans in land and aquatic ecosystems.

The objective of this letter is to therefore, request your good office to advise the government of Uganda to enforce the ban of all plastics from entering all eco system protected areas with immediate effect to strengthen the efforts and address plastic pollution to save lives, nature and our economy by **inserting a specific plastic law in the National Environment Act(NEA), 2019**.

As you are aware, these eco system areas harbour a recorded **18,783** species of fauna and flora (Nema,2009)¹ and the plastic pollution will affect the tourism sector that contributes about 10% to Uganda's GDP and is responsible for 23% of Uganda's exports as well as earnings of as much as \$1.6 billion and over 667,000 jobs.

As a lead government agency responsible for promoting and ensuring sustainable management of the country's environment and natural resources, the sensitive and other sensitive areas must be protected from the dangers of plastics for the country to meet her targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In addition, we are requesting the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and its agencies to stop allowing plastics within and around protected and other critical biodiversity areas in Uganda in the interim pending the enactment of the specific plastic law.

Conclusion, we hope that your ministry and the entire government will effect this ban immediately to upheld the right to a clean and healthy environment of every Ugandan citizen under article 39 of the constitution of Uganda, 1995 as amended.

Looking forward to seeing it done soon.

Yours faithfully,



ARYAMPA BRIGHTON

CEO, Youth for Green Communities.

Email: aryampa.brighton@gmail.com Tel: 0784679759

Signatories

1. Youth for Green Communities
2. Oil Refinery Residents Association (ORRA)
3. Strategic Response on Environment (SRE)
4. Environment Governance Institute (EGI)
5. South Western Institute for Policy and Advocacy (SOWIPA)
6. Guild Presidents' Forum on Governance

CC

1. The Speaker of Parliament,
2. The Chairperson, Natural Resources Committee of Parliament,
3. The Executive Director, National Environment Management Authority

¹ <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/commentary/extend-ban-on-plastics-to-all-eco-system-areas--3484594> This will give you details of what species these eco systems cover.



YOUTH FOR GREEN COMMUNITIES

4. Director, Environmental Affairs, MWE
5. The ED, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)
6. The ED, National Forestry Authority (NFA)
7. The Country Representative, IUCN Uganda Country Office