



**Date: 13 February 2020**

**Dear Team Doctor**

**Air pollution is a threat to the performance of your team**

I'm writing this letter to you today because protecting our right to clean air is critical to protecting our health, the health of our children, and even the health of our sporting heroes. Elite athletes know exactly how important it is that they are in perfect health to deliver the best performance, which is exactly why they have experts like you who are dedicated to ensuring their well-being. However, air pollution threatens South Africa's sporting heroes because it impacts directly on their health, and ultimately their ability to perform.

This month Greenpeace Africa supporters are standing up for our right to breathe clean air. This right is constantly being undermined by mega coal polluters like Eskom and Sasol who have pushed South Africa into an air pollution crisis. There is no longer room to dispute the devastating costs of burning fossil fuels, not just for our rapidly heating planet, but also for our health. Greenpeace released a study on the 12th of February, which confirms that air pollution from fossil fuels causes premature death, preterm births, asthma-related emergency room visits and generally increases the risk of stroke, lung cancer and asthma.

As a team doctor who looks after the well-being of your players, Greenpeace Africa urges you to join the fight for clean air by supporting our campaign. Included with this letter are air pollution masks that could be used as symbols to protect your players. Please could you ask your players to put on their masks and take a picture that they can post on social media? Using social-media they can show support by tagging us at @greenpeaceafrica. To really drive the point home, you could urge your players to wear their masks during a match (this does not have to be for the entire game).

The air pollution crisis is a problem that we know how to solve, by urgently shifting away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy in a Just Transition. We are demanding that the government take the necessary steps to protect the right of every South African to breathe safe, clean air. To make sure there is never a day when we can't run outside anymore, we must make our air safe again.

We would appreciate your support for our campaign, and we are more than willing to meet with you to further engage around protecting the health of your players from air pollution.

**Yours sincerely**

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