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Siaya stakeholder engagement

REPORT

Prepared by:
Patricia Nanteza and Peter Gichuki

Introduction

Weplanet Kenya convened a grassroots community-centered forum to facilitate transparent and inclusive dialogue regarding Kenya's nuclear energy plans. The session was structured into three pillars:

- Energy Realities
Assessing the current power landscape in Siaya.
- Risk Identification
Identifying community concerns regarding safety, health, and the environment.
- Conditions for Support
Defining the specific criteria required by the community in order to accept and host the nuclear power plant.





Stakeholder Representation

The forum engaged 25 influential stakeholders to ensure a representative cross-section of Siaya County:

- Cultural & Administration: The Ker (Luo Council of Elders), local Chiefs, and the County Director of Energy.
- Religious & Economic: Bishops and representatives from the fishing industry.
- Academic: Senior lecturers and registrars from Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST).
- Community Voices: Intentional inclusion of women, youth, and university students.

Key Findings

The dialogue highlighted a severe energy crisis characterized by 8-hour daily power outages, totaling approximately three months of blackouts annually which keeps people in a productivity trap.

Impact Area	Consequences
Economic	Small businesses are caught in a non-productive trap due to inconsistent power
Educational	Frequent disruptions to university lectures and examinations at JOOUST
Health & Environment	Reliance on biomass fuels, leading to respiratory issues and deforestation.

Identified Risks and Misconceptions

While nuclear energy is recognized as a low-carbon baseload solution, significant concerns persist, often fueled by misinformation:

Safety & Health: Fears regarding radiation-induced cancer and infertility.

Security: Misconceptions equating nuclear power plants with atomic weaponry.

Cultural: Potential trauma associated with the relocation of ancestral graves.



RECOMMENDATION

To secure a **"Social License to Operate"** in Siaya, we recommend running a targeted, consistent Nuclear Literacy & Cultural Heritage Program to counter the documented misinformation equating energy plants with weaponry, cancer, etc.

In a region currently losing 25% of its annual productivity (90 days of blackouts) to energy poverty, the cost of project delays or pushback from community resistance far outweighs the investment in proactive dialogue.