The Board
Base Resources Limited
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Email: info@baseresources.com.au

25<sup>th</sup> March 2023

RE: Second Letter from Villagers in Kwale County, Kenya, Raising Serious Concerns about the Exploratory Drilling Exercise Presently Being Conducted by Base Titanium Limited / Base Resources Limited (Australia) in Our Ancestral Lands

We refer to our previous letter, dated 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023, concerning the same (LINK).

Once again, we urgently call upon the Board of Base Resources Limited (Australia), to address our concerns regarding the exploratory drilling exercise presently being conducted by your subsidiary company, Base Titanium Limited, in our ancestral lands.

According to Section 37(1) of the Mining Act: "A prospecting and mining rights shall not be granted under this Act with respect to private land without the express consent of the registered owner, and such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld."

However, as stated in our previous letter (LINK), the exploratory drilling that is presently being conducted by Base Titanium Limited in Kwale is not being done in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution nor in good faith, but rather, in an unprofessional and intimidatory manner, as well as using "divide and rule" tactics, in order to obtain consent from landowners. This has not only been causing tension and animosity in the community, but even within families, as relatives are pitted against each other. The situation is becoming more serious by the day and those opposed to exploratory drilling are now concerned about their personal safety.

As a matter of fact, this second letter to the Board of Base Resources Limited has been prompted by an altercation that occurred between some members of the community on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023, as employees of Base Titanium Limited attempted to conduct drilling exercises, while accompanied by a mob in favour of the same. It was only after police intervention, that order was restored. According to your company's website, this amounts to "inappropriate misconduct" by company staff, which includes "behaviour or practices that may cause harm to its host communities" (Re: Whistleblower Standard).

## **Primary Concern**

We would like to reiterate that our primary reason for opposing exploratory drilling is that we do not want to lose our ancestral lands, as this project will only serve to enrich a few

individuals and shareholders, at the expense of our community, our environment, and even the larger Kenyan populace.

We are also concerned by the fact that the license that was issued to Base Titanium Ltd. is the same one that was issued to Tiomin Resources Inc. in 1997, then simply renewed over the years (Annex). It is therefore to be expected that the same may apply to Base Titanium's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report. What makes this all the more likely is that despite official requests – under the *Access to Information Act, 2016* – to Base Titanium Ltd. (LINK), the company has refused to provide the community with copies of their EIA (LINK).

In closing, we wish to reiterate that our grievances have previously been aired by local media sources (Re: <u>KTN News</u> and <u>Citizen Digital</u>) and recorded in a community meeting about five years ago (<u>LINK</u>). For more background information, please see: <u>Case Study in Kenya: The Titanium Issue</u>.

We therefore request your urgent intervention in this serious matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mzee Omari Shee Mbega Chairman, Committee of Gazi Location Contact email: <a href="mailto:wanyeekinuthia@gmail.com">wanyeekinuthia@gmail.com</a>

## On behalf of:

Concerned villagers in Gazi, Vumbu, Maumba, Magaoni, Fihoni, Majikuko, Mwaloya, Bumamani, Madongoni, Masindeni, Mwandimu, and Zigira.

## Copied to:

Hon. Salim Mvurya
 Cabinet Secretary
 Ministry of Petroleum and Mining

Email: cs@petroleumandmining.go.ke

2. Hon. Bader, Feisal Abdalla Member of Parliament, Msambweni

Email: festobader@gmail.com

3. Kenya National Commission on Human Rights

Email: complaint@knchr.org / coast@knchr.org / vkamau@knchr.org

The Special Prospecting Licence (No. 173) Issued to Base Titanium Ltd.
Under the old Mining Act (Cap 306)

<u>Annex</u>

