

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

August 6, 2021

Jean-Patrice Keka Ohemba Okese  
Founder  
Développement Tous Azimuts  
Democratic Republic of the Congo

Via e-mail: [developpementtousazimuts@yahoo.fr](mailto:developpementtousazimuts@yahoo.fr)

Dear Mr. Keka:

Thank you in advance for your time. We're writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) U.S.—the world's largest animal rights organization, with more than 6.5 million members and supporters—and its partner organization PETA Switzerland, regarding the upcoming Swiss-backed launch by your Congolese enterprise, Développement Tous Azimuts (DTA), of Troposphere 6, which Prime Minister Jean-Michel Lukonde has reportedly pledged to attend. We understand that [this shuttle will apparently attempt to go into space, send a satellite to an altitude of 200 kilometers, and carry on board a guinea pig named Galaxionaut, who will parachute back to Earth.](#)

**Based on the information below, we urge you to prohibit the use of animals in experiments and transfer Galaxionaut to an approved animal sanctuary to live in peace, instead of being forced to endure a terrifying space flight. If you're willing to do this, we would gladly award you internationally for being part of the human space race.**

PETA has already persuaded the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) not to [support](#) or [conduct](#) horrific space experiments on monkeys, and [the European Space Agency also rejects monkey experiments for these purposes.](#) It has been scientifically proved that [animals are capable of feeling pain and fear](#)—similar to humans—so it's imperative to consider their interests and not inflict suffering on them. The [loss of the rat named Kavira](#), who was aboard your company's Troposphere 5 shuttle that crashed in 2009, shows that animals sometimes even die because of these experiments.

The [case against sending animals into space](#) is clear, and modern, animal-free methods can actually produce human-relevant results.

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## Affiliates:

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

By prohibiting the use of all animals in space experiments, DTA has an opportunity to pioneer a compassionate global precedent for animal-free space flight, and we urge you to adopt such a progressive policy. You can contact us at [ShalinG@peta.org](mailto:ShalinG@peta.org). Thank you for your consideration of this important issue, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,



Shalin G. Gala  
Vice President, International Laboratory Methods  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
PETA U.S.



Harald Ullmann  
Vice President  
PETA Switzerland

cc: His Excellency Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo ([cabinet@primature.cd](mailto:cabinet@primature.cd))