

I, the UNDERSIGNED, on behalf of the people of Embakasi West Constituency; MENT

DRAW the attention of the House to the following: -

1. **THAT,** Article 10(2) of the Constitution identifies good governance as part of the pillars constituting the national values and principles of governance;

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- 2. **THAT,** Section 7(6) of the Public Service (Values and Principles) Act, 2015 requires every public institution to facilitate the introduction of modern and innovative procedures, technologies and systems for the delivery of its services as well as to simplify its procedures and ease formalities related to access and delivery of its services;
- 3. **THAT**, a toll-free number is a dedicated phone line that allows callers to reach an institution without incurring charges, can usually be accessed from any network and are typically short-codes that are easy to remember;
- 4. **THAT**, whereas a few government departments run emergency toll-free numbers, the majority of government institutions still rely on normal mobile or telephone numbers as the point of contact with the public in case of emergency or for responding to general citizen inquiries;
- 5. **THAT,** in the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic period, access to valuable information from government institutions has proved difficult and expensive on account of the calling costs incurred by tax-paying citizens;
- 6. **THAT,** millions of Kenyans are unable to access information from various departments of government primarily because the typical contacts provided by government offices are mobile numbers or landlines for both regular and emergency inquiries;

PUBLIC PETITION

REGARDING PROVISION OF TOLL-FREE NUMBERS IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES

- 7. THAT, efforts to address this matter with relevant authorities have not borne much fruit;
- 8. **AND THAT,** the matter in respect of which this petition is made is not pending before any Court of Law or Constitutional body.

Therefore, your humble Petitioners pray that the National Assembly through the Departmental Committee of Administration and National Security:-

- 1) Enquires into the matter with a view to securing the installation of Toll-Free Numbers in all vital and non-vital government departments that are manned by professional customer service agents around the clock;
- 2) Secures the provision of civic education to sensitize the public on how to use Toll-Free Numbers in order to guarantee faster service delivery to the public, improve feedback mechanisms for the government through this system, and facilitate communication during emergency situations, and
- 3) Secures the drafting and publication of a policy guiding and directing the use of essential Toll-Free Numbers under use by the various offices and departments of government.

And your **PETITIONERS** will ever pray.

PRESENTED BY

HON. GEORGE THEURI, MP MEMBER FOR EMBAKASI WEST CONSTITUENCY

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