

UNITED DISABLED PERSONS OF KENYA

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Our Ref: P/SENATE.2/01/16

August 20, 2016

Hon. Senator Dr. Kithure Kindiki, EGH
Official Leader of Majority
The Senate of the Republic of Kenya
Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI



Dear Senator Dr. Kindiki,

HUMBLE APPEAL BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) FOR MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE REPORT AND PROPOSED BILLS OF THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL REFORMS

The United Disabled Persons of Kenya, UDPK is an umbrella organization of National and grassroots associations of persons with disabilities in Kenya. Currently, UDPK has eighty-six member associations. Disability Caucus on the Implementation of the Constitution is a coalition of organisations of and for persons with disabilities. The overarching of DCIC is to ensure implementation of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) generally and in particular provisions relating and relevant to persons with disabilities. In addition DCIC seeks to promote the interests of persons with disabilities under the Constitution and the law.

In pursuit of their mandates UDPK and DCIC have, since 2013 engaged in a number of studies and research to ensure that interests of persons with disabilities are promoted and protected in Electoral laws and the laws governing Political Parties registered and operating in Kenya. On these premises, the two organizations made substantive representations before the Select Committee.

In the first instance, allow us to register our commendation of the Committee for demonstrating a great spirit of nationalism and sense of patriotism by putting the best interest of the people and country Kenya above partisan interests; and arriving at a mutual bi-partisan resolution to an otherwise emotive matter, which at one time threatened to go to the very core of the existence of Kenya as a stable democracy. We are further grateful that some of the core issues of concern to PWDs have been addressed by the Committee in its report and proposed Bills.

The above notwithstanding, we have noted some areas which in our view require review with a view to improving on so as to secure inclusion of PWDs in electoral processes in Kenya. In particular, we have concerns relating to:

- (a) Membership of the reconstituted IEBC; and

(b) Membership of the Selection Panel

Towards remedying the above, we have made concrete proposals by way of formal Public Petition (copy attached for ease of reference) to the National Assembly pursuant to Standing Order No. 130 as read together with Article 10 (2) (a) (participation of the people) and Articles 118 and 119 of the Constitution of Kenya .

It is our humble prayer that you will use your good offices to guide the National Assembly in prioritizing, debating and approving the Petition under reference for the benefit of PWDs in Kenya.

Yours sincerely,



Anderson Kiraithe,
CEO UDPK

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED DISABLED PERSONS OF KENYA (UDPK) & DISABILITY CAUCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSTITUTION (DCIC)

Cc: H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, CGH,
Leader Jubilee Alliance Party
& President of the Republic of Kenya &
Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces
Harambee House
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NAIROBI

