

HOW TO DRAFT A SIMPLE PETITION TO PARLIAMENT



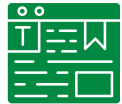
A **petition** is a **formal request by a citizen or group to Parliament**, seeking intervention on a matter of public interest.

Article 119 of the Constitution of Kenya states that every person has the right to petition Parliament, to consider any matter within its authority. The same provision gives Parliament to provide for the procedure to exercise this right.

National Assembly **Standing Order 223** gives an outline of the form of a petition. One thing to note is that the petition can be handwritten, printed, or typed, and it can either be in **English or Swahili**.

The following are salient features of the petition:

1



Title of the Petition

- Clearly state the issue.
- Example: ***"Petition to the National Assembly on Strengthening Online Safety Laws."***
- This subject matter should be indicated on every sheet if the petition consists of more than one sheet.

2



The petition should be addressed correctly

- You can begin with:
"To the National Assembly/Senate of the Republic of Kenya, through the Clerk of the National Assembly/Senate."

3



Identify the Petitioner(s)

- State whether the petition is from an individual, a group, or an organization
- Provide full names, ID numbers (for individuals), and contact details.

4



State Your Grievance & Justification

- Explain the issue you want considered concisely.
- Provide facts, statistics, and references to laws, policies, or past actions, where possible.

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5



The Prayer (Your Request to Parliament)

- Clearly state what action you want Parliament to take.
- Example: ***"We urge Parliament to amend the Penal Code, to align it to the freedoms and rights outlined under the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of Kenya"***

6



Confirm That the Matter Is Not Pending in Court

- As per **Standing Order 223**, Parliament cannot consider a petition on a matter currently before the courts. This is because it would be sub judice.

7



Include Signatures of Petitioners

- At least **one petitioner must sign/ imprint their thumb**, but a group petition should include multiple signatures.
- Organizational petitions should have an authorized representative's signature/ thumb impressions and an official stamp.

8



Submission Process

- Submit your petition to the Clerk of the National Assembly/Senate at Parliament Buildings, Nairobi.
- You may also consult your **Member of Parliament (MP) or Senator** to present the petition on your behalf.

9



Follow Up on Your Petition.

- The committee assigned the petition has **60 days** to consider and respond to the petition. They will do so through a report.
- Stay engaged through official Parliament records, public hearings, and committee reports.

Note: Attach supporting documents and ensure the petition is factual, clear, and solution-oriented for better consideration.