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PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF PHOSPHATES IN THE MANUFACTURE OF LAUNDRY DETERGENTS.

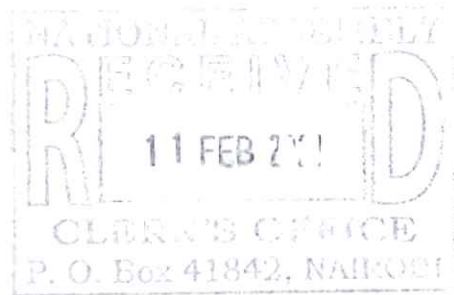
TO:

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,

REPUBLIC OF KENYA,

MAIN PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,

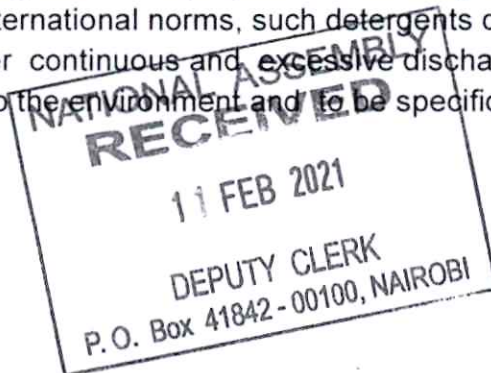
NAIROBI, KENYA.



We, the undersigned, waste water managers association, a registered organization within the Republic of Kenya, a multi-disciplinary team of professionals and non-professionals within the waste water sector formed with the objectives of research on affordable, effective, simple and efficient waste water management practices with the main aims being, to help minimize water pollution to ensure availability of safe and sufficient water for all, increase agricultural production, and eradicate water borne diseases and widespread food shortage.

DRAW the attention of the House to the following:

- 1. THAT** phosphates used in detergents in Kenya (used for washing utensils and clothes) is much higher than international norms, such detergents do give easy wash with least efforts, however continuous and excessive discharge into our water bodies is causing harm to the environment and to be specific the aquatic life.



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The particulars constituting the grounds are as follows-

1. **THAT** phosphate, like nitrates, has raised the amount of nutrients in our water bodies to an unsustainable levels, causing drastic increase of algae and unwanted aquatic weeds like water hyacinth to grow at the expense of other aquatic life and the environment by consuming large portions of available oxygen, hence causing-
 - a. Rapid dying out of all living water organisms like, plants and other aquatic life.
 - b. Death of fish in Lake Victoria, slowly killing the economies of the bordering counties.
 - c. Transformation of vast areas of our water bodies for example the Winam gulf in Lake Victoria, into dead zones this phenomenon is known as 'eutrophication' or, more commonly, 'red tides' or 'green tides'. Reducing biodiversity and emitting noxious odour.
 - d. Reduction in value of many water uses, from drinking and swimming to fishing.
 - e. Increase in cost of water treatment to water service providers.
 - f. Alteration of the plant community, food web and chemistry of water bodies.
 - g. Slow death of our waste water treatment plants, the nation's kidneys.
2. **THAT** It's high time the country starts addressing the problem of phosphates in detergents, which are also affecting aquatic life.
3. **THAT** This proposal would benefit not only waste water treatment plants, with reduced costs for phosphate removal, but also consumers who pay for waste water treatment, and ultimately the environment.

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4. **THAT** unless the aforesaid matter soon addressed, the aquatic life will further wane or eternally diminish.
5. **THAT** our efforts to have this matter addressed through the relevant bodies have been futile.

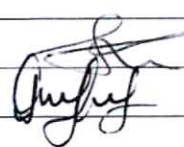
THEREFORE your humble petitioners pray that the National Assembly finds-

1. **THAT** Restrict phosphates in all detergents (for washing utensils, clothes) sold in Kenya to international accepted norms.
2. **THAT** Manufactures publish contents of phosphates in detergents (for washing utensils, clothes) to make all aware of this hazard.
3. **THAT** the manufacturers of detergents who exceed phosphates in soaps than internationally accepted limits be sanctioned.
4. **THAT** Compel manufacturers to limit the use of sodium tri polyphosphate (STPP) as a detergent builder and switch to "alternative" non-phosphate-based builders, such as Zeolite.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

Name of the petitioner... **WASTE WATER MANAGERS ASSOCIATION.**

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