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Mr. William S. Ruto  
President  
Republic of Kenya  
Nairobi

16 January 2024

Your Excellency President William Ruto,

**Subject: Formal Follow-Up on the Implementation of Kenyan Visa-Free Border Policy**

Happy New Year!

I trust this correspondence finds you in good health. We extend our continued support for your government's commendable commitment to a visa-free regime in 2024. However, we feel compelled to address specific concerns regarding the current implementation of this initiative. The mandatory ETA online registration system has given rise to several issues:

1. The extended processing time of 72 hours, coupled with uncertainty about approval, presents challenges for prospective travellers.
2. The associated \$35 fee for the ETA gives the appearance of a tariff, undermining the core principles of a visa-free measure.
3. This approach introduces unwarranted complexities and setbacks to the overarching objective of facilitating free movement.
4. The requirement to reapply for an ETA following flight changes adds a layer of complication and frustration for travellers.

Mr President, the challenge with this current visa-free arrangement is that even citizens from nations previously eligible for visa-free entry must now obtain an ETA, involving cumbersome details such as hotel bookings and return ticket information.

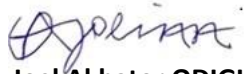
Whilst ITUC-Africa acknowledges the noble intentions behind the visa-free policy, we propose that urgent adjustments be made to ensure its successful implementation. We recommend a thorough review that aligns with the practices of some African countries like Benin, Rwanda, Mauritius, and Seychelles, which have effectively introduced visa-free border arrangements.

As an organisation advocating for an open African border, we trust that your government, as one of the 15 African Champions for the Global Compact on Migration (GCM), will consider our concerns. We also reiterate our request for the Kenyan government to ratify the African Union Free Movement Protocol (AU-FMP), which gives a pragmatic framework for the continent's mobility aspirations.

Your leadership and commitment to pro-people initiatives are commendable, and addressing these concerns will significantly contribute to the success of this laudable integration-enhancing policy. We stand ready to offer any support necessary to realise an open and integrated Africa.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



**Joel Akhator ODIGIE**  
**General Secretary, ITUC-Africa.**