

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8TH MAY 2018

CA ISSUES FRESH ALERT ON ‘MISSED INTERNATIONAL CALL SCAM’

The Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), through the National Kenya Computer Incident Response Team Coordination Centre (National KE-CIRT/CC), has received confirmed fresh reports of the resurgence of *Wangiri*, an international phone scam, that was first reported in the country in January this year.

The recent cases of *Wangiri* scam in Kenya have been reported on various platforms including social media.

Victims of the scam receive very brief or missed calls from unknown international numbers. The scheme is designed to lure phone users into returning the “urgent” international calls, upon which they are unknowingly redirected to premium numbers that drain their air time.

The longer the victims stay on the line, the more money they lose to the scammers. Post-paid subscribers are, therefore, likely to lose more money as they receive their bills at the end of the month. Victims on pre-paid scheme only lose their loaded airtime.

Most of the calls are reported to bear the following international dialing codes: +41 (Switzerland), +963 (Syria), +252 (Somalia) or +37 (Latvia), among others. The scammers purchase the phone numbers used in the scam from the Dark Web, which is a hidden part of the Internet, known for buying and selling illegal goods and services.

In the exercise of its consumer protection mandate in the ICT sector, including Cybersecurity related matters, CA is therefore advising the public to beware and put in place the following preventive measures:

- DO NOT CALL BACK any international number that you don't recognize.
- If you happen to already be a victim, REPORT THE NUMBER to your service provider so that they can block the numbers. This stops other users from becoming victims.

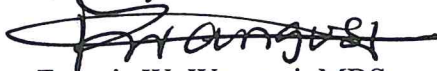
The Authority also wishes to take this opportunity to thank its stakeholders for their continued support and further reiterates its commitment to enhancing the safety of Kenya's cyberspace.

About the National KE-CIRT/CC

The National KE-CIRT/CC is Kenya's national cybersecurity trusted point of contact and is globally recognized. Members of the public are therefore advised to contact the National KE-CIRT/CC via the email address incidents@ke-cirt.go.ke or through the dedicated hotlines +254-703-042700/+254-730-172700, to report such incidences or seek advice on cybersecurity.

For further information, visit the National KE-CIRT/CC website at <http://www.ke-cirt.go.ke> or through the Authority's website at <http://www.ca.go.ke>.

Issued by:



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DIRECTOR-GENERAL