

1924

KENYA

277

C.O.
60898
31 DEC 24

Date

30th December 1924.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.

RELATION:-

*Jeffries
Hosley*

RATES FOR TELEGRAMS FORWARDED OVER EASTERN TEL CO'S SYSTEM.

Fwd's copy of corres between Co. and Postar General Kenya, regarding charges collected in local currency. Considers Postar General's attitude inconsistent.

Previous Paper

MO 59457

MINUTES

The P.R.G. and the E.T.C. between them are effectively holding up a reduction in charges to the Kenya public.

The Company's answer to the demand that they should charge uniform rates on telegrams from Mombasa & from up-country is at A of the G.P.O.'s letter on 49788/24, and it seems a very plausible one. The Postar General's attitude in keeping up the discrepancies to which the Com. now draw attention, & which ~~the~~ ^{he} admits, would be considered a very ugly instance of profiteering in business, and it is clearly inconsistent with the attitude adopted by the Govt. in his confidential despatch on 46400/24.

*Copy copy let made to be sent com of
4 Jan 1925. 401 2700/24*

Subsequent Paper

*Jan 2788 24
715*

1 copy ~~of~~ of this G.P.O. letter
 & the first page of enclosures,
 to Gov (Conf. ~~Act.~~) ref. 46400/14
 explain that the letter
 referred to is the letter from
 Mr. Starn of 20 11-24 in the
 P.C.'s letter 1488/14 of 14.11.24.,
 sent for Governor's obsors.

In you G.P.O. that this
 has been done

Sgt.
 12.1.25

? as proposed - but we
 must suspend judgment
 until we know the reasons
 for the matter

Off 13.1.25.
 especially with the Gov. about
 the ~~matter~~ for the discrepancy
 (the letter joined is a letter
 copy on this point)

Wet 13.1.25

273

C.O.
30838
31 DEC 24

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
LONDON, E.C. 1.

30 December, 1924.

57089/24
57089/24
communications should be addressed to
THE SECRETARY,
General Post Office.

Sir,

I am directed by the Postmaster General to refer to his letter of the 21st October last, concerning inter alia the question of the rates for telegrams from Kenya forwarded over the Eastern Telegraph Company's system, and to forward herewith a copy of correspondence between the Company and the Postmaster General of the Colony on the subject of the charges collected in local currency for telegrams to Europe, India, etc. forwarded by the Eastern Telegraph Company's routes.

I am to observe that the attitude of the Postmaster General of the Colony scarcely appears to be consistent with the pressure which he is endeavouring to bring to bear on the Company for reduced rates.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

J. Wood

for the Secretary.

Under Secretary of State,
COLONIAL OFFICE.

10 69788

Copy.

2nd October, 1924.

PE/21.

The Superintendent,

ZANZIBAR.

Dear Sir,

We recently requested the Officer in Charge, Mombasa, to supply us with a copy of the Post Office Guide issued by the Government of Kenya. The Guide itself is dated 1917 and is therefore obsolete from the point of view of the Cable rates quoted therein, but a supplement dated January 1923 gives rates in shillings and cents, which we cannot reconcile with the notified franc charges calculated at the equivalent of the franc of 0.79297 shilling published in Berne Notification No. 846 of the 1st November 1923.

Taking the ordinary rate to Europe as an example, which is notified at Fr. 2.80 or 243d per word, we find that the Kenya Government are collecting shillings 2.50 or 2s.6d which means an extra charge for the public of 25 cents or 3d per word. The other rates are more or less in proportion viz:-

MOMBASA			INLAND OFFICES			
Notified Rate.	Kenya PO. Guide.	Conversion @ .79297	Notified Rate.	Kenya PO. Guide.	Conversion @ .79297	
F. cts.	s. c.	s. c.	F. cts.	s. c.	s. c.	
Zanzibar	.60	.60	.50	.95	1.00	.75
Kenya	1.25	1.40	1.00	1.60	1.40	1.30
India	2.65	2.80	2.10	3.00	2.50	2.40
Urban	2.50	2.10	2.00	2.85	2.50	2.30
Australia	3.0208	2.50	2.40	3.3708	2.90	2.20

We should be glad if you would ascertain whether the collection rates given in the Post Office Guide supplement in question are still in operation in Kenya and if so what is the explanation of the difference referred to above

Office of the Postmaster General,
P.O. Box No. 311,
Nairobi, 14th November, 1924.

Regd. No. 1485/24.

In view of the frequent requests by Chambers of Commerce and other interests for reductions in the cable rates to India etc., it would appear that a substantial amount of reduction could be obtained for the benefit of the public by the simple process of adjustment of the currency charges collected by the Government.

Moreover the cases of Aden and India are particularly noteworthy as the Government apparently collect the same charge from Mombasa as from up-country Offices although the notified franc rates are .35 centimes cheaper and the Company debit 13 centimes less on Mombasa traffic.

Yours truly,
for Managing Director,
(Sgd.) A.W. Hibberdine,
Traffic Accountant.

THE EASTERN & SOUTH AFRICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY LTD.,
ZANZIBAR STATION,
November 20th 1924.

No. H. 7. 25.

The Managing Director,
LONDON.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter H. 22 dated October 2nd, I beg to inform you that the collection rates as given in the Post Office Guide supplement are still in operation in Kenya.

Attached please find a copy, in duplicate, of a letter received from the Postmaster General, Nairobi, in reply to one from me written in terms of your letter under reply.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, transmitting a communication from your Head Office regarding discrepancies between the charges collected, in certain cases, from the public in this Administration on cable traffic and the formally notified rates.

2. It is admitted that these discrepancies, which arise from causes which need not here be detailed, do exist, but steps for their removal have not been taken pending, among other reasons, re-consideration by your Company of a request put forward by this Administration that a uniform transit rate based on your present transit rate for Mombasa traffic should be conceded on all traffic from this Administration whether from upcountry or originating at the Coast. This request was put forward in a letter I addressed to the Company while I was home on leave last year and I have asked that it should be again brought up in connection with the renewal of the Company's present landing license which expires on the 31st December next.

3. If your Company could see its way to grant transit rates, which would be common to all parts of the Colony, I would request Government to apply our notified terminal rate to traffic to and from all places, excepting with Europe and transiting Europe, which I am disposed to allow to stand at its present amount, viz. 30 centimes.

4. Rates would thus be on a logical basis and accounting simplified.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) T. Fitzgerald,

POSTMASTER GENERAL,
Superintendent,
Eastern & South
African Telegraph Company,
Limited, ZANZIBAR.
Colony and Protectorate of Kenya and
Uganda Protectorate.

Regd. No. 1488/24.

Office of the Postmaster General,
P.O. Box No. 811,
Nairobi, 14th November, 1924.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, transmitting a communication from your Head Office regarding discrepancies between the charges collected, in certain cases, from the public in this Administration on cable traffic and the formally notified rates.

2. It is admitted that these discrepancies, which arise from causes which need not here be detailed, do exist, but steps for their removal have not been taken pending, among other reasons, re-consideration by your Company of a request put forward by this Administration that a uniform transit rate based on your present transit rate for Mombasa traffic should be conceded on all traffic from this Administration whether from upcountry or originating at the Coast. This request was put forward in a letter I addressed to the Company while I was home on leave last year and I have asked that it should be again brought up in connection with the renewal of the Company's present landing license which expires on the 31st December next.

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I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) T. Fitzgerald,

POSTMASTER GENERAL

Colony and Protectorate of Kenya and
Uganda Protectorate.Superintendent,
Eastern & South
African Telegraph Company,

No. 60898/24 15mgs

231

Just

CS

DRAFT.

19 Jan. 1925.

Sir,

a
cc

Final Copy done
MINUTE 46400/24

in reply to your conf
desp No 209 of the 4th of

Mr. Burt Jan 15

Mr. Jeffries 15/11

Mr.

Sir J. Shackleton

Sir G. Davis

Sir G. ...

Mr. J. ...

Mr. ...

Mr. ...

I have to transmit
to you a copy of a letter,
with enclosures, from the
P.O. in the subject of the

charges in local currency
for telegrams to Europe,
India etc., forwarded by the

30 Dec

Final letter only
60898

No. 60898/24 Kenya

231

Jan

53

DRAFT.

19 Jan. 1925.

Sir,

Free Com. London

MINUTE 20/11/24

Mr. Press Jan 15
Mr. Jaffie 15/11

- Mr. J. Shackleton
- Mr. G. Davis
- Mr. G. G. G.
- Mr. J. J. J.
- Mr. P. P.

with ref. to your cable
desp No 209 of the 4th of

Sept, I have to transmit

to you a copy of a letter,
with enclosures, from the

P.O. on the subject of the

charges in local currency
for telegrams to Europe,

and India etc., forwarded by the

30 Dec

(Final letter only)
60898

Eastern Telegraph Co's books.

The letter referred to in the letter from Mr. King of the 20th of Nov 1924 is the Kenya P.M.S.'s letter No. 4488/24 of the 14th of Nov 1924.

I shall be glad

to receive your observations

this course particularly with

regard to the causes for the dis-

-crepancies between the charges

collected in certain cases from the

public & the public rates.

Yours

(Signed) L. S. AMERY.

No 6084/24 Kenya

282

C. D.
16 JAN
1925

DRAFT.

19 Jan 1925.

Dear Sir,

2-10

MINUTE.

Mr. Brett Jan 15

Mr. J. King 15/1

Mr. J. King

Mr. J. King

Mr. J. King

Mr. J. King

Mr. J. King

Mr. J. King

Mr. J. King

Mr. J. King

Mr. J. King

Mr. J. King

Mr. J. King

Mr. J. King

Mr. J. King

Mr. J. King

Mr. J. King

I am to ask the recd of your letter, No 47635/m, of the 30th of Dec, herewith, a copy of which, regarding the charges by the post of Kenya collected in local currencies for telegrams to Europe, India, &c, forwarded by the Eastern Telegraph

info

Company's notes + to

2. I am to

request you to inform the

Panel that the case

is being communicated

to the Govt. of Kenya

who is being asked to

furnish his opinion

on the question raised.

~~on the matter.~~

(Signed) W. C. BOTTOMLEY