Dear Minister of Communications and Government,

RE: Relay Service for the Deaf

I wouldn't even consider cuts to the relay service because this will impact badly on us, and you will only put us back into isolation, which I refuse to allow to happen!

For example, we often need to use the relay service to make medical appointments, to rearrange bill payments for electricity, gas, telephone, etc, or if we need to reach out to a family member or friend in urgency where SMS texting and email fail - as not everyone checks their SMS text phones or emails 24/7 so think about this!

Not only will it impact us Deaf people badly, but business will suffer too if we can't call to make a payment or repayment arrangement! Many of the businesses don't even have email let alone reply to emails right away and many of us don't want to wait days to sort out a bill!

So suggestion, do NOT cut the relay service, leave it alone!

We rely on the relay service for our daily needs, so to rob us of this would be ludicrous. As it is, you have not cut any services for the blind, so why do this to the Deaf!? You have already threatened to cut other services for us, we are the ones struggling badly and I am sick and tired of it, and I will not put up with it anymore. Full stop! I don't care if you want to appease to your business friends by cutting costs, do not do this to us!

Regards,

Michelle De Stefano