

# KENYA RENAL ASSOCIATION

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **\*\*Statement on Unethical Transplant Activities at Mediheal Hospital, Eldoret\*\***

#### **\*\*Introduction\*\***

Since the first kidney transplant in Kenya in 1978, hundreds of transplants have been performed ethically and professionally under the oversight of the Kenya Renal Association and the Kenya Association of Urological Surgeons. These procedures have significantly improved the lives of kidney disease patients through voluntary donations.

#### **\*\*The Problem\*\***

Recent activities at Mediheal Hospital, Eldoret, have raised serious ethical concerns. Reports indicate an increasing trend of transplant commercialization and transplant tourism at the facility, involving the sale of kidneys and the importation of patients for the purpose of transplantation. This is in direct violation of the World Health Organization resolutions, the Declaration of Istanbul, and Kenya's Health Act of 2017, which prohibits organ trade.

#### **\*\*Evidence of Unethical Practices\*\***

Evidence gathered over the past two years from donor testimonies and recipient accounts suggests significant ethical breaches, including exploitation of vulnerable donors from local communities. This has not only endangered the health of both donors and recipients but has also damaged the reputation of Kenya's medical community internationally.

#### **\*\*The Critical Role of a Donor\*\***

Kidney donors play an essential role in transplantation, receiving no physical benefits and relying solely on the psychological and spiritual satisfaction of aiding another. Ethical handling and extensive pre-and post-operative care are crucial to ensuring their health and well-being.

#### **\*\*Consequences of Unethical Donation\*\***

Unethical practices undermine the trust in voluntary donation, leading to a decrease in willing donors and increasing the costs associated with organ transplants. This fosters a harmful black market for organs, with potential risks including human trafficking and violence.

**\*\*Recommendations\*\***

We urge immediate action:

1. Suspend Mediheal Hospital's license pending a full investigation.
2. Suspend the licenses of all medical personnel involved and initiate disciplinary actions.
3. Review and potentially revise the regulatory role of the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council concerning Mediheal Hospital.
4. Direct the Directorate of Criminal Investigations and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to expedite legal actions against individuals involved in illegal transplant activities.
5. Publicize the findings and recommendations of the Kenya Blood Transfusion and Transplant Services report.

**\*\*Commitment\*\***

The Kenya Renal Association, along with other medical bodies, commits to uphold ethical transplant practices and offers continued support to victims of these unethical practices, ensuring their health and privacy.

**\*\*Conclusion\*\***

Immediate and decisive actions are required to eliminate these unethical practices to protect the integrity of kidney transplantation in Kenya and ensure the safety and well-being of all patients and donors involved.

Kenya Renal Association (KRA)



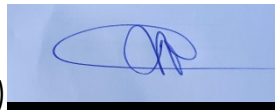
Kenya Association of Urological Surgeons (KAUS)



Kenya Association of Physicians (KAP)



Kenya Medical Association (KMA)



Renal Patients Society of Kenya (RPSK)

