



# Kenya Medical Association

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

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8<sup>th</sup> April 2020

To  
Clerk of the Senate  
Republic of Kenya  
[cseenate@parliament.go.ke](mailto:cseenate@parliament.go.ke)

Dear Sir/Madam

### **RE: KMA MEMORANDUM ON SENATE COVID-19 SITUATION**

The Kenya Medical Association is a professional association bringing together registered medical practitioners and dentists in Kenya, with the twin mission of championing for the welfare of doctors and advocating for quality health care for all.

Pursuant to the KMA mission, we are mandated to engage the national and county governments and any other individual or organisation that may be useful in improving the welfare of doctors and the quality of health care in this country.

#### **1. PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

Healthcare workers must be provided with adequate & quality PPE. Lack of PPE will expose the health workforce to infection with COVID-19. A health worker exposed to COVID-19 will be removed from providing service leading to worsening shortage of the already acute shortage of healthcare workforce. QUALITY PPE must adhere to standards set by KEBS.

#### **2. MEDICAL INSURANCE**

All healthcare workers should be provided with medical Insurance cover to cover treatment and follow up of the health worker in the event of contracting COVID-19.

#### **3. COMPENSATION PACKAGE**

A compensation package needs to be set up for healthcare workers. The compensation package includes a life cover, tax exemptions, education cover for dependents and disability allowance.

#### **4. CAPACITY OF HEALTH SYSTEM**

There should be recruitment, training and retraining of doctors to tackle COVID-19 and to continue with essential service delivery. Our projection indicates that there is a need to employ at least 2000 more doctors both general practitioners and specialists.

## **5. MEDICAL TEAMS**

There is need to increase capacity to enable medical personnel to work in clinical response teams. This will avoid fatigue and burnout and enable contact tracing of individual teams should any of them get infected.

## **6. MEDICAL SUPPLIES AS PUBLIC GOOD**

The government must declare medical supplies a public good to avoid prices being increased and thus made inaccessible to the health workers who need it. The government should recommend the retail prices that traders should abide by.

## **7. TESTING FOR COVID-19**

Testing for Covid-19 should be increased and devolved to the counties. The county laboratories should increase their capacity for testing.

## **8. PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT**

Psychological support for the families of frontline health workers must be instituted.

**Signed**



Dr Simon Kigonde  
**Secretary General**