



# Kenya Medical Association

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

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### KMA STATEMENT ON THE ASSAULT OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS AT GERTRUDE'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND THE SAFETY OF HEALTH WORKERS AND FACILITIES IN KENYA

The Kenya Medical Association (KMA) is the umbrella professional association for doctors in Kenya. KMA condemns the assault, intimidation, and threats against healthcare workers at Gertrude's Children's Hospital, Muthaiga Branch on 5 June 2026. We stand firmly with our colleagues, and with the Kenya Dental Association and the Kenya Association of Pediatric Dentists, in rejecting the brazen attack on professionals who dedicate their lives to saving others.

What happened at Gertrude's is unfortunately not the first or only incident of this nature. Healthcare workers across Kenya continue to face verbal abuse, threats, and physical violence in the course of their duties. Each incident that passes without consequence normalizes this conduct and makes healthcare facilities less safe for workers and patients alike.

As a member of the World Medical Association (WMA), KMA emphasizes the WMA Statement on Workplace Violence in the Health Sector, which calls on governments, health authorities, institutions, and professional bodies to respond to this issue through enforceable policy, adequate security, and genuine accountability. Violence against health workers is a public health problem with direct consequences for the quality of care that Kenyans receive.

KMA therefore calls on the following;

1. Law enforcement agencies investigate this incident promptly and prosecute those responsible. A firm legal response to this case would send a clear message that healthcare workers are protected under the law.
2. The Ministry of Health and County Governments to put in place enforceable security standards for all health facilities, including the deployment of trained security personnel and clear protocols for managing violent incidents.
3. Healthcare institutions to ensure staff are trained, supported, and have working systems through which to report violence without fear of reprisal.
4. The Ministry of Internal Security to treat violence in health facilities as a matter of national concern and deploys the necessary resources to address it.

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KMA has previously raised concerns about the safety and security of health workers in Kenya. We are willing to work with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Internal Security, and health institutions to develop practical, lasting solutions.

KMA also wishes to speak directly to the public. Kenyans have every right to seek answers, raise concerns, and hold healthcare providers accountable through proper channels. However, taking the law into one's own hands is criminal conduct, and should be treated as such. We appeal to Kenyans to maintain order, decorum and respect within health facilities to ensure we have safe spaces to seek healthcare services. Remember that the right to health is a fundamental human right and our healthcare facility environments should embody safety and security for all.



Dr. Ibrahim Matende  
**President**  
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