



Kenya Medical Association

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

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KMA STATEMENT ON PATIENT DEATH FOLLOWING AN UNLAWFUL SURGICAL PROCEDURE IN KITALE TOWN, TRANS NZOIA COUNTY

30th May 2026

The Kenya Medical Association (KMA) extends its deepest condolences to the family of the deceased patient, a 22-year-old man, who died on 28th May 2026 from severe infection following gross surgical negligence. His death was preventable. He deserved safe, lawful, and competent medical care.

KMA is the umbrella professional association for doctors in Kenya, committed to the highest standards of medical ethics, patient safety, and professional conduct. It is in that spirit that we issue this statement.

KMA maintains that every patient in Kenya, regardless of socioeconomic status, geographic location, or means, is entitled to medical care that is safe, dignified, and professionally delivered. As documented in video footage now in the public domain and confirmed by the official media briefing of the County Government of Trans Nzoia, a major surgical procedure was performed in the complete absence of basic surgical infrastructure and infection prevention and control standards. The patient was placed in absolute and foreseeable danger. This is a direct violation of the physician's pledge and duty to do no harm.

The conduct alleged in this case constitutes gross medical negligence under Kenyan law. KMA affirms that negligence of this nature and magnitude must be met with the full force of the law: professional, civil, and criminal.

We therefore call upon the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council (KMPDC) to immediately open a formal investigation, independent of and concurrent with all other proceedings. The Council must review the full licensure status of the individual concerned and pending the outcome of that investigation proceed to pursue the full range of disciplinary sanctions available.

KMA further calls upon the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to urgently consider whether the circumstances of the patient's death meet the threshold for criminal proceedings. The deliberate performance of a surgical procedure in conditions that posed a direct and foreseeable risk to life, resulting in the death of a patient, is not a matter that professional sanction alone can adequately address.

Reports circulating in connection with this case allege that the practitioner involved may have a longstanding history of a substance use disorder. KMA notes these reports with concern and without prejudice to the ongoing investigations. KMA is unequivocal, however, that the existence of a substance use disorder does not and cannot excuse the endangerment of patients. Where a practitioner's fitness to practice is in question, immediate

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suspension from clinical duties must follow pending formal assessment. Compassion for the practitioner and protection of the patient are not in conflict, both must be met simultaneously, and without delay.

KMA therefore demands that:

- KMPDC must immediately suspend the licence of the doctor involved and pursue permanent revocation where the evidence supports it.
- The Director of Public Prosecutions must open a criminal inquiry without delay.
- The Government, working with KMPDC and professional associations, must strengthen peer reporting obligations; to enable medical practitioners to flag concerns about colleagues whose conduct is endangering patients.

Every Kenyan has the right to know whether their doctor is licensed and their facility is registered.

- To verify a doctor, send an SMS to the KMPDC short code: P# followed by the doctor's name or registration number.
- To verify a facility, send an SMS to 20547: H# followed by the facility's full name or registration number, OR
- Check online at www.kmpdc.go.ke. Before any surgical procedure, ask. It is your right.

We owe it to this patient, his family, and every patient who places their trust in a member of our profession, to ensure that justice is served in full, and that the conditions that made this tragedy possible are not permitted to repeat.

Dr. Ibrahim Matende

President

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