



Your REF: TBA

Our REF:

Date: 22 April, 2020

Dr. F.M Siyoi

Chief Executive Officer,
Pharmacy & Poisons Board
P.O. Box 27663 – 00506, Nairobi.
Lenana Road Opp. DOD
Email: info@pharmacyboardkenya.org

Advance copy via email

Dear Sir,

RE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON IMPORT AND DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

We, the undersigned organizations and associations, are representatives of health and human rights, civil society and non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and representatives of professional bodies, informal sector actors, economic, and governance experts.

We make this request for information in the spirit of ensuring transparency and accountability in the procurement of life-saving medicines and other medical supplies. The information is also necessary to protect us against price gouging of drugs, and other goods and services required to protect citizens and health workers from COVID-19 infection (such as hand sanitizers, masks, gloves). The information we seek will also enable the public to know the state of preparedness to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Our letter is informed by the fact that the Pharmacy and Poisons Board has the mandate to implement the appropriate regulatory measures to achieve the highest standards of safety, efficacy and quality for all drugs, chemical substances and medical devices, locally manufactured, imported, exported, distributed, sold, or used, to ensure the protection of the consumer as envisaged by the laws regulating drugs in force in Kenya.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created the need to ensure urgent availability of medical devices, for instance, personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, goggles, gowns, hand sanitizer, soap and water, cleaning supplies) among others.

We therefore request that the Board provides us with the following information in compliance with Article 35 of the Constitution of Kenya and section 4 and 9(2) of the Access to Information Act, 2016:

- (i) Which distributors have been licensed to import PPE?
- (ii) What are the procedures or processes of seeking the import license?
- (iii) How long does the process take?
- (iv) How much does it cost to get the license?
- (v) Which department of the board is responsible for issuance of the license?
- (vi) From which countries are the PPEs being imported from? And what are the main ports of entry?
- (vii) How many local suppliers and manufacturers are involved in the process?
- (viii) What are the procedures or processes of certifying local manufacturers of PPEs? And is this done in collaboration with KEBS?
- (ix) How has the Pharmacy and Poisons Board adjusted its processes to support accelerated importation and distribution of PPE?
- (x) Is there a report produced by the board that shows efforts of the PPB so far in ensuring regulatory measures are upheld to achieve the highest standards of safety, efficacy and quality of PPEs locally manufactured or imported? Where can this information be obtained?
- (xi) Has the board developed an appropriate system for detecting, reporting and monitoring adverse effects or reactions of imported/ local PPEs to users in Kenya?

We look forward to your urgent response in not later than five days to inform our next course of action.

Signed by:

1. Becky Odhiambo Mududa on my own behalf and on behalf of Nyarwek Network.
2. Brezhnev Otieno on my own behalf and on behalf Amnesty International Kenya.
3. Caroline Oyumbo on my own behalf and on behalf of Mbita Suba Paralegal Network.
4. Cecilia Mumbi Mugo on my own behalf and on behalf International Commission of Jurists (ICJ-Kenyan Section).
5. Chris Owalla on my own behalf and on behalf of Community Initiative Action Group Kenya.
6. Erick Okioma on my own behalf and on behalf of Nelson Mandela TB HIV Community Information and Resource Center CBO Kisumu.
7. Fenwick M Muthangya on my own behalf and on behalf of National Association of Clinical Officer Anaesthetists- Kenya (NACOA- K).
8. Linda Noah on my own behalf and on behalf of The East African Centre for Human Rights (EACHRights).
9. Naitore Nyamu
10. Nancy Githogori
11. Mercy Onsando on my behalf and on behalf of HENNET.

12. Peter Owiti on my behalf and on behalf Wote Youth Development Projects.
13. Samson Onditi on my behalf and on behalf Happy Life for Development CBO.
14. Sheila Masinde on my own behalf and on behalf of Transparency International.

Endorsed by:

1. Amnesty International Kenya.
2. Boda Boda Association of Kenya (BAK)
3. Community Initiative Action Group Kenya.
4. East African Centre for Human Rights (EACHRights).
5. Happy Life for Development CBO.
6. Health NGOs Network (HENNET)
7. International Commission of Jurists (ICJ-Kenyan Section).
8. Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network on HIV & TB (KELIN).
9. Mbita Suba Paralegal Network
10. National Association of Clinical Officer Anaesthetists - Kenya (NACOA- K).
11. Nelson Mandela TB HIV Community Information and Resource Center CBO Kisumu.
12. NYARWEK Network
13. Pamoja TB Group
14. Transparency International Kenya
15. Wote Youth Development Projects

cc:

1. Dr. Samuel Oroko
National Chairman, Kenya Medical Practitioners Pharmacists and Dentist Union
5th Avenue Office Suites (7th Floor, Room 14)
Ngong Road, Nairobi.
Email: admin@kmpdu.org; nec@kmpdu.org;
2. Alfred Obengo
Chairman, National Nurses Association of Kenya
Nurses Complex, KNH Grounds
Nairobi, Kenya
Email: info@nnak.or.ke
3. Peterson Wachira
National Chairman, Kenya Union Clinical of Officers
4. Cheboi Kore Mathew
Chairman, Association of Public Health Professionals Kenya
Duplex Flats Suite No.43,
On lower hill road next to Hillpark Hotel
Email: info@aphok.com
5. Dr. Elizabeth Gitau Maina
CEO, Kenya Medical Association (KMA)
KMA Centre
4th Floor, Chyulu Road-Upper Hill
P.O Box 48502-00100
Nairobi
Email: nec@kma.co.ke
6. Hon. Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya,
Chairperson, Council of Governors
Delta Corner, 2nd Floor, Opp PWC Chiromo Road, Off Waiyaki Way
P.O Box 40401 - 00100
Nairobi, Kenya
Email: info@cog.go.ke
7. Hon. Florence Kajuku
Chairperson, Commission on Administrative Justice
Commission on Administrative Justice
Email: info@ombudsman.go.ke