



**Association of Professional Societies in East Africa (APSEA)**

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**PRESS STATEMENT**

**THE POSITION OF ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES IN EAST AFRICA (APSEA) ON THE HEALTH LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL 2021).**

Reference is made to the Health Laws (Amendment) bill (National Assembly Bills 2021) that was received in the National Assembly on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.

We duly observe that if the bill is passed, this would jeopardize the position of APSEA, the umbrella body of all professionals. The health sector members of APSEA include Kenya Medical Association (KMA), Society of Radiography in Kenya (SORK), Kenya Dental Association (KDA), Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya (PSK), Kenya Society of Physiotherapists (KSP) and Kenya Association of Radiologists (KAR). These form part of other major healthcare Institutions in Kenya.

The Association of Professional Societies in East Africa (APSEA) upholds that the provisions of Article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya, on National values and principles of Governance and that the role of the health professionals is visibly enhanced by their inclusion and participation in the health regulatory boards.

In light of the above, APSEA therefore proposes that the Health Laws (Amendment) bill (National Assembly Bills 2021) be rejected for the following reasons;

- a) There was no public participation before the bill was brought to parliament.
- b) There was no engagement of the stakeholders in the health sector.

Please note that Association of Professional Societies in East Africa (APSEA) is a joint forum and an umbrella body of professionals associations, established in 1961, comprising of a corporate membership of thirty two (32) professional associations from diverse professional disciplines in the country including; medicine, law, accounting, engineering, geology, architecture, public and corporate administration, veterinary science, survey, procurement, and marketing among many others. Currently there are over 500,000 Professionals in Kenya.

We therefore request that this bill be rejected and that the current composition of the health regulatory bodies is retained as we foster proper stakeholder engagements.



**Mr. Felix Okatch,**

**Chairman, Association of Professional Societies in East Africa (APSEA).**