



The Kenya Association of Radiologists



POSITION STATEMENT BY THE KENYA ASSOCIATION OF RADIOLOGISTS (KAR) & THE KENYA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (KMA) ON THE HIGH COURT JUDGMENT ON UNREGULATED TELERADIOLOGY AND UNLICENSED MEDICAL IMAGE REPORTING IN KENYA

11th June 2026

The Kenya Medical Association (KMA) is the umbrella professional association for doctors in Kenya, and the Kenya Association of Radiologists (KAR), the professional body representing specialist medical doctors in radiology in Kenya, welcome the landmark ruling delivered by the High Court of Kenya in Petition No. HCCHRPET/E351/2024 regarding the regulation of medical image interpretation, teleradiology, digital health platforms and the protection of patients' constitutional rights.

This judgment represents a major victory for Kenyan patients, patient safety, professional accountability, ethical medical practice, and the integrity of healthcare delivery in our country.

The Kenya Association of Radiologists reiterates its longstanding position that the interpretation and reporting of medical images is not merely a technical process of viewing scans. Radiology is a highly specialized branch of medicine requiring many years of medical training, specialist qualification, clinical experience, ethical responsibility, and continuous professional regulation. Radiological reports influence critical medical decisions including surgery, cancer treatment, emergency care, and life-saving interventions.

For this reason, every patient in Kenya deserves to know that the doctor interpreting their CT scan, MRI, ultrasound, X-ray, mammogram, or other imaging examination is appropriately trained, identifiable, accountable, and licensed to practise medicine in accordance with Kenyan law.

KAR and KMA strongly condemn the engagement by any healthcare facility, institution, or digital platform of unlicensed persons, whether local or foreign-based, to provide radiological interpretation services to Kenyan patients outside the established regulatory framework.

KAR and KMA particularly note with concern the increasing emergence of digital platforms that export Kenyan patients' medical images and sensitive health information to unknown persons operating outside the country, whose identities, qualifications, professional registration status, ethical obligations, and medicolegal accountability cannot be independently verified by Kenyan regulators.

Such practices expose patients to unacceptable risks including:

- Misdiagnosis and delayed diagnosis;
- Inappropriate treatment and preventable harm;
- Breach of confidential medical information;

- Lack of professional accountability when errors occur;
- Erosion of trust in Kenya's healthcare system.

The High Court has affirmed that innovation and technology in healthcare must not operate in a regulatory vacuum. Digital health solutions, artificial intelligence, and teleradiology platforms must exist to strengthen patient care, not bypass patient safeguards, professional standards, and national laws.

KAR and KMA support responsible adoption of technology, including teleradiology and artificial intelligence, but such innovation must be anchored on:

1. **Prioritizing patient safety first;**
2. **Verification and licensure of all reporting doctors by KMPDC;**
3. **Protection of confidential patient data;**
4. **Clear medicolegal accountability; and**
5. **Compliance with Kenyan healthcare laws and regulations.**

Kenyan radiologists undergo rigorous professional scrutiny before being allowed to serve patients. This includes undergraduate medical training, internship, specialist postgraduate radiology training, examinations, registration, annual licensure, continuing professional development requirements, ethical oversight, and accountability before the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council.

It is therefore unacceptable and discriminatory to subject Kenyan professionals to strict regulatory requirements while allowing foreign entities or unknown individuals to provide the same medical services without equivalent scrutiny.

The Associations call upon:

1. The Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council (KMPDC)

To urgently enforce the law and ensure that every individual providing radiology reporting services to Kenyan patients, whether physically present in Kenya or reporting remotely from another country, is appropriately registered, licensed, and accountable under Kenyan medical regulations.

2. The Ministry of Health

To strengthen oversight of all healthcare institutions and ensure that public and private facilities do not compromise patient safety through outsourcing medical interpretation services to unregulated providers.

3. The Digital Health Agency and relevant data protection authorities

To ensure that digital health platforms handling patient imaging data comply fully with privacy, consent, cybersecurity, and patient protection requirements.

4. All healthcare facilities in Kenya

To immediately review their radiology reporting arrangements and ensure that they engage only qualified and locally licensed specialist radiologists.

KAR and KMA further remind all healthcare providers that patients entrust us with their lives at their most vulnerable moments. This trust must never be traded for convenience, commercial interests, or unregulated business models.

As doctors, radiologists remain bound by the Hippocratic Oath: to place the welfare of the patient above all else, to do no harm, and to uphold the dignity of the medical profession.

The doctors fraternity wishes to assure Kenyans that we shall stop at nothing in defending patient safety, protecting confidential medical information, maintaining professional standards, and preserving the integrity of a profession that generations of Kenyan doctors have worked tirelessly to build.

This position is not against technology. It is against unsafe, unregulated, and unaccountable medical practice.

The future of healthcare must be innovative; but above all, it must remain safe, ethical, and centred on the patient.



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