



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Health Stakeholders call on Members of Parliament to adopt 30kph speed limit

...Over 2,000 children have died on Kenya's roads in the past 5 years. Health practitioners are calling for 30kph speed limit around schools and health facilities so as to reduce the number of children killed on Kenya's roads.

Nairobi, Kenya..... Gertrude's Children's Hospital and the various health stakeholders are calling upon Members of Parliament, including the Transport, Public Works and Housing Parliamentary Committee, to adopt a speed limit of 30kph around schools and health facilities. Gertrude's Children's Hospital and members of the Kenya Medical Association, Kenya Paediatric Association, Kenya Society of Physiotherapists, Kenya Occupational Therapists Association, among others, support the move towards the introduction of child road safety in the constitution through the Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

Kenya's health stakeholders today endorsed the Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 2014 while at the Sarova Panafric Hotel by terming it as a necessary change needed to safeguard children on our roads. This is because many children and traffic lollipop men have lost their lives due to senseless overspeeding near and within schools' vicinities. According to the Kenya Traffic Police department, over 2,000 children have lost their lives on our roads in the past 5 years, a figure that is equivalent to 2 schools.

The Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 2014 is currently in the second stage reading in The National Assembly, which is scheduled to take place tomorrow Wed 4th March, 2015. The report from

the Transport, Public Works and Housing Committee is proposing to increase the speed limit from 30kph to 50kph around schools. This is detrimental to the safety of children because studies have shown that children have a 95% survival chance when hit by vehicle at 30kph against 45% survival chance when hit at 50kph. The difference could mean life or death for a child. Other provisions of the Bill include: to provide for safety of children in motor vehicles used for school transport and to prescribe fixed statutory penalties for offences related to speed. Schools and health facilities are special areas hence require a lower speed limit than other areas where the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) 50kph speed limit is in effect.

Speaking at the breakfast meeting, Gertrude's Children's Hospital CEO Mr. Gordon Odundo said, "As the health fraternity, we should demonstrate our commitment towards the social and medical causes for children. With Kenya seeing a significant increase in the number of children who are injured or die on our roads, urgent intervention is long overdue and the 30kph speed limit will help to address this problem". During the meeting, the Chairman of the Kenya Paediatric Association Dr. David Githanga said that children are classified as a special group under vulnerable road users. He further explained that they are not just small versions of adults and therefore simply reproducing safe adult road strategies will not protect children sufficiently. Children are not fully developed and therefore require special attention.

The Chairman of the Kenya Medical Association Dr. Elly Nyaim said, "Collectively as the medical fraternity, we are willing to work with The National Assembly and the National Transport & Safety Authority (NTSA), under the Ministry of Transport, in their legislative and implementation efforts respectively, to make our roads safer for children, especially in the lowering of the speed limit to 30kph around schools." He added that every child's life counts, in today's world, one life lost is too many.

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About Gertrude's Children's Hospital:

Gertrude's Children's Hospital is a non-profit organization, chartered with the responsibility of benefiting children through provision of health services, fostering good health, carrying out research and teaching healthcare professionals. Gertrude's attends to on average 300,000 patients as outpatient and over 3,000 inpatients each year.

About the Kenya Paediatric Association:

The Kenya Paediatric Association is an association whose principal members are mainly paediatricians practicing in Kenya but also includes researchers, paediatricians in training and other cadres of health workers as associates. The association's vision is to make Kenya a country where children achieve physical, mental and social wellbeing in the absence of disease or infirmity.

About the Kenya Medical Association:

The Kenya Medical Association (KMA) is a voluntary membership organization open to all medical and dental practitioners registered in the Republic of Kenya. The Association currently has over 2,000 members countrywide. The association's mission is to champion for doctors' welfare and quality healthcare for the Kenyan public.

Contacts:

Name: Dr. Carol Waweru

Organisation: Gertrude's Children's Hospital

Email: cwaweru@gerties.org; carolmuriithi@gmail.com

Telephone: +254 20 720 6000; 0722 298 281