

PETITION TO THE SENATE BY DAVID NDUNGU WANJOHI AND GIBSON K. MURUGA CONCERNING THE DETERIORATING SITUATION FOR CANCER TREATMENT AT KENYATTA NATIONAL HOSPITAL AND AT LARGE

Honourable Senators,

PARLIAMENT
OF KENYA
LIBRARY

1. Pursuant to Standing Orders 220 (1) (a), and 225(2) (b), I hereby report to the Senate that a petition has been submitted, through the Clerk, by two concerned citizens, namely David Ndungu Wanjohi and Gibson K. Muruga, concerning the deteriorating situation for cancer treatment at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) and throughout the country.
2. As you are aware, under Article 119(1) of the Constitution, and I quote:-
"Every person has a right to petition Parliament to consider any matter within its authority, including enacting, amending or repealing any legislation."
3. In their petition, the petitioners state-
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 - iii) that the cancer treatment facilities available in private hospitals and abroad are too expensive for the ordinary citizen, and that it is the poor Kenyans who suffer most from this dire situation.
4. The petitioners therefore pray that the Senate investigates this matter and recommends appropriate steps to remedy this situation. Among the measures proposed by the petitioners are-
 - i) Installation of a minimum of ten (10) radiotherapy machines in Kenya, with five going to KNH and the other five at referral hospitals across the country; and

Petition reported by the Speaker
on 16/6/15 and committed to
the Standing Committee on Health,
16/6/15

ii) Revocation of the recent appointments to the Board of Trustees of the National Cancer Institute, and competitive recruitment of new Board of the Institute to bolster the fight against cancer in the country.

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[after comments by Senators]

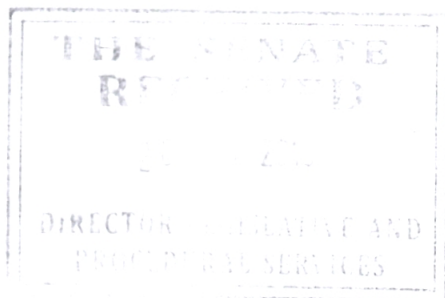
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A PETITION TO THE SENATE 2015

THE WORSENING KENYA CANCER SITUATION AT KENYATTA NATIONAL HOSPITAL AND KENYA AT LARGE

COME TO THE RESCUE OF POOR SICK KENYANS!



① DLPS
Please deal.
28/05/15

26TH MAY 2015

② Mr. Mung'ua
Please deal.
28/5/15

A Petition to Senate, 2015

The worsening Kenyan Cancer situation at Kenyatta National Hospital

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- The Kenyan Cancer burden is a national disaster; Cancer is the 3rd highest cause of morbidity in Kenya [7% of deaths per year], after infectious diseases and cardiovascular diseases, Estimate 39,000 new cases of Cancer are reported each year in Kenya with more than 27,000 deaths per year-An averagely of 60 Kenyans Die daily because of cancer! Over 60% of these are the younger population, below the age of 70 years.
- That there is only one public hospital able to offer all methods of cancer treatment especially radiotherapy treatment, which is the most effective technology in dealing with most cancer cases. Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) has only two radiotherapy machines with one being a cobalt machines that is an outdated technology and has been in use for over 20 years.KNH cancer unit has a waiting period of over six months.
- KNH is the only public facility designated to serve the majority of Kenyans about 90% of the total Kenyan population, the other 10% of the population is often treated at the other three expensive private hospitals namely Nairobi, Agah Khan and Mp Shah. Also a few private patients often fly out to foreign countries for treatment e.g. to India, Europe and USA.Currently there is a new private clinic called Texas cancer centre charging lesser than the above three private hospitals.
- KNH which is the only national referral facility is grossly mismanaged/Run down and is greatly under capacity with only two radiotherapy machines often breaking down (Ref.<http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fntv.nation.co.ke%2Fnews%2Ftopheadlines%2Fburden-of-cancer-radiotherapy-resumes-at-kenyatta-national-hospital-on-monday%2F&h=nAQFiMpEg>), KNH has very few oncologists and nurses, and has few diagnostic equipment ,palliative care and constant investments. How comes during recent machine breakdown crisis, KNH rushed its patients across to the nearby private hospitals? Does it mean that government is such inadequate in efficiency and capacity than just a private individual/institution? 40 million Kenyans pay taxes to same government and it can obviously do much better if it eradicates the cartels and

- the cancer of corruption in health sector (KNH). In this situation it is not a rocket science to know the government is being duped by the same cartels.
- The current worsening state of KNH has been caused by the long neglect by the government (MOH) and the massive corruption and mismanagement of the cancer unit.
- The head of cancer unit together with the other three senior oncologists at KNH have very serious conflict of interests in the entire management and handling of cancer treatment at KNH, and in the Kenya. They each actively run and own various private clinics adjacent to KNH and within Nairobi; the head and his deputy are shareholders at Mpshah and Nairobi hospital oncology centres. One other senior oncologist is the owner of Texas clinic. Because of this, these key officials often hip hop between KNH and their respective clinics, often spending very little time at KNH where they are employed fulltime by the government as residential oncologists; drawing hefty salaries and benefits. They usually divert most patients to their clinics especially the ones who can afford and in despair; sometimes relatives of such patients are forced to borrow funds or organize a harambee to at least afford the said private treatments. Obviously they do not give full attention to the ever increasing number of poor patients streaming into KNH. Because of this same selfish gain the oncologists, often use their capacity of key decision makers to frustrate most of the local or foreign attempts to better the KNH cancer unit; very few trainings are recommended, investments etc. They also use their capacity to influence key government decisions in the cancer sector e.g. recently the government through ministry of health was advised to widely buy only cancer diagnostic equipments leaving out the much needed treatment equipment-radiotherapy machines. One can only conclude this to mean that these same cartels at KNH and MOH only want many Kenyans to be diagnosed so that the same patients will flood KNH and finally seek private treatment because KNH already has a six months waiting period to access radiotherapy. The oncologist will continue minting millions just like they have always done over the years. Most of the officials at MOH have always benefited out of this status quo, the new cabinet secretary of health Mr. Macharia knows about this rot at KNH and has done nothing about it; maybe now he is also a beneficiary.
- Last year 2014, Cabinet secretary MOH Mr. Macharia handpicked several persons to be in the board of trustees, of the new Kenya National Cancer Institute (NCI), the CS never advertised to competitively get the right people, who Kenyans believe can use such a

body to champion cancer matters in this country. Most of these board members are not in touch with real problems affecting Kenyan patients. One year down the line Kenyans do not know or see tangible work that this board has been able to achieve or do in cancer sector. The appointments were flawed.

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Last week Mr. David Wanjohi publicly talked and brought these issues to the attention of the KNH management and no satisfactory response and actions have been taken. Mr. Wanjohi even publicly protested and created awareness about the worsening cancer situation by going on a hunger strike and tying himself in chains. A day later he was kicked out forcibly by the KNH security following instructions from the KNH key management. His story was widely covered by Nation Newspaper and BBC (https://soundcloud.com/bbcafrica/in-protest-of-poor-health-care?ocid=socialflow_facebook) Wanjohi later camped at Kencom buses stage, continuing with the campaign, him together with other frustrated fellow Kenyans, they seek the intervention of parliament or senate.

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- Should with urgency amend or pass a bill barring Government oncologist from running, owning or practicing privately. There should be a clear cut distinction whereby an oncologist decides either to be purely a private doctor or purely a government doctor, but can never be both. The bill can specifically review and raise the salary and benefits of these specialty doctors to compensate the need for government oncologist seeking private practice. This amendment will greatly overhaul cancer treatment sector in public hospitals so that now government employed oncologists can indeed be real resident doctors concentrating and giving full undivided attention and care to Kenyan cancer patients. After passing the bill and the existing corrupt group of oncologist refuse to change to the new rule, the government should plan to hire foreign oncologist who will do equally or a better job at the same raised salary, even as the government starts training new fresh doctors. The best private cancer centre-Agah Khan hospital has the same policy for its oncology doctors; they are not allowed to practice elsewhere except in Agah Khan; Doctors give best care and full concentration (real resident doctors).
- Should with immediate effect overhaul the existing management at KNH cancer unit and ministry of health. KNH should be compelled through ministry of health to change the management style and policy for the cancer unit; the head of cancer unit and the deputy should never be left to clinical doctors, instead a high level experience administrative manager/expert should be hired to oversee the running of the unit. He/She will be overseeing the work of doctors e.g. attendance, consistency etc. The same manager will be able to efficiently run such a unit sustainably and well. This is what is normally done by private hospitals and in places like in India. Kenya should adopt such best practices in government institutions for better services and value for money. This kind of separation of specialty will also stamp out the issue of conflict of interest from doctors etc.
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Initiate transmission
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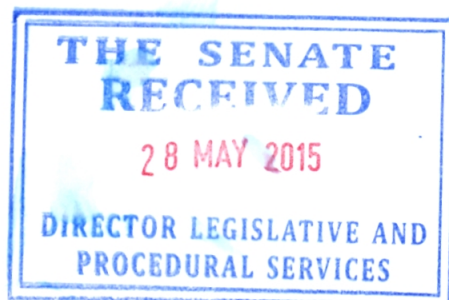
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Gibson K Muruga	47316-00100 NRB	22508829	 0723 917569
.....			
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PETITION concerning; the worsening Kenyan Cancer situation at Kenyatta National Hospital

BEATIFICATION | Sister Irene Stefani to be beatified in Nyeri on Saturday

Box holding remains of Sister Irene to be opened

Lawyers and clerics to witness the event and confirm that everything is intact

BY JAMES NGUNJIRI

ngunjiri@kenationmedia.com

The sealed box containing the remains of a Catholic nun set to be opened in Nyeri on Saturday.

The opening of the box is meant to prove that nothing has been removed or added, according to a legal officer of the Catholic Archdiocese of Nyeri, Father David Mutahi.

The priest, in an interview with the *Nation* yesterday, said the process of removing Sister Irene Stefani's remains from Mathari Chapel, where they were placed in 1995, will require legal documentation.

Lawyers

The remains were taken to the Mathari Chapel after they were exhumed from Mathari Consolata Centre Cemetery.

"The process must be witnessed by civil lawyers and church lawyers. This document must be in six original copies, and be signed in the presence of three lawyers and tribunal members," the priest said.

The box was sealed by specialists in 1995 by tribunals investigating miracles attrib-

uted to her when the case was concluded.

There were two tribunals, one from the Vatican and the other from Kenya.

Documented evidence shown to the *Nation* team indicates that an extraordinary miracle happened at a church called Niipepe in Mozambique in 1989.

Back then, catechists and local residents were hiding at the Niipepe Catholic Church due to the war in the country.

They were running out of water and could only access baptism water.

Catechists from different parishes in that diocese prayed through Sister Irene's name and the baptismal water they were using was multiplied.

After the prayers, they used

“

We are going to be there to witness the opening of the tomb. In that tomb, there is a box that contains the remains of Sister Irene Stefani”

Fr Peter Githinji



Two men install a city clock at the Baden Powell Tower on Kanisa Street in Nyeri town, which is being spruced up ahead of the beatification of Sister Irene Stefani on Saturday.

the water for three days including for drinking and bathing.

It was also used to wash a baby who was born inside the church and named Irene.

"Believers travel all the way from Mozambique, Italy, Korea, India, Ethiopia and other parts of the world to come to Mathari Church to plead with Sister Irene to pray for them and none of them has gone back unanswered, they usually come back to give thanks," they stated.

Father Mutahi said the brief ceremony is usually conducted two or three days before beatification.

"The box is going to be reopened and affirmation is going to be made that those are the remains of Sister Irene," said Father Mutahi.

Today's ceremony of affirma-

tion will be witnessed by Nyeri Catholic head Archbishop Peter Kairo, a representative from Vatican, a representative of beatification preparation committee from Kenya, an advocate of the High Court, a representative of Consolata Missionaries in Kenya and the legal officer of the Church.

Transferred

"We are going to be there to witness the opening of the tomb. In that tomb there is a box which contains the remains of Sister Irene. This is completely sealed and it is not going to be opened and this is the box that is going to be transferred from Mathari to Cathedral," said Father Peter Githinji, the priest overseeing the beatification process.

Now cancer crusader unchains from tree at KNH, shifts to bus stop

BY NATION REPORTER

The man who chained himself to a tree at the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) in protest at the lack of medical equipment claims he has been kicked out of the facility.

Mr David Ndung'u Wanjohi, 38, said security officers bundled him out of the hospital yesterday, cutting short his mission to raise Sh100 million to buy radiotherapy machines for cancer patients.

Mr Wanjohi went to the referral hospital on Tuesday morning in Nairobi and chained himself by the neck to a tree within the hospital. The father of two, who hails from Ol Kalau, Nyandarua County, said he was not a cancer patient, and neither did his close family require cancer treatment, but his move was prompted by the dire need for cancer equipment in the country.

Yesterday, he said: "I swore to stay at KNH until something was done. But, I have now relocated to Kencom Bus Stage. By kicking me out, they heard my plea, and it unsettled some people."

However, a reliable source from KNH said Mr Wanjohi met with the hospital administration and amicably agreed to move to Kencom Bus Stage where he would "meet the ap-

propriate audience" instead of the hospital because "patients require encouragement, not a sight of hopelessness".

In March, the only two radiotherapy machines at KNH broke down, pushing radiotherapy patients to anxiety and despair even as over 1,000 were on the radiotherapy waiting list, with some booked for 2017.

However, according to the hospital, the machines have since been repaired and by early June, a more sophisticated cancer treatment machine — the Linear Accelerator — will complement the other two.

At his new destination, Mr Wanjohi set up banners stuck on wooden planks that called on the President, governors and other leaders to buy the cancer machines.

Besides the protest, Mr Wanjohi said he would go on a hunger strike, drinking only water. Yesterday, he looked frail but insisted he would hang on till "something happens".

Due to unreliable cancer treatment and the high cost of such services, more than 10,000 Kenyan cancer patients seek treatment in hospitals overseas annually, spending Sh11.28 billion, according to Health Cabinet Secretary James Macharia.



Mr David Ndung'u Wanjohi chained to a tree at Kenyatta Hospital, Nairobi, in a bid to have the Government buy equipment for cancer patients.

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