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. Christine Ajulu on my own behalf and on behalf of Health Rights Advocacy Forum (HERAF)
7. Erick Okioma on my own behalf and on behalf of Nelson Mandela TB HIV Community Information and Resource Center CBO Kisumu.
9. Kristine Yakhama on my own behalf and on behalf of Good Health Community Programme
10. Linda Noah on my own behalf and on behalf of The East African Centre for Human Rights (EACHRights).
11. Naitore Nyamu
12. Nancy Githogori
13. Mary Ger on my own Behalf and on behalf of Mumbo International.
14. Mercy Onsando on my behalf and on behalf of HENNET.
15. Peter Owiti on my behalf and on behalf Wote Youth Development Projects.
16. Samson Onditi on my behalf and on behalf Happy Life for Development CBO.
17. Sheila Masinde on my own behalf and on behalf of Transparency International.

Endorsed by:
2. Boda Boda Association of Kenya (BAK)
4. Community Forum For Advanced and Sustainable Development (COFAS)
5. East African Centre for Human Rights (EACHRights).
6. Happy Life for Development CBO.
7. Health NGOs Network (HENNET)
8. Health Rights Advocacy Forum (HERAF)
11. Mbita Suba Paralegal Network
12. Mumbo International
15. NYARWEK Network
16. Pamoja TB Group
17. Shape Kenya
18. Transparency International Kenya
19. Wote Youth Development Projects

cc:
1. Dr. Samuel Oroko  
   National Chairman, Kenya Medical Practitioners Pharmacist 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 Kajuju  
   Chairperson, Commission on Administrative Justice  
   Commission on Administrative Justice  
   Email: info@ombudsman.go.ke