Health **A staff member claimed some patients were forced to buy medicines ordinarily provided by the hospital**

KNH staff dig in amid 'Sh5bn SHA debt'

SHA disputes debt claim as staff demand full remittance of deductions and warn of further disruption to patient services

BY HELLEN SHIKANDA

As staff at Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) enter the fourth day of their strike, *Nation* has learnt of a deeper financial crisis at the facility, with the Social Health Authority (SHA) reportedly owing it about Sh5 billion.

Hospital insiders, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the outstanding payments have compounded financial difficulties, including failure to remit statutory deductions for loans, insurance, pensions and staff welfare.

Employees told *Nation* that the money is deducted from their salaries every month but is not remitted to the respective institutions.

As a Level Six facility, KNH requires patients to be paid-up SHA members to access services under the national insurer, unless they pay out of pocket or use private medical schemes. However, the hospital continues to provide services even as it grapples with the alleged debt.

Responding to claims that it owes KNH Sh5 billion, SHA said it had processed payments totalling Sh5.21 billion to the hospital since its inception, as of November 2026. This represents a settlement rate of 94.2 per cent of valid claims.



Members of the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists' Union (KMPDU) during a press briefing on Tuesday over the ongoing salary crisis at Kenyatta National Hospital and the continued non-remittance of doctors' statutory deductions. WILFRED NYANGARESI | NATION

In the current payment cycle, SHA said approved claims worth Sh153.3 million remained outstanding, while another Sh46.8 million was undergoing review.

"The current SHA claims records, therefore, do not reflect an outstanding amount of Sh5 billion," the authority said.

KNH's estimated budget for the 2026/2027 financial year is about Sh9 billion, an increase of approximately four per cent, or Sh400 million, from the previous financial year.

The strike comes months after nurses at the facility downed their tools in March. They returned to work days later after management promised to address their concerns.

Workers now say about Sh17 billion in deductions has not been remitted to their defined benefit pension scheme.

"Some contributors retired in June. Those who took early retirement have not even received their payments to this day. We are not sure if we will get our money. It is sad to learn that the money has not been remitted, yet it has been deducted from our salaries," a staff member said.

The employee added that some former workers who took mortgages risk losing their homes because they had relied on their pension benefits to repay the loans, despite having worked for more than 32 years.

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>
> KNH staff member

In a statement, KNH acknowledged staff concerns over unremitted payroll deductions, access to pension benefits and interest accrued on outstanding amounts. Management promised to make payments by Friday, November 27, with a second batch scheduled for December 8, but did not specify the nature of the payments.

"Management appeals to staff to resume duty as we work together towards resolving the out-standing issues. We believe that continued dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation will help us reach an amicable resolution while ensuring uninterrupted care for thousands of patients who depend on KNH," said chief executive Joel Lessan.

By yesterday, some workers had received their statutory deductions, but others were still waiting.

Staff said management had released about Sh851 million to cover deductions up to September, but insisted this was insufficient. They also claimed that pension contributions remained unpaid and that NSSF deductions had not been remitted for nearly 10 years.

They said they would not resume duty until all outstanding deductions were paid in full.

The workers also warned that the financial strain was affecting patient care, with reduced revenue limiting the hospital's ability to pay salaries, purchase supplies and maintain equipment.

"Previously, we used to get about Sh1 billion monthly from patients. Now, we get about Sh750 million. This is money that could help in clearing salaries and running the hospital. We need consumables and everything. That deficit is substantial, so some things have to be compromised," a staff member said.

The employee claimed that most medicines were unavailable, laboratory reagents were inadequate and two of the hospital's three CT scanners had broken down, with no money for repairs.

In the oncology department, the staff member said, some patients were forced to buy medicines that would otherwise be provided by the hospital, adding to their financial burden, particularly when they expected SHA to cover the costs.

Despite management's appeal for workers to return, the staff insist they will only resume duty once their outstanding deductions are fully remitted.

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COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU

KARURI MUNICIPALITY

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Municipality of **Karuri** is a beneficiary of the Kenya Urban Support Program Phase II (KUSP 2), a Government of Kenya initiative supported by the World Bank, aimed at promoting sustainable urban development, strengthening municipal institutional capacity, improving urban infrastructure and enhancing the delivery of efficient, inclusive and responsive urban services. The Municipality invites eligible Consultants to submit sealed Expression of Interest as follows.

S/No	NEGOTIATION NO	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY
1	GK/EOI/KUSP/II/ KAR/01/26/27	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE PREPARATION OF PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDIES, ENVIRONMNETAL IMPACT ASSESSEMENT REPORT, PROVISION OF CIVIL/ STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, QUANTITY SURVEYING SERVICES AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (BUILDING SERVICES) FOR KARURI MUNICIPALITY UNDER KENYA URBAN SUPPORT PROGRAM (KUSP II)	CITIZEN

Mandatory requirements, tender conditions and further instructions are contained in the tender document that can be downloaded free of charge at the or ***at the Karuri municipality website,*** www.kiambu.go.ke or www.tenders.go.ke

Completed Tender documents shall be dropped at the tender box located **Outside Municipal Managers Reception Office - Karuri Municipality (Fire Station),** on or before the Tender closing date**, Wednesday 9th December 2026 at 3:00 P.M**

The tender will be opened at Karuri Municipality offices in presence of the tenderers or their representatives who may choose to attend at the same venue

LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER
KARURI MUNICIPALITY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU

27TH NOVEMBER 2026

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU

KIKUYU MUNICIPALITY

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Municipality of **Kikuyu** is a beneficiary of the Kenya Urban Support Program Phase II (KUSP 2), a Government of Kenya initiative supported by the World Bank, aimed at promoting sustainable urban development, strengthening municipal institutional capacity, improving urban infrastructure and enhancing the delivery of efficient, inclusive and responsive urban services. The Municipality invites eligible Consultants to submit sealed Expression of Interest as follows.

S/No	NEGOTIATION NO	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY
1	CGK/EOI/KUSP/II/ KKU/01/26/27	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE PREPARATION OF PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDIES, ENVIRONMNETAL IMPACT ASSESSEMENT REPORT, PROVISION OF CIVIL/ STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, QUANTITY SURVEYING SERVICES AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (BUILDING SERVICES) FOR KIKUYU MUNICIPALITY UNDER KENYA URBAN SUPPORT PROGRAM (KUSP II)	CITIZEN

Mandatory requirements, tender conditions and further instructions are contained in the tender document that can be downloaded free of charge at the or ***at the Kikuyu municipality website,*** www.kiambu.go.ke or www.tenders.go.ke

Completed Tender documents shall be dropped at the tender box located **Outside Municipal Managers Reception Office- Kikuyu Municipality (Behind Law Courts),** on or before the Tender closing date, **Wednesday 9th December 2026 at 12:00 NOON**

The tender will be opened at Kikuyu Municipality offices in presence of the tenderers or their representatives who may choose to attend at the same venue

LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER
KIKUYU MUNICIPALITY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU

27TH NOVEMBER 2026

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU

KIAMBU MUNICIPALITY

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Municipality of **Kiambu** is a beneficiary of the Kenya Urban Support Program Phase II (KUSP 2), a Government of Kenya initiative supported by the World Bank, aimed at promoting sustainable urban development, strengthening municipal institutional capacity, improving urban infrastructure and enhancing the delivery of efficient, inclusive and responsive urban services. The Municipality invites eligible Consultants to submit sealed Expression of Interest as follows.

S/No	NEGOTIATION NO	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY
1	CGK/EOI/KUSP/II/ KIA/01/26/27	CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE PREPARATION OF PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDIES, ENVIRONMNETAL IMPACT ASSESSEMENT REPORT, PROVISION OF CIVIL/ STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, QUANTITY SURVEYING SERVICES AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING (BUILDING SERVICES) FOR KIAMBU MUNICIPALITY UNDER KENYA URBAN SUPPORT PROGRAM (KUSP II)	CITIZEN

Mandatory requirements, tender conditions and further instructions are contained in the tender document that can be downloaded free of charge at the or ***at the Kiambu municipality website,*** www.kiambu.go.ke or www.tenders.go.ke

Completed Tender documents shall be dropped at the tender box located **Outside Municipal Managers Reception Office - (Red Nova) in Kiambu,** on or before the Tender closing date, **Tuesday 8th December 2026 at 4:00 P.M**

The tender will be opened at Kiambu Municipality offices in presence of the tenderers or their representatives who may choose to attend at the same venue

LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER
KIAMBU MUNICIPALITY
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KIAMBU

27TH NOVEMBER 2026

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