



Association of Medical Engineering of Kenya

AMEK

*Strengthening health care delivery services
through appropriate technology*

REQUEST FOR ACTION: 18th JULY 2024

RE; INSUFFICIENT STAFFING OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING IN HEALTH SECTOR

The Association of Medical Engineering of Kenya, AMEK, is deeply concerned about the insufficient staffing of Biomedical Engineering professionals in public healthcare facilities, which is adversely affecting the quality of healthcare service delivery. Biomedical Engineering professionals are essential in healthcare facilities as they manage the life cycle of medical equipment from purchase, operation, maintenance through to disposal. On several occasions, many citizens have been denied healthcare services due to equipment breakdowns at public facilities. This is often a result of insufficient staffing of biomedical engineers in these healthcare facilities.

Article 43(1)(a) of Kenya's constitution guarantees every person the right to the highest attainable standard of health, which includes access to healthcare services, including reproductive healthcare. Proper management of medical equipment is crucial to achieving this goal, and having an adequate number of Biomedical Engineering professionals is fundamental to realizing the vision set forth by the constitution of Kenya.

To address this, the Association urges adherence to the Ministry of Health, Kenya, staffing norms of 2014, which recommend the following minimum recruitment levels for Biomedical Engineers:

- Level 6: Minimum of 30 Biomedical Engineers
- Level 5: Minimum of 16 Biomedical Engineers
- Level 4: Minimum of 7 Biomedical Engineers
- Level 3: Minimum of 2 Biomedical Engineers

Currently, the minimum requirement is 6,500 Biomedical Engineering professionals, but there are only about 1000 employed in public sector. This alarming gap should be addressed immediately to prevent medical equipment from becoming obsolete and wasted, ending up in equipment junkyards (graveyards) which results in the misuse of taxpayers money. There are over 7,000 qualified Biomedical Engineering professionals in the country who are currently unemployed and seeking opportunities.

We therefore urge the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Health and the County Governments to prioritize the recruitment of Biomedical Engineering professionals to ensure effective service delivery, avert the alarming unemployment and insufficient biomedical engineering staffing in the healthcare facilities across the country.

B.Eng. Millicent Alooh, HSC

Hon. Secretary General

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL ENGINEERING OF KENYA

CC; COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS
HRH COMMITTEE
KENYA HEALTH PRIVATE SECTOR ALLIANCE