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J. M. M. M.
04.06.2025

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04/06/25



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT - (FOURTH SESSION)

THE SENATE

REQUEST FOR A STATEMENT

**ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS OF CONSUMPTION OF FOOD CROPS
IRRIGATED WITH CONTAMINATED WATER IN THE NAIROBI METROPOLITAN
AREA**

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

I rise, pursuant to Standing Order 53 (1), to seek a Statement from the Standing Committee on Health on a matter of national concern regarding public health risks associated with the use of contaminated water from the Nairobi, Ngong, and Athi Rivers for the irrigation of food crops in areas such as Kitengela, Athi River Town, Greatwall area, Kibera, Kamulu, Maili Saba, and surrounding communities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

There is increasing concern that untreated wastewater and industrial effluents are being used to irrigate food crops such as vegetables and tuber crops, which are later sold in local markets and major supermarkets. Studies have indicated the presence of heavy metals like lead, cadmium, and mercury, as well as microbial pathogens in the water and soil used for cultivation. Consumption of such produce poses serious health risks, particularly to children and expectant mothers.

In the Statement, the Committee should address the following:

1. Measures being implemented by the State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards in the Ministry of Health to prevent the irrigation of food crops using contaminated water within the Nairobi Metropolitan area, and to ensure that food sold to the public is safe.
2. The surveillance and regulatory mechanisms in place to test and monitor vegetables and tuber crops sold in both informal and formal markets for contamination by heavy metals and pathogens.
3. Whether the Ministry has conducted any health impact assessments on the consumption of crops irrigated with polluted water in the affected regions, including findings and subsequent actions taken.
4. Information on public education initiatives, enforcement measures against violators, and strategies being implemented to secure the food supply chain from contaminated produce.

**SEN. AGNES KAVINDU, MP
SENATOR FOR MACHAKOS COUNTY**

DATE: 4th June, 2025

05/06/25

