

Health and Safety Management on Construction Project Sites in Kenya

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Key words: Legislation; Standards; Health; safety; construction Site

SUMMARY

Health and safety at construction sites deals with both physical and psychological well-being of workers on construction sites and other persons whose health is likely to be adversely affected by construction activities. It is of primary concern to employers, employees, governments and project participants. Health and safety therefore is an economic as well as humanitarian concern that requires proper management control. This Paper set out to study the health and safety management on construction sites in Kenya. The objectives included; investigating the health and safety measures used on construction sites; evaluating the enforcement mechanisms of health and safety regulations on construction sites and examining the challenges encountered in the management of health and safety. The findings indicate that health and safety measures on construction sites are inadequate and effective enforcement mechanism of health and safety measures is lacking. Various challenges are faced in the management of health and safety, the major being inadequate enforcement mechanism. Consequently, health and safety are often neglected on construction project sites and rarely managed. In conclusion the enforcement mechanism for health and safety is weak since there lacks clear and well-defined supervisory authority in most construction sites. The paper recommends that the existing health and safety laws enforcement mechanisms be reviewed. The Directorate of occupational health and safety services should step up inspections and penalise those who fail to observe the provisions of the Act. Further, all parties in construction project site must work together and contribute their rightful parts towards making construction sites healthy and safe. The output of this paper contributes to improvement of the health and safety management for construction projects. The findings are useful for construction managers, policy makers, contractors and construction employees to increase their understanding of the health and safety management practices. In addition, the accrued knowledge on health and safety management forms a base for theoretical knowledge for further research and training in the construction health and safety body of knowledge. This paper also hopes to bridge the knowledge gap and provide a guideline to improving health and safety on the construction sites.