HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS SITES IN KENYA

A Case Study of Construction Projects in Nairobi County

**Key words:** Health, Safety, Construction Management, Enforcement Mechanism
Theconstructionindustryhasadirectbearingontheeconomic
growthanddevelopmentofacountry.

Inbetweentheconstructionindustryandthesustainableeconomic
developmentisaworldofissuesandconcernswhichmustbe
addressedtoensurethatconstructiondoesnotresulttoundesired
endssuchasinjuries,lossoflifeandlossofinvestment.

XXVInternationalFederationofSurveyors
Congress,KualaLumpur,Malaysia,16–21June
2014

Theobtainingsituation

•Focusisdirectedtothefinishedproductandnot
necessarilyonthesafetyofthedeliveryprocess.Thisis
occasionedbyanoverwhelmingdemandforhousing.

•Constructionindustryofferslucrativereturnsand
attractsmerchantsfromallmannerofbackgrounds.

•Manyavoidableaccidentshavebeenwitnessed.
Contractorsdeployunskilledlabor tokeekecostsatthefloor

•Thereisnoseriousinstitutionalandlegalframewerktoenforcehealthandsafetyprovisions

•Onlyincidencesoccasioningcolossalhumandamage
arehighlightedandrespondedtoinanemergency
arrangement.

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EXISTING LEGAL & INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

• The Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) of 2007 guides safety and health in work places including construction sites

• The Act is elaborate on the responsibilities of the employer or developer but assigns no significant responsibility to the construction worker

• The National Construction Authority Act too does not place any direct responsibility on the shoulders of the developer regarding health and safety in construction sites

• Both laws are deficient in addressing health and safety concerns in construction sites

• The ongoing efforts to review and harmonize all building laws and regulations including the development of a national building maintenance policy should place health and safety concerns and provisions in the fore.

THE WAY OUT

• Targeted massive awareness for construction workers driven by responsible authorities

• Include direct and straight forward provisions for developers responsibility in safety and health concerns including sanctions for defiant players

• Personal accident covers and other measures should be inbuilt in construction contracts which must be supervised by approved competencies

• Documentation on health and safety including signage on sites should be made mandatory

• Disaster awareness and mitigation as well as risk management should be emphasized and adequately legislated

• Welfare of construction workers and especially the poor populace comprising unskilled and casual labour should be enhanced even by unionizing such workers and educating them on their legal, health and safety rights
Un protected Workers

Oblivious of the dangers and need for protection
THANK YOU