

# KENYA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS



## KENYA CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT

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**Our Ref:**

**Your Ref:**

KCCB/GOK/2021/08

9<sup>th</sup> November 2021

The Speaker,  
East African Legislative Assembly,  
EAC Headquarters, EALA Wing,  
Afrika Mashariki Road/EAC Close,  
P.O. Box 1096,  
Arusha, Tanzania.

**RE: MEMORANDUM TO THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON THE  
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH BILL, EALA BILL NO: 5 OF 2021**

Greetings from the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB).

Last year in August, Kenya's Senate rejected a private member bill dubbed *'The Reproductive Health Bill'* sponsored by one Hon. Susan Kihika, Senator, Nakuru County. The Bill has generated much criticism and resistance from Kenyans. Whilst the East African *'Sexual and Reproductive Health Bill'* by Hon. Kennedy Mukulia Ayason is to be debated at EALA, from our analysis, the said Bill is a re-introduction of the rejected *'Kihika Bill'* at a regional level.

The Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops holds and strongly believes that the union of the East African Community is defined by unique cultures, with similar values and diverse contextual approaches to the different members of the community.

Guided by Article 26 of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, we maintain that the Bill as presented is an attempt to engender an amorphous field of rights referred to as *'reproductive rights'* contrary to the Right to Life as protected and guaranteed by our Constitution. Life is sacred, begins at conception and ends with natural death, therefore no legislation should support or promote any form of termination of life, but rather seek to ensure the sanctity of life.

The Bill in Part 2, 6 (3) (b); 7 (2), 7 (3) (j), 9 (1) (2), (6) (d) advocates for Comprehensive Sexuality Education for adolescents and youth. Comprehensive Sexuality Education is a contributor to the high rates of teenage pregnancies and abortion. This is attributable to its failure to establish abstinence as the expected standard for all children. It presents abortion as a safe or positive option while omitting data on the many potential negative physical and mental health consequences. (Source: <https://www.comprehensivesexualityeducation.org/15-harmful-elements-of-cse/>). Comprehensive Sexuality Education seeks to lead children to focus on unhelpful sexual behaviour at the expense of education and life goals. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). On Comprehensive Sexuality Education, therefore, our position is to focus on what imparts knowledge, values and life skills into our children and moulds them for a better tomorrow.

We draw your attention to the fact that the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops has never given assent to this Bill or mandated any person to speak or act in support of this Bill in part or in its entirety.

From the foregoing, we disregard and reject the contents of this Bill *in toto* and appeal to the Assembly not to let the Bill be enacted into Law.

Yours faithfully,



.....  
Most Rev. Martin Kivuva Musonde

**CHAIRMAN**

**KENYA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**

C.c:

**The Hon. Secretary General**

East African Community

EAC Close, off Africa Mashariki Road Headquarters

Afrika Mashariki Road/EAC Close

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**Arusha, TANZANIA**



**Amb. Raychelle Omamo, SC, EGH**  
Cabinet Secretary  
Ministry of Affairs and International Trade  
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P. O. Box 30551 -00100 G.P.O.  
**NAIROBI**

**Hon. Kenneth Lusaka**  
The Speaker of the Senate  
Senate Buildings  
**NAIROBI**

**Hon. Justin Muturi**  
The Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya  
Parliament Buildings  
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**Rt. Rev. Charles Kasonde**  
Chairman of AMECEA  
P. O. Box 319655 – 10101  
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