



INSTITUTION OF SURVEYORS OF KENYA

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

30th September 2024

LOSS OF SECURITY DOCUMENTS USED IN THE PRINTING OF TITLE DEEDS

The Institution of Surveyors of Kenya (ISK) is deeply concerned about the loss of security papers used for printing title deeds from the Government Printer. This incident poses a significant threat to the integrity of land ownership in Kenya and could potentially lead to widespread land fraud.

We commend the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development for their prompt response and assurance that the security of the titling process remains intact. However, we urge the Ministry to take immediate and decisive action to address this critical matter. ISK recommends the following urgent steps:

- Prioritize the recovery of the stolen security papers:** We urge the government to implement all necessary measures to track and retrieve these valuable documents to prevent their misuse for fraudulent purposes. In addition, we urge that even if recovered, the stolen serialized papers should not be used for registration.
- Hold those responsible accountable:** There is need to conduct a thorough investigation to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice so as to send a strong message that such acts will not be tolerated.
- Strengthen security measures:** There is need to review and enhance security protocols at the Government Printer and other relevant institutions to prevent similar incidents in the future.
- Educate the public:** There is need to increase awareness among the public about the risks associated with land fraud and the importance of verifying the authenticity of title deeds and all other documents associated with registration of land including but not limited to survey plans, mutation forms, deed plans etc.
- Deal decisively with the land cartels:** From the Ministry of Lands statement, there seems to be suspects who are known and who have done such acts in the past. There is thus need for the government to pronounce itself once and for all on these fraudsters. The issue of forging land documents has been going on for a long time and it is important that this issue is curtailed.

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6. **Leveraging on modern Technology:** The Ministry should consider doing away with paper titles often vulnerable to damage, loss or theft and consider embracing digital titles deeds which can be securely stored in centralized databases, safeguarded them from any physical harm and indefinitely preserved. This we believe will enhance security of tenure in our land governance with paper titles being used as copies.

We also urge members of the public to be vigilant and exercise caution when dealing with land transactions. We advise members of the public to verify the authenticity of any land registration document so that any discrepancies are immediately reported to the relevant authorities.

ISK stands ready to support the Ministry and other stakeholders in addressing this urgent issue and in safeguarding the integrity of Kenya's land administration system. ISK members will be ready to support the Ministry and members of the public with any due diligence that may be required.

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President, Institution of Surveyors of Kenya

About ISK

The Institution of Surveyors of Kenya (ISK) is the professional body that brings together professionals who provide services in the Land built sector. The professionals fall within eight major disciplines of the surveying profession namely Land Surveying, Valuation, Building Surveying, Land Administration Management, Engineering Surveying, Geospatial Information Management, Estate Agents and Property Management. Our membership of over 6,500 is widely spread across the Country.

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