



INSTITUTION OF SURVEYORS OF KENYA

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

6th June 2025

ISK STATEMENT ON HOME BUYING SCAMS IN KENYA

Our attention is drawn to the headline in the Daily Nation of Wednesday, 4th June, 2025, titled **"Unmasked: Faces in home buying scams."**

While ISK is a professional association whose membership is drawn from Estate Agents amongst other land professionals, ISK portends that Estate Agents should be registered by the Estate Agents Registration Board (EARB) as provided in Chapter 533 Laws of Kenya. The Act empowers EARB to register and regulate any person who, by way of business, negotiates for or otherwise acts in relation to the selling, purchasing or letting of land and buildings erected thereon; for the regulation and control of the professional conduct of such persons and for connected purposes.

ISK is perturbed that there are individuals and companies in the business of selling houses outside the purview of EARB. We wish to know how these individuals or companies are allowed to conduct the business of selling houses without the requisite registration as provided for in the Estate Agents Act.

The newspaper has provided details how these individuals have been defrauding Kenyans, especially those in the diaspora, thereby making them lose trust in all actors within the real estate industry. It further explains how these individuals have previously been involved in similar sinister business while working in other companies, but rebrand, extending the fraud unabated.

According to the 2025 Economic Survey by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the real estate sector (valued at about Kshs. 1.12 trillion) contributed 8.4% to Kenya's GDP in 2024. Such a key economic contributor should not be left to individuals/companies operating outside the laws of the land.

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We call upon the government agencies involved in registration of business, licensing of businesses, and customer protection to ensure no registration or any form of licensing will be issued to unregistered estate agents to practice and any existing registration or business of such firms should be canceled with immediate effect.

We also call up on EARB to work closely with law enforcers to ensure unregistered individuals and rogue agents/companies are apprehended and charged to protect innocent investors.

Additionally, we advise investors within the real estate industry to always work with professionals such as Estate Agents in ISK who offer expertise in this field.

ISK is ready to partner with the government and EARB, in amending the Estate Agents Act to ensure only professionals with requisite academic training are allowed to carry out the business of estate agency.

Eric Nyadimo, MISK, LS(K)
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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