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Kenya; TI Corruption Report Puts Health Sector On Spot

The health sector has remained among the four most corrupt institutions in the country in the last three years.

According to the bribery index report released by **Transparency International** (TI), the public reported increased bribery incidents in public hospitals. "Bribery encounters in public hospitals have been on the rise and the ranking on the index has remained high," said the report.

The watchdog's communication programme officer, Noelina Nabwire, said it was the poor who were affected most since they could neither afford the bribes or private healthcare.

Nabwire said fighting corruption in the sector was complex. She said some doctors and nurses charge small informal fees and hospital administrators took bribes or siphoned billions of shillings from health budgets, leading to inadequate medical supplies.

TI Kenya's executive director, Mwalimu Mati, said only Kenya Medical Supplies Agency or its agents should procure drugs and other supplies.

He said a code of conduct and regular training on health systems should be introduced for regulators, medical practitioners, pharmacists and health administration.

He added: "It is essential for public policies, practices and expenditure to be open to public and legislative scrutiny."

Mati urged the Treasury to allocate more funds to the Ministry of Health, saying health budget had not kept pace with population growth and rising needs to renovate, build or equip health facilities.