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**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

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# THE PICTURE

**Construction  
Industry**

Health  
Safety  
Risk & disaster  
Management  
Regulatory &  
Institutional  
Framework

**Sustainable Economic  
Development**

The construction industry has a direct bearing on the economic growth and development of a country.

In between the construction industry and the sustainable economic development is a world of issues and concerns which must be addressed to ensure that construction does not result to undesired ends such as injuries, loss of life and loss of investment.

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# THE OBTAINING SITUATION

- Focus is directed to the finished product and not necessarily on the safety of the delivery process. This is occasioned by an overwhelming demand for housing.
- Construction industry offers lucrative returns and attracts merchants from all manner of backgrounds.
- Many avoidable accidents have been witnessed. Contractors deploy unskilled labor to keep costs at the floor
- There is no serious institutional or legal framework to enforce health and safety provisions
- Only incidences occasioning colossal human damage are highlighted and responded to in an emergency 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

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## 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

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## Un protected Workers



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## Oblivious of the dangers and need for protection



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THANK YOU

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