

PRESS RELEASE

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STATEMENT ON GAS EXPLOSION IN EMBAKASI

The Kenya Alliance of Resident Associations (KARA) is saddened by the loss of life and injuries caused by the explosion that took place at an LPG storage and filling plant in Embakasi, Mradi area. Our heartfelt condolences go to those who lost their loved ones and we pray for quick recovery to the injured.

The Embakasi incident is a confirmation that the government and especially the regulatory bodies have completely failed in enforcing the necessary rules and regulations intended to protect the public from exposure to danger. It is sad that the LPG storage and filling plant was operating within a residential area and the Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (EPRA), which is charged with the responsibility of licensing and regulating such facilities, never took any action against the proprietors.

It is now emerging that the owners of the plant made an application for a license to operate the facility but were denied yet they continued to operate without a license. Where was EPRA and why did they allow them to continue operating the business? This only points to a now too familiar practice where government officers responsible for enforcing the law are compromised to allow illegalities thereby jeopardizing the lives of Kenyans.

The Embakasi scenario is not isolated as there is proliferation of such illegal businesses across various neighbourhoods. EPRA has clearly failed in its regulatory role and we demand that immediate action be taken against the officers who failed to take action on illegal operations of the Embakasi plant.

We further demand that all LPG storage and filling stations as well as petrol stations operating in residential areas and within unacceptable safety distance in various neighbourhoods be immediately closed down and the proprietors be charged in a court of law for illegal business operation.

We are ready as Resident Associations to work with the relevant government entities to provide information of such illegal businesses that are operating in our estates and endangering our lives. We must stop impunity!

Henry Ochieng
Chief Executive Officer
The Kenya Alliance of Resident Associations (KARA).