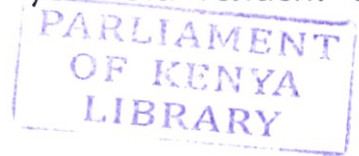


PETITION

BY MS. ESTHER WACERA GITHINJI ON REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS HER MEDICAL BILL

I, THE **UNDERSIGNED** citizen of Kenya aged 34 year old resident of Kiambu town.

DRAW the attention of the House to the following;



THAT I was diagnosed with kidney failure in 2003 and I have been on dialysis treatment for the last ten (10) years and a transplant surgery done in 2005. The kidney that had been donated to me failed and was put back on dialysis.

THAT WHEREAS in February 2012, I visited Hinduja Hospital in India with my sister, Anne Githinji as the potential donor for another operation. The transplant operation was to take place in three weeks time but due to medical and legal reasons, my sister donated to another patient and I got another kidney from the Worlds First Inter-Country Kidney Donor Swap and subsequently the operation was done on April 9th 2013.

THAT, my family has over the years struggled to raise over Ksh.7 million and a further Kshs. 2 million from fund raising. I was discharged on 16th May 2013 but am still held up in hospital due to a shortage of Kshs. 2 million to clear the outstanding bill and travel expenses.

THEREFORE your humble petitioner PRAYS that;

The Government of the Republic of Kenya: - Does urgently pay the outstanding bill of Kshs. 2 million to enable me come back to the country. And your **PETITIONER** will ever pray.

PRESENTED BY,

HON. Jude Jomo, MP

Kiambu Constituency

*Inadmissible;
member briefed
10.7.13*

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



Telegraphic Address
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P O Box 170 00900
KIAMBU, Kenya

KIAMBU COUNTY ASSEMBLY

5th June 2013

Hon. James Mburu Njenga (MCA-KIAMBU)
P O Box 1314-0-0900
KIAMBU

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam,

ESTHER WACERA GITHINJI

The above named is a 34 year old female constituent of Kiambu Town. She was diagnosed with kidney failure in the year 2003. She was on dialysis treatment for the better part of the past ten years and had a transplant surgery done in India in year 2005. The kidney which had been donated by her 60 year old mother subsequently failed and she was put back on dialysis.

In February 2012 she went to HINDUJA Hospital, India with her sister, Anne Githinji as the potential donor for another operation and her mother for assistance. The transplant operation was to take place in 3 weeks time but due to medical and legal reasons, the sister donated to another patient and Esther got a kidney from another donor in the world's first inter-country kidney donor swap. The operation was done on April 9th 2013.

The family has over the years strenuously raised over Kshs. 7 million and a further Kshs. 2 million from fund-raising. Esther was discharged on 16th May 2013 but is still held up in the hospital due to lack of funds. Family and well-wishers are aiming to urgently raise Kshs. 1.8 million to bring her back home. This amount will cover the outstanding bill, medication and travel expenses.

Financial assistance can be directed to MPESA No. 0723 952 810 (registered to Julia Githinji her sister) or Bank Ac. No. Esther W Githinji Medical Fund. Equity Bank. Moi Avenue Branch. A/C No. 0470194026918.

Any and all assistance accorded towards this noble cause will be highly appreciated.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'James Njenga'.

Hon. James Njenga
MCA- KIAMBU TOWNSHIP

Declare
Undated

Telegrams: "MEDSUP", Nairobi
TEL. 2726300 - 19
FAX - 2725272
E-mail: knh@nbi.ispkenya.com



KENYATTA NATIONAL HOSPITAL
Hospital Road, Off Ngong Road
P.O. Box 20723 - 00202, KNH
Nairobi

23rd May, 2013

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

ESTHER WACHERA
FEMALE DoB 23/04/79
IP 0906871

Diagnosis: Chronic kidney disease

Esther Wachera is a patient who has been attending the KNH renal unit for over 10 years. She developed end stage renal disease and was put on maintenance haemodialysis in 2003. She subsequently had a kidney transplant in 2006 which however functioned for only 11 months and was rejected. She then reverted back to chronic dialysis. Re-transplantation was difficult as she had reactive antibodies against most of her prospective donors.

She went to India in February 2012 for desensitisation therapies and had a successful 2nd transplant there on 09/04/2013. She is still in India under observation and immunologic surveillance. The exercise to get her a successful transplant has taken time as well as financial resources.

Your assistance will be appreciated.

Yours,

Prof. Joshua K. Kayima
Consultant Physician / Nephrologist
Dept. of Clinical Med. & Therapeutics - U.O.N
Renal Unit, Kenyatta National Hospital
Nairobi - Kenya.

PROF. JOSHUA K. KAYIMA
CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN/NEPHROLOGIST
RENAL UNIT, KNH.

Mum, daughter detained in India over \$12m medical bill

BY STANLEY NIENGA

A Kiambu woman and two of her daughters have been detained in India for failing to pay a \$1.8-million hospital bill.

Agnes Mugaru Githinji, who hails from Thimadigan village in Kiambu town, took her daughter Esther Wacera, 33, to India for a kidney transplant in March last year.

They were accompanied by her other daughter Anne Njeri who was to donate a kidney to Wacera.

Githinji's other daughter Juliana Wambui said the operation at the Hingubji Hospital was to cost \$1.1 million.

Njeri's kidney failed to match Wacera, forcing them to stay in India until they got another donor. Wambui told the Star yesterday.

She said the family was forced to run a house for them for \$15,000 a month.

The family was also forced to send them \$180,000 for us keep as Wacera had to undergo dialysis three times a week.

Githinji made an arrangement with an Indian tailor Aurif Khokar, who also had a kidney problem.

In the deal, Njeri agreed to donate her kidney to Khokar whose wife accepted to give hers to Wacera.

Tests had revealed that Njeri could swap kidneys with Khokar while his wife's kidney could match Wacera's.

"It took almost a year for the surgery to be done as the Indian government could not allow swift swapping of body organs," Wambui said.

The surgery was successfully done on April 9. The two are the first in the world to undergo an international kidney swap. However, Wacera cannot leave the hospital due to the outstanding medical bill which now stands at \$1.8 million.

The family says it cannot raise the bill and money for their return to Kenya. They are asking the government to help their relatives to return home.

Photo: FANUYAL BUN



21 YEARS LATER, Esther Wacera, 33, the first world kidney swap donor who has been detained by Mumbai's Hinduja Hospital for failing to pay a \$12-million medical bill.

2 Nanyuki poachers bonded

BY KINGS WAWERU

TWO suspected poachers who were found with game trophies were yesterday charged at a Nanyuki court.

Isenau Ruso, 38, and Ismael Choya, 37, denied being in possession of elephant tusks and a leopard skin.

The two were allegedly found with three pieces of ivory weighing four kilograms and a leopard skin at Ekarama Ranch in Laikipia county.

The ivory is worth \$140,000 while the skin is valued at \$120,000.

Ruso and Choya also denied trying to sell the trophy to police officers.

Principal magistrate Teresia Bosibori released them on a \$550,000 bond each and a surety of similar amount.

Bosibori also ordered that they be supplied with copies of the prosecution's witness statements.

The case will be heard on August 20.

Ruling on

Medical appeal



Kidney transplant survivor Esther Wacera has been detained at an Indian hospital over a Sh1.8 million bill. (PHOTO: COURTESY)

Indian hospital detains Kenyan over Sh1.8m bill

Wacera underwent life saving kidney operation but her family is unable to pay the hefty cost

By ERIC WAINAINA

Mr John Githinji from Thindigua Village in Kiambu and his family are in distress following his daughter's detention by an Indian hospital over a Sh1.8 million bill.

The hospital's management has refused to release his daughter who has undergone a successful kidney transplant, unless the money is paid.

DECLARED FIT

Ms Esther Wacera Githinji, 33, flew to Hinduja Hospital in March last year for a kidney transplant after waiting for 10 years to get a suitable donor.

This is the second transplant after an earlier one where her 60-year-old mother donated to her but her kidney in 2005 failed.

Thankfully, Ann Githinji, Wacera's sister, volunteered to donate a kidney to her last year. To facilitate a transplant, the family raised Sh1.1 million by selling off some of their assets, including taking a loan and holding a fundraising. The money, he says, was enough for exercise that was to take between three to four weeks.

However, after medical analysis, doctors at the hospital said Wacera's body was not compatible with a kidney from a family member, especially because it had rejected the organ donated by her mother seven years ago after using it for only 11 months.

Doctors advised them to seek a donor outside their family and were lucky when they found an Indian family that was suffering a similar plight and were willing to do a kidney exchange.

However, there was an obstacle. The Indian Government refused to do the transplant, saying that one of their own could not give a kidney to a Kenyan, leading to a legal tussle, said Ms Julia Wambui, an older sister to the detainee. It took 13 months to clear the legal hurdles for the exchange to take place.

All this time, Wacera and her mother were living in a rental house in the country and the family was spending between Sh60,000 to Sh80,000 per month for their upkeep.

After the transplant, Wacera developed complications and had to undergo three other costly operations, adding to the already astronomical bills.

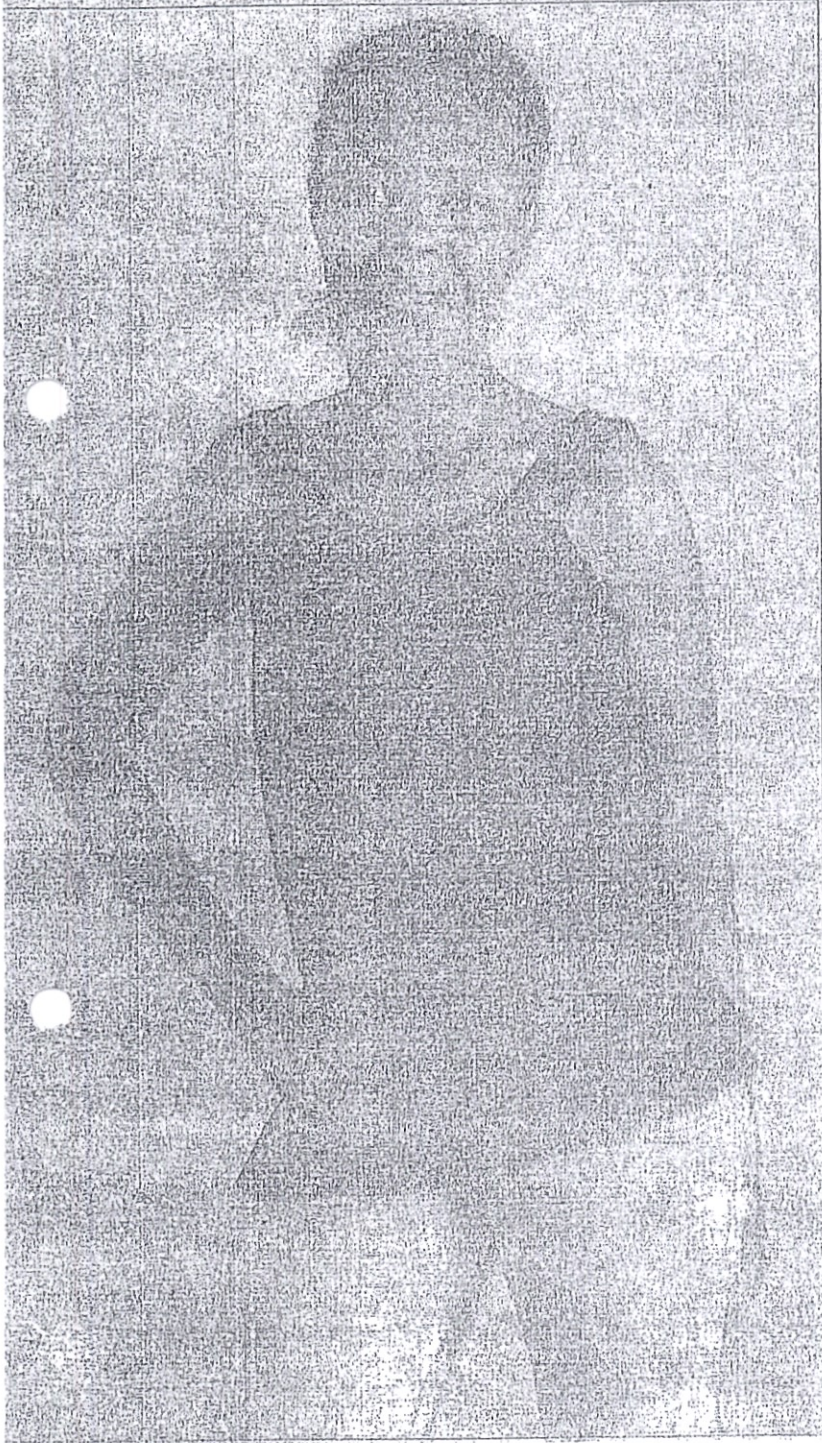
Luckily, Wacera was declared fit after the operation and discharged on March 16 this year but is still held up at the hospital with her mother who has been tending to her.

Githinji is burdened by his daughter's medical bill, which, he says, has so far cost the family Sh10 million.

"I have been reduced to a pauper because I sold my livestock and property and am remaining only with the plot where my house stands. If only I could get the money to pay the bill and for their ticket back home, I will struggle with the cost of further care," he said.

Financial assistance can be sent to M-PESA No 0723 952 010 or Bank Account No Esther W Githinji Medical Fund, Equity Bank, Moi Avenue Branch, Account no 0470194026918.

Family stranded in India over bill



Esther Githinji, her mother barred from leaving India for failure to pay up Sh2 million hospital bill, which the family is unable to raise

By JOHN KARUME

AGONY has gripped a family in Thindigua, Kiambu County over their sister and mother who have been stranded in India for more than one year over Sh2 million hospital bills.

Esther Githinji, accompanied by her mother Agnes, left for India last year to undergo a kidney transplant but have been barred from returning home after failing to pay the bill.

Esther has suffered from a kidney failure for the last 10 years, with efforts to treat her in Kenya proving futile, despite expenditure of Sh10 million.

Treatment

Her father, John Githinji, said treatment has been very expensive and has eaten into the family business and savings. The family was even forced to sell a portion of their land.

"I have sold all my cows and other property. We are only left with a plot where we live because we sold the rest of the land," said Githinji.

Once in India, Esther was bound to face challenges, with her old mother bearing the brunt of being in a foreign country where she does not know anyone and cannot communicate fluently in English.

Esther's first setback was kidney mismatch after it was established that the kidney of her sister Ann, donor, did not match and the family had to find for an alternative. Consequently, Esther and her mother were forced to seek accommodation in India since their stay had indefinitely been

prolonged. They rented a house which they pay for Sh15,000 per month.

She was also undergoing dialysis three times in a week, costing them Sh80,000 which the family managed to raise through fund-raising.

Fortunately, Esther managed to find a kidney match from an Indian but had to wait for more than one year to undergo the operation due to the legal processes involved. She successfully underwent the transplant in April 9, this year.

Her sister Julia says the cost of the operation, which was estimated to be Sh1.1 million, has escalated to Sh1.8 million, exclusive of travel expenses of Sh200,000.

"We are not in a position to raise any more money because we have nothing left to sell. Esther is now completely healed but they cannot leave India because the hospital has barred them until we pay up," said Julia.

Operation

The family has appealed to well-wishers to help raise the Sh2 million to have their loved ones back in Kenya.

Kidney transplants are done in only a few local hospitals in Kenya and are very expensive, with the number of people who fly out for the operation very high.

A kidney transplant costs up to Sh500,000 at Kenyatta National Hospital and at least Sh1 million in private hospitals.

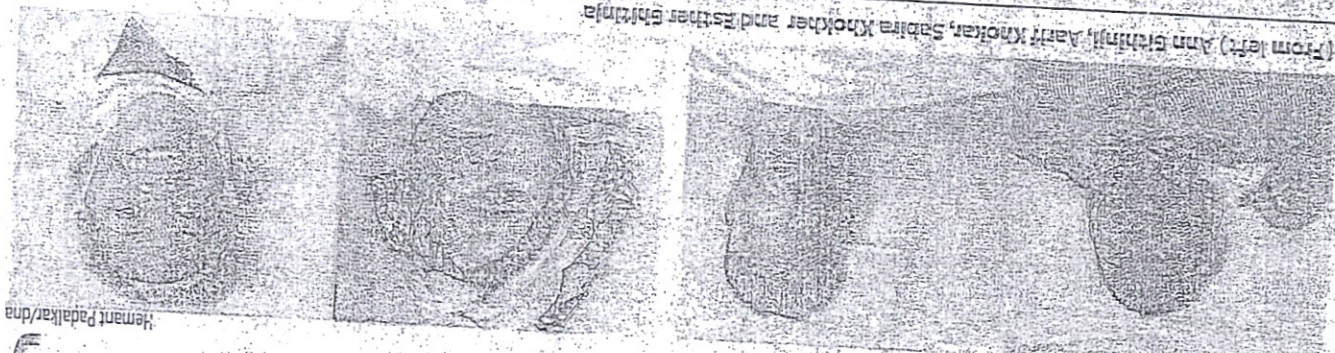
After a transplant, a patient has to take expensive anti-rejection drugs that cost between Sh30,000 and Sh60,000 per month.

HELP NEEDED: Esther Githinji, who has been detained at Hindaju hospital in India along with her mother, for failure to pay hospital bill. PHOTO BY JOHN KARUME

Credit goes to docs for 1st global kidney swap

It took 17 full years to clear legal hurdles on swap involving India, Kenya patients

Santosh Anshale@santosh_anshale



(From left) Ann Githini, Aarti Khokar, Sabira Khokar and Esther Githinja

17 days after the first kidney swap transplant was conducted between patients from two different countries, doctors said that both patients were doing fine. However, more than a clinic challenge, doctors said the legal process was a more daunting task in this case. On Tuesday, Ann Githini donated her kidney to Aarti Khokar, an Indian patient who had donated a kidney to Sabira Khokar, the sister of Esther. The swap transplants were carried out at two city hospitals. This swap transpired the year and many people cheered in the county to help sort matters out this year.

Among those who pitched in to help sort matters out this year, joint director of the directorate of medical education and research, Dr. Pravin Shingare, said. He explained that the Maharashtra State Authorization Committee's nod was required as the transplant process was to be conducted at two hospitals. Hinduja Medical Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Mumbai, said it was the first case in his career where an Indian patient has donated a kidney to a foreigner and vice versa. Medically, this swap transplant was not challenging but the legal process was a clinic challenge. Nephrologist at Hinduja Hospital, Dr. Gustad Davar, said he sought a no-objection certificate from the states of Rajasthan and Maharashtra. A no-objection certificate was also required from the Kenya Embassy. The Rajasthan state government was not keen to issue the certificate due to legal issues involving organ donors related to the recipient. Dr. Kohari said that prior to the transplant, Esther had difficulty passing urine. A day after the procedure, it was not the same case, he said, adding that the level of serum creatinine in her body is now within the normal range. Serum creatinine is an indicator of kidney function. A high level indicates kidney dysfunction. Esther, a psychology graduate, is related that life was soon limp back to normalcy for her. "Finally, it's joy evident in her voice. At one point, we had almost given up as

our governments refused to give our permission for the first such swap. But doctors kept our hopes aloft. I'm looking forward to a normal life now." Esther's sister Ann, who donated a kidney to the husband of the woman who gave her own kidney to Esther, echoed a similar sentiment of victory. Nephrologist, Rajesh Kumar from BSES hospital, where the operation of the swap transplant was done, said the patient at his end was doing well. "All I can say now is that I'm happy for both families," said Dr. Kumar. From his hospital, Dr. Anil said all credit goes to doctors and well-wishers. "Let's hope this sets a precedent to the world about how two countries can share organs and make life happy for so many kidney failure patients," he said. Aarti's wife Sabra said she was very grateful to the Almighty. santosh_anshale@rediffmail.com

Mumbai: Sahara group's managing worker and chairman Subrata Roy and three other officials met Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) officials on Wednesday in the Rs24,000 crore refund case.

They were quizzed about their personal assets and group assets. Sebi intends to proceed with the sale of movable properties of the group and refund investor money. Roy said he does not own any movable property and revealed details about his bank accounts. Roy's personal assets were around Rs3 crore, a Sahara statement said later. Roy said Sebi was wasting time by not verifying its investor base. A chunk of the monies raised is with Sebi, hence it cannot be returned to investors, he said.

Related report, p17

MEET After a year-long wait, Rajasthan couple and Kenyan siblings get a chance at organ donation

Kidney swap: The story ends on a happy note

Sarvoti Andhale @SarvotiAndhale

Mumbai: The day's procedure was as smooth as the Khokias and Githinjis had hoped it would be ever since they began their search for the right donor. After a year-long wait, doctors in the city successfully completed the country's first international kidney swap transplant between a Kenyan and a Rajasthan family on Tuesday.

Husband-wife duo Aarti and Sabira Khokar as well as Kenyan siblings Esther and Ann Githinji had been locked in a battle for a year with the government to get a nod for the transplant.

They hit a wall after government agencies quoting complex laws on transplant surgeries claimed that there was no legal provision to permit such a swap.

On March 14, Ana had highlighted in a report, *Unending wait for kidney and life*, how the country's laws were posing a hurdle to India's first international organ swap surgery. Things began to look up when the Rajasthan government issued a no-objection certificate for the procedure on March 18.



Ann Githinji recovering after the transplant. —Mehant, Paalkar/DNA

All loose ends tied up, on Tuesday when Ann donated a kidney to Aarti at BSES Hospital in Mumbai and Sabira

Mumbai: The sessions court on Wednesday convicted Ak Jain, an IPS officer, and Prazanna Lodha, his chartered accountant, under charges of demanding and accepting bribes from a subordinate Sanjeev Koli.



Koli was the area in-charge when a deputy commissioner of police aided a bar that was open well beyond the permitted hour, in Byculla on

21-22 in 2000. He was then pulled up for not cracking down on the bar authorities. After a police report on this was passed on to Jain, then additional commissioner of police (General), he demanded a bribe of Rs510 lakh from Koli to let him off the hook, claiming that the report proved his complicity in letting the bar stay open late into the night. He consulted Lodha before making

On Wednesday, the court sentenced both Jain and Lodha to five years of rigorous imprisonment. It also slapped a fine of Rs1.50 lakh on Jain and of Rs1.25 lakh on Lodha.

the deal was settled at Rs510 lakh. Koli, then, approached anti-corruption bureau officials who caught Jain red-handed.

The trial against Jain was delayed. It began only in 2009 since the authorities had to get in place all the requisite permissions to prosecute him.

On Wednesday, the court sentenced both Jain and Lodha to five years of rigorous imprisonment. It also slapped a fine of Rs1.50 lakh on Jain and of Rs1.25 lakh on Lodha.

her, 33 and Ann, 35, as well as their mother, Agnes, 60, at a suburban dialysis centre. Esther was diagnosed with chronic renal failure in 2003 and body rejected Agnes' kidney. Although Ann was a prospective donor, her kidney could not be used. But Sabira's kidney was a perfect match for Esther, says Dr Jatin Koghan, nephrologist at Hinduja Hospital.

Sabira could donate a kidney to Aarti, who was diagnosed with the same condition as Esther 10 months ago. But it soon became clear that through a swap transplant, she could save two lives.

Related report, p10