

## PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

6th March 2025, Mombasa, Kenya.

# SHA FOR WHO?

Human Rights Agenda (HURIA) joins other Kenyans in expressing our fury over the news by the Auditor General that billions of Kenya tax payers' funds meant for the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) were not spent prudently, effectively and within the law. We are equally annoyed that these hard-earned public resources are apparently managed by private firms instead of state institutions putting our right to privacy, confidentiality of personal information, and the management at risk, and the fund itself vulnerable to embezzlement and making the state oversight impractical.

We wish to remind the Kenya Kwanza Government of its commitment to setting up a national health insurance fund coverage for all Kenyans without exclusion in the principal of leaving no one behind. It is unfortunate that the current operations of the SHA appear to leave everyone behind expect few tycoons and politically correct individuals.

The Government must respect that the right to health must be an inclusive one, extending not only to timely and appropriate health care, but also to the underlying determinants of health. Kenyans must therefore enjoy their entitlement to the right to a system of health care and the underlying social determinants that provides equality of opportunity for people to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.

Recent mere acknowledgment by senior government officials including the Prime Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Musalia Mudavadi that all is not smooth in the running of SHIF, is not good enough. Kenyans are heavily taxed and cannot continue bearing the unprecedented schemes of alleged thuggery and theft to our tax revenue. Kenyans must be assured of value for their money.

We are therefore calling on Members of the National Assembly and Senate to rise above their political interests and bring an end to the suffering and agony of millions of Kenyans due to the inefficiency of the controversial health-care system.

We are also challenging the Government to lay all facts bare about the alleged private companies and individuals running the SHIF scheme and related operations to end this uncertainty.

End



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**Our Rights, Our Agenda**

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