NEWS GENERAL

SH10BN SHORTFALL

TSC to hire 16k teachers as hundreds out of SHA cover

Critical funding gaps threaten to leave tutors without essential medical scheme

MOSES OGADA
@AliwaMoses

THE Teachers Service Commission has proposed the recruitment of 16,000 additional teachers in the 2026–27 financial year.

This comes as it emerged that hundreds of teachers are being locked out of medical cover under the Social Health Authority due to a Sh10 billion funding shortfall.

Appearing before the National Assembly Education Committee on Thursday, TSC said although its budget has increased from Sh387 billion to Sh422 billion, critical funding gaps threaten to leave teachers without essential medical cover.

At the session, chaired by Tinderet MP Julius Melly at Parliament Buildings, it emerged that SHA medical cover for teachers faces a massive deficit.

TSC has been allocated Sh16.5 billion for medical cover, yet the actuarial cost stands at Sh26.5 billion, creating a Sh10 billion gap that is already affecting teachers.

Kabondo Kasipul MP Eve Obara pressed TSC on the shortfall and asked how much more was needed to ensure teachers are not left without cover.

TSC acting CEO Evelyn Mitei acknowledged the crisis. "The actuarial cost is Sh26.5 billion. We are Sh10 billion short. This is the money we will be asking the Treasury to give us.

"We will be meeting with SHA on Monday to discuss how to make the scheme better. We have had a challenge with treatments outside the country," she said.

The revelation sparked concern among committee members.

Kitutu Masaba MP Clive Gisairo asked about the practical implications for teachers already struggling to access services.



Teachers Service Commission CEO Eveleen Mitei before National Assembly Committee on Education at Bunge Towers /DOUGLAS OKIDDY

Committee chairman Melly noted that TSC had not indicated the funding gap in its official wish list submitted to Parliament.

TSC clarified that discussions on the uncovered teachers are ongoing.

"The issue of SHA is ongoing; we are agreeing on the model. We can confirm the figure after the meeting with SHA. We do not want to pin a figure when the discussions are ongoing."

OVERSIGHT

Lawmakers threaten sanctions as PS Bitok skips budget hearing

MOSES OGADA

BASIC Education Principal Secretary Julius Bitok is facing mounting pressure from lawmakers after failing to appear before a House committee.

Bitok was to appear before the National Assembly's Education Committee to defend his ministry's allocation in the Budget Policy Statement.

MPs on the Education committee accused the PS of repeatedly ignoring summons and treating the House with contempt.

The lawmakers warned that punitive measures are now under consideration.

Led by committee chairperson Julius Melly (Tinderet MP), the legislators said the PS's absence from the crucial budget hearing had disrupted their timelines and undermined Parliament's oversight role.

"Because it's not the first time and when he has failed to appear in this very important session, we are really saddened, and our timelines are now over," Melly said.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF GARISSA
P.O. BOX 563-70100

Date: 19th February, 2026

TENDER ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

The County Government of Garissa invites sealed bids/tenders from interested and eligible contractors for tenders listed below: -

S/NO.	TENDER	TENDER DESCRIPTION	BID BOND (KSHS)	ELIGIBILITY
1.	CGG/T/GSSS/01/2025- 2026	PHASE I OF THE PROPOSED GARISSA CULTURAL MUSEUM, GARISSA COUNTY	260,000.00	OPEN TO ALL
2.	CGG/T/GSSS/02/2025- 2026	PHASE II OF THE PROPOSED PAVILLION AT GARISSA PRIMARY SCHOOL IN GARISSA COUNTY	3,600,000.00	OPEN TO ALL
3.	CGG/T/ALFC/004/2025- 2026	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VACCINES	400,000.00	OPEN TO ALL
4.	CGG/T/KDSP11/CA/001/20 25-2026	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LAPTOPS, DESKTOPS, AND ACCESSORIES	N/A	RESERVED FOR YOUTH
		RE-ADVERTISED TENDERS		
1.	CGG/T/ALFC/001/2025- 2026	PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF SIX (6 NO.) MODERN PUBLIC TOILETS IN GARISSA LIVESTOCK MARKET- GARISSA TOWNSHIP	N/A	RESERVED FOR YOUTH
2.	CGG/T/WS/07/2025-2026	PROPOSED DANYERE WATER SYTEMS IN BALAMBALA SUB COUNTY GARISSA COUNTY	300,000.00	OPEN TO ALL
3.	CGG/T/HEALTH/004/2025- 2026	PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 16 BED CAPACITY MALE WARD AT MADINA LEVEL IV HOSPITAL IN TOWNSHIP SUB COUNTY	490,000.00	OPEN TO ALL

A complete set of tender documents may be downloaded by interested bidders FREE OF CHARGE from the County's Website(s) ***www.garissa.go.ke*** or the Public Procurement Information Portal ***(www.tenders.go.ke).***

Completed Tender documents should be deposited in the Tender Box located at the Urban Planning Offices (former Municipality) on or before **Thursday 5th March, 2026 at 10.30 a.m. E.A.T.**

Tender documents will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of all Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at the **Urban Planning Offices (former Municipality).**

Bidders who download the tender documents must submit their company name, postal, physical email and telephone addresses to the **Director, Supply Chain Management** to receive any further clarifications and /or addendum where necessary.

COUNTY SECRETARY AND HEAD OF PUBLIC SERVICE
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF GARISSA.

MEDICINES DIVERTED

Duale raises alarm over private chemists around public hospitals

LUKE AWICH

THE Health ministry has raised the alarm over the rapid proliferation of private chemists operating around public hospitals.

The ministry has warned that some facilities could be colluding with rogue medics to divert medicines.

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale on Thursday cautioned state-employed medics against engaging in unethical practices, including directing patients to specific chemists.

Duale told MPs there is a worrying trend of private pharmacies mushrooming just outside major referral and county hospitals. This has raised concerns about possible conflicts of interest and exploitation of patients.

"If you go to some of our referral hospitals, I will give you an example of Kisii. The hospital is surrounded by chemists. Every referral, every rural hospital — go to Nyeri, go to Garissa, everywhere in this country — they are surrounded by the same people. And the question is, who are the owners? Most likely, the owners are staff of the county, so they send their patients to pay directly," Duale said.

The CS said the ministry has observed what he described as strange trends. Out of 52,000 patients who have gone through hospital processes digitally, only about 9,000 have received drugs.

"We have found that our referral hospitals, for example, Kakamega, Bomet and a number of others, since SHA came into being, over 52,000 patients have gone through the hospital digitally, and you can view them," he said.

"But out of these 52,000, only 9,000 have received drugs. So we



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale /HANDOUT