

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **MASS ACTION THAT ATTACKS MEDIA IS SELF-DEFEATING AND THREATENS DEMOCRACY**

**NAIROBI-** The Media Council of Kenya strongly condemns attacks on journalists covering the ongoing protests. We have received reports of violent physical attacks on media personnel, including the destruction of their equipment and information collated. Some journalists have also lost their valuables.

Reports of journalists being attacked by goons participating in the demos and by law enforcement officers who are supposed to provide security cannot be tolerated. Police officers attacking journalists undermines press freedom, limits the public's access to information, violates human rights and can cause physical or psychological harm. It is essential that journalists are able to carry out their work without fear of violence or harassment, and that law enforcement agencies are held accountable for any actions that violate their rights or impede their ability to report on events.

Demonstrators attacking the media demean the spirit of mass action as it betrays the foundations of democracy on which it is founded. Organising mass action which starts by attacking the media is defeatist and dangerous to democratic values.

Journalists play a vital role in providing accurate and timely information to the public, and attacks on them while carrying out their duties are unacceptable. The freedom of the press is a cornerstone of democracy, and any attempt to intimidate or harm journalists is a direct assault on this fundamental right. Attacks on journalists during demonstrations are a serious concern and must be condemned by all those who value press freedom and democracy.

The Council is monitoring and will work closely with law enforcement agencies to ensure that those responsible for the attacks are held accountable for their actions, and for measures to be taken to prevent such incidents from happening in the future.

We commend and stand in solidarity with all journalists who put themselves at risk to report on events and keep the public informed, and we reiterate our commitment to fiercely defend the freedom of the press.

We encourage anyone aggrieved by the media to report any complaints to the Media Complaints Commission which is legally mandated to mediate on the same instead of taking the law into their own hands.



**David Omwoyo Omwoyo, MBS**

Chief Executive Officer & Secretary to the Council

***Promoting Media Freedom and Responsible Journalism***