

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS CONSTITUTE A MAJOR SETBACK TO PRESS FREEDOM**

**NAIROBI-** The Media Council of Kenya strongly condemns the attack on journalists who were covering a security operation at an illegal alcohol brewing den in Matungulu, Machakos County on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Journalists Mike Ndunda from Kamba TV, Athiani FM's Richard Muasya and Boniface Mutisya of Mutongoi TV had been invited to cover the raid conducted in Katine area by the local Chief Francis Mulinge and were attacked by a group of individuals as they recorded the operation.

We wish to remind members of the public that freedom of the press is a fundamental pillar of a democratic society, and journalists play a crucial role in keeping the public informed by highlighting societal evils. It is essential that journalists can carry out their work without fear of violence or intimidation.

Attacks on journalists not only violate their basic human rights but also undermine the principles of free speech and open discourse that are vital for a healthy society. We call on all citizens to respect the essential work that journalists do and to support their right to report the news without fear of harm.

We urge our law enforcement authorities to take swift and decisive action to investigate and prosecute those responsible for these attacks. Attacks on journalists are crimes that go against the journalists' rights and privileges protected by law under the Constitution and the Media Council Act, 2013. Protecting the safety and freedom of journalists is a shared responsibility, and we must all work together to ensure that they can continue to do their vital work without fear of violence or reprisal.

We encourage anyone aggrieved by the media to report any complaints to the 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