

PRESS STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MCK SUSPENDS ACCREDITATION FOR SIAYA JOURNALISTS ENGAGED IN PUBLIC BRAWLS

NAIROBI- The Media Council of Kenya (MCK) has suspended the registration of three Siaya-based journalists who were recently involved in a scuffle during a public event on 20th January 2024.

The decision was revealed following a meeting between the Council and the three - Josiah Odanga (Radio Africa Group - *The Star*), George Amolo (Royal Media Services - *Ramogi*) and Mary Goretty Juma (Mediamax Network-*K24*) at the Council's Kisumu offices.

The Council's Chief Executive Officer Mr David Omwoyo who led the meeting, informed the journalists of the Council's decision to suspend their MCK accreditation with immediate effect.

The Council has also communicated the suspension to the managing editors of the respective media houses where the journalists work.

This decision stems from MCK's mandate, conferred by the Media Council Act, 2013, to promote and protect media independence as well as enhance ethical and professional standards among journalists and media enterprises.

"Considering your own admission of engaging in unprofessional conduct, such as demanding and fighting for handouts, the Council hereby suspends your accreditation until further notice," Mr Omwoyo informed the trio.

The Council will further engage with the editorial leadership of the affected media houses to discuss conditions for reinstatement of accreditation.

"We believe we have given the journalists a fair hearing and that administrative action is necessary to restore sanity and discipline in the profession," said Mr Omwoyo.

The Council views the journalists' action as a violation of the Code of Conduct for the Practice of Journalism in Kenya, specifically Articles 4 and 5 on Integrity and Accountability respectively, which require journalists to "desist from soliciting or accepting gifts, favours or compensation from those who might seek to influence coverage" and "actively encourage adherence to these standards by all journalists and media practitioners."

Issued in Nairobi on 25 January 2024
For and on behalf of the Media Council of Kenya

DAVID OMWOYO OMWOYO, MBS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL

Promoting Media Freedom and Responsible Journalism