



PRESS STATEMENT

Thursday, 4 December 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MCK CONDEMNS GACHAGUA’S DANGEROUS ATTACK ON JOURNALIST STEPHEN LETOO AND THREAT TO MEDIA FREEDOM

Nairobi – The Media Council of Kenya (MCK) strongly condemns the reckless and dangerous remarks made by former Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on 3 December 2025, in which he publicly named *Citizen TV* journalist Stephen Letoo, labelling him “the worst journalist”, accusing him of bias, and demanding his dismissal by Royal Media Services.

Such targeted attacks on individual journalists by senior political figures are utterly unacceptable and pose a direct threat to their safety and lives. In a climate already fraught with insecurity at political rallies, church gatherings, and public events—where disputes over mobilisation often escalate into violence—singling out a journalist by name constitutes incitement and places him in grave personal danger.

As Kenya edges towards electioneering ahead of the 2027 General Election, this is precisely the time when citizens and the media must be free to scrutinise aspiring leaders, examine their records, and report facts without fear or favour.

When figures who claim to champion democracy resort to intimidation and demand the sacking of journalists simply for fulfilling their constitutional duty, they must be unequivocally condemned.

The Media Council reminds Mr Gachagua and all political actors that media freedom and journalists’ safety are non-negotiable, enshrined in Article 34 of the Constitution and fundamental to our democracy.

We urge all leaders, current and former, to immediately stop targeting, threatening, or inciting harm against journalists. We further call on law-enforcement agencies to note such statements and provide adequate protection to media workers who face growing risks while carrying out their duties.

The media will not be silenced by intimidation. Those seeking public office must accept scrutiny rather than attempt to suppress it.

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Promoting Press Freedom and Responsible Journalism