



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

**Sunday, 7 September 2025**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **MEDIA ATTACKS ON LSK PRESIDENT FAITH ODHIAMBO FOR ACCEPTING PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT ARE UNCALLED FOR AND IN BAD FAITH**

**Nairobi** - The Media Council of Kenya (MCK) has noted with utmost concern the unwarranted and unjustified media attacks targeting the Law Society of Kenya (LSK) President Ms Faith Odhiambo and other Kenyans for accepting appointments to the Presidential Panel of Experts on Compensation of Victims of Protests and Riots.

The Media Council of Kenya praises the media's dedication to democracy and truth under tough conditions. During protests, journalists faced brutal attacks, yet no perpetrators were held accountable despite identification. In trials of police officers accused of killing Kenyans, journalists bravely provided vital evidence under oath. A conviction would reflect their courage. Suggesting the media should have refused to testify is an absurdity that undermines their pursuit of justice.

It is therefore profoundly perplexing and hypocritical that some sections of the media have chosen to vilify Ms Odhiambo for accepting a role to serve the public. When an institution like the LSK criticises government actions but declines an invitation to help address them, it risks becoming a rebel without a cause. By insisting the LSK President reject the appointment, these outlets are limiting the LSK to pure criticism, ignoring its vital potential to improve governance from within.

It is worth noting that LSK members currently lead key public institutions, including the Judiciary, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Attorney General's Office and even the Media Complaints Commission. Decisions made by these individuals are often viewed as government decisions. To demand that Ms Odhiambo reject her appointment is an illogical demand tantamount to calling for all LSK members in public service to resign and focus solely on criticising the government. Such a stance is neither logical nor constructive; it undermines the very fabric of collaborative progress.

The media has an indisputable right to critique government actions and hold those in authority accountable. However, condemning Ms Odhiambo for an anticipated failure before she has even begun her work is not only premature but also cynical, counterproductive and borders on sadism. When the media succumbs to the pressure of mob justice, it becomes the greatest betrayer of its own independence and objectivity, eroding public trust and betraying the principles it claims to defend.

The MCK urges the media to allow the LSK President to serve on the Presidential Panel and contribute to the compensation of victims. We call for fairness, objectivity and restraint in reporting on this matter. Let us not prejudge or vilify those who choose to serve the nation in good faith. Instead, let us unite in supporting efforts that foster justice, accountability and national healing.

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