

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MCK ANNOUNCES MORE COVID-19 GRANT BENEFICIARIES **Seven More Associations and 40 More Health Reporting Grantees To Receive Support**

NAIROBI, 15th May, 2020 – The Media Council of Kenya (MCK) extended its support to journalists and media associations and support group, Friday by launching the second phase of grants, as part of its targeted interventions for the sector.

“We are glad to announce this next phase of support to the media sector as part of our practical interventions to keep journalists and their associations at work for their members. The MCK will continue to do all it can to ensure we emerge stronger from this pandemic”, said the MCK’s CEO, David Omwoyo while announcing the support.

In the first phase launched on 23rd April, 2020, the MCK supported 13 associations and has now extended it to 7 more (in alphabetical order):

ORGANIZATION
Gender Media Network (GMN)
Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET)
Kenya Environment & Science Journalists Association (KENSJA)
Kenya Media Network for Population & Development (KMNPD)
Kenya Parliamentary Journalists Association (KPJA)
Media for Environment, Science, Health & Agriculture (MESHA)
Science Africa

“As we mobilize resources, we shall ensure that we continually facilitate associations to give the necessary support to their members even as they in turn ensure that the output from their members continues to serve public interest, especially in the context of COVID-19”, noted MCK’s Head of Media Development & Strategy, Victor Bwire.

The MCK also announced, Friday, grants to an additional 40 successful applicants to its Health Reporting Grant programme, bringing the total number of journalists supported through the programme, to 100. As with the first phase, the applicants will undergo an online mentorship session, with the four panelists and MCK staff to prepare them to write their stories.



“We are pleased to announce the second batch grantees will be start off with a virtual training session on Friday, 15th May, 2020 and have follow up sessions with individual mentors during the next one week through the MCK’s Africa Media Academy”, said MCK’s Christine Nguku, the Manager for Training & Media Development and head of the MCK Africa Media Academy.

The grant applications were reviewed by a panel of four eminent media professionals: renowned journalist and communications practitioner with over 30 years’ experience, Caleb Atemi, multi-award-winning journalist and current Chair of the board of Africa Check, Judie Kaberia, experienced journalist and media trainer, Sammy Muraya and the Director of Academic Affairs at the Aga Khan University’s Graduate School of Media & Communications (GSMC), Dr. Nancy Booker, who all expressed optimism that the successful grantees will deliver quality health stories.

“Journalists are the mirror of society and they have a public interest duty to inform, but also educate audiences and the population at large”, noted Caleb Atemi.

Dr. Nancy Booker, opined: “It is time journalists now begin to focus on investigative reporting. It adds value to the depth and impact of a story”.

Judie Kaberia for her part, noted: “Journalists are pursuing very interesting angles to the story of healthcare and I am looking forward to seeing these narratives”.

In closing, Sammy Muraya, had this to say as far as radio is concerned: “I hope journalists will explore more creative use of sound and descriptive language in delivering their stories”.

About the Media Council of Kenya

The Media Council of Kenya (MCK) is the principal body mandated to develop and regulate the media industry in Kenya in order to promote media freedom, professionalism and independence. It is established by law under the Media Council Act of 2013 to fulfill Article 34 (5) of the Constitution of Kenya which enshrines media freedom.

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