

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

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27<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **THE EDUCATION CABINET SECRETARY'S FREQUENT INTIMIDATION OF THE MEDIA SHOULD CEASE**

The Media Council of Kenya has noted the unfortunate remarks against a Nation Media Group journalist during a Question-and-Answer session with the Cabinet Secretary for Education Professor George Magoha on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

Just recently, on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021, the same Cabinet Secretary was also recorded on live TV making a personal attack against a Standard Group journalist Mr. Augustine Oduor for breaking a story on the launch of a Strategic Plan of a parastatal based at the Ministry of Education.

On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the Media Council of Kenya wrote to the CS and the Commission on Administrative Justice to protest a ministerial directive by the Ministry of Education requiring journalists to seek special permission to visit schools for media coverage.

MCK then requested the CS to review the conditions he had issued to the effect that journalists would only be allowed to visit schools in the company of officers from the Ministry, a position that, in the Council's view, violated the privileges, rights, and freedoms of the media as provided for under international treaties and conventions, and Articles 34 and 35 of the Constitution.

The Media Council of Kenya calls on the National Integration and Cohesion Commission (NCIC) to ensure the Cabinet Secretary issues an unconditional apology, withdraws the unfortunate remarks, and rescinds his directives against the smooth operation of media.

The Council is disturbed that such comments, actions, and directives by a senior government official can expose members of the Fourth Estate to unnecessary harassment, ridicule, and victimisation in the line of duty.



**David Omwoyo Omwoyo**

Chief Executive Officer & Secretary to the Council