

PRESS STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC FIGHTS AMONG JOURNALISTS A DENT TO THE PROFESSION

NAIROBI- The Media Council of Kenya (MCK) is dismayed by a public scuffle involving three journalists during an event in Siaya County on Saturday, January 20. The Council notes that the conduct by *The Star* newspaper's Josiah Odanga, *K24's* Mary Goretty Juma and George Amolo of *Royal Media Services* is unacceptable and undermines the public's trust in the media and imperils the critical role journalists play in our society.

The Council unequivocally condemns all forms of violence, including those perpetrated by members of the press against their own or on members of the public. Journalists resorting to physical fights and engaging in slander not only jeopardises their professional credibility but also undermines the principles of responsible journalism.

Journalists have a responsibility to conduct themselves with integrity and decorum, even in the face of aggression. We encourage all journalists to uphold their commitment to truth, accuracy and objectivity, and to prioritise respectful dialogue and constructive criticism over personal attacks or violence.

The Council is ready to offer its support and assistance to the journalists involved in this incident. We encourage them to seek mediation or other forms of conflict resolution to address the underlying issues and prevent future violence. Further, we urge media houses to stop publishing one-sided stories written by their respective employees as this causes more confusion and veils facts during a conflict.

The Council remains committed to working with all stakeholders to create a more respectful and collaborative media environment. We believe that journalists can, and should, work together to hold power to account, inform the public and contribute to a better society.

The Council has already investigated the incident and urges the relevant media organisations to equally undertake a comprehensive investigation and take appropriate disciplinary action against those involved. Any accredited journalists engaged in such altercations risk losing their registration with the Council.

We also confirm that the three journalists are fully accredited by the Media Council of Kenya and are free and should be enabled to work in any part of Kenya irrespective of their place of origin.

The Council believes in upholding the highest ethical standards within the journalism profession, and this includes addressing internal conflicts in a professional and constructive manner.

Issued in Nairobi on 23 January 2024
For and on behalf of the Media Council of Kenya

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