

PRESS STATEMENT

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Friday, 24th February 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC UTTERANCES EXPOSE JOURNALISTS TO DANGER

NAIROBI- The Media Council of Kenya is concerned with public utterances by key government officials against the media at public meetings. Such statements put journalists at risk as they may be attacked by members of the public.

These attacks undermine the freedom of the press and are attempts to undermine the role of the press in holding the government accountable, which is a foundation of democratic societies.

Further, when leaders attack journalists, it can erode public trust in the media by creating an atmosphere of distrust and suspicion towards the press. This can lead to questions on the accuracy and objectivity of news reporting, which is essential for maintaining an informed citizenry.

The Council is urging leaders to stop intimidating journalists and discouraging them from reporting on important stories, which undermines the ability of the press to fulfill its role in society. Attacking journalists, we believe, is a distraction from important issues that require attention and action.

The Council takes such acts as attempts to silence or intimidate the media from undertaking its rightful duty. This, on the flipside, can damage the legitimacy of the government and erode public trust in its ability to govern fairly and effectively.

We urge leaders to refrain from making statements attacking the media in public. Instead, they should work to foster a climate of mutual respect and collaboration with the press, which can help to strengthen democracy and promote the public good.

We ask any leader or member of the public aggrieved by the media to report any complaints to the Media Complaints Commissions which is legally mandated to mediate on the same.



David Omwoyo Omwoyo, MBS

Chief Executive Officer & Secretary to the Council