

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST 60 HEALTH REPORTING GRANTEES ANNOUNCED

Grantees Will Receive Support and Mentorship To Develop COVID-19 Stories

NAIROBI, 8th May, 2020 – The Media Council of Kenya (MCK) awarded the first batch of 60 journalists from across the country, with health reporting grants, Friday.

“We are proud to announce the first 60 grantees after a rigorous vetting process carried out by our panel of four distinguished journalists, media practitioners and academicians. This is a landmark programme that will help shape health conversations around the COVID-19 pandemic”, noted MCK Chief Executive Officer, David Omwoyo.

By the application deadline on 30th April, 2020, the MCK had received 150 applications, which were then vetted by Caleb Atemi, Dr. Nancy Booker, Mr Sammy Muraya and Ms Judie Kaberia. Grantees will be announced every week and will receive grants ranging from KES1,000.00 and KES 25, 000.00.

“Every cohort of grantees will receive mentorship from the four evaluators as they progress with their work as well as periodic webinar coaching from the MCK’s Africa Media Academy”, said Christine Nguku, MCK Manager for Training & Media Development who heads the academy.

The Health Reporting Grant was launched on 21st April, 2020 with the first call for applications under a programme that will see several other calls for applications launched, so as to widen support and facilitation for health reporting on the Corona Virus Disease 19 or COVID-19. It is one of the interventions by the MCK to support the media sector during the pandemic.

“This is one of the programmes we are running to assist the media sector during these uncertain times. We will announce grantees every week until completion, with the aim of ensuring that all applicants are assisted to meet the required criteria and improve their proposals”, noted Victor Bwire MCK Head of Media Development & Strategy.

Calls for Health Reporting Grants will be announced on a rolling basis for the next four weeks and will be open to all journalists with creative story ideas that can have an impact on the Country’s health sector and the Big Four Agenda – Universal Health Care.



Mr. Caleb Atemi is a re-known journalist with more than 25 years' experience in and is currently a lecturer at Kenya Methodist University (KeMU), having also taught at Tangaza University College, United States International University – Africa (USIU-Africa) and the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication (KIMC). He started his career at the Daily Nation, and went on to work at National Social Security Fund (NSSF), Internews and Oxfam among other assignments.

Ms. Judie Kaberia is a multi-award-winning journalist with over 10 years of experience and who currently chairs the Board of Africa Check Foundation in Kenya and is also the East Africa Coordinator for the Wayamo Foundation.

Mr. Sammy Muraya is a journalist and media trainer and journalist with over 15 years' experience. He has trained journalists in Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania. As a trainer he worked with journalists, NGO staff and editors from different regions of Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania.

Dr. Nancy Booker is an Assistant Professor and the Director of Academic Affairs at the Aga Khan University's Graduate School of Media and Communications. She is a distinguished academic, teacher, researcher and media practitioner with over 18 years' experience. She has several academic publications in the areas of broadcast journalism, multimedia storytelling, media management and health communication.

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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