

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MCK CONDEMNS AND CALLS FOR ACTION ON POLICE ATTACKS AGAINST JOURNALISTS**

The Media Council of Kenya takes great exception on the continued attacks against and harassment of journalists over the last few days by officers from the National Police Service. The Council takes such despicable actions by uniformed officers against journalists as a flagrant violation of human rights and press freedom and therefore calls upon the relevant public agencies to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators as a matter of urgency.

“We are petitioning the Independent Police Oversight Authority and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights to immediately establish the circumstances under which the police officers assaulted journalists with a view to holding them responsible”, David Omwoyo, Chief Executive Officer of the Media Council of Kenya says.

The Council documented two incidences over the last few weeks where Simon Ben from the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) based in Nakuru and Muraya Kariuki of Royal Media Services (RMS) based in Nairobi, were ill -treated and harassed by police officers.

The Council has written to IPOA with the details of the two cases calling for action into the two unfortunate incidences.

MCK has on several occasions brought to the attention of the police Inspector General Mr. Hillary Mutyambai, the many pending cases of attacks against journalists reported in several police stations across the country, whose investigation have either stalled or have never taken off.

“We are not taking this inaction by relevant agencies for granted in cases relating to harassment of journalists by uniformed officers, and where necessary, the Council will take action against the identified officers” Omwoyo added.

Media Freedom is a constitutional right provided for under Article 34 of the 2010 Constitution and should be protected by all, led by law enforcement agencies.

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