

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **MCK ASKS THE INDEPENDENT POLICE OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY (IPOA) TO PROBE CONTROVERSIAL ARREST OF NATION MEDIA GROUP JOURNALIST**

The Media Council of Kenya takes great exception by police attempt to shield their own in a case where a fully accredited journalist was arrested, his phone confiscated and media badge destroyed by police officers offering security during the Deputy Presidents' rally that took place at Kangari grounds, Kigumo Constituency, Murang'a County.

While the officers committing the blatant violation of the constitution are clearly visible, the blame game between the local police and the Deputy Presidents' security as to who exactly were the involved is very worrying.

The Council has requested the Independent Police Oversight Authority (IPOA) to help in the identification of the officers involved, probe the circumstances behind the incidence and ensure their prosecution to prevent normalizing impunity and threats to press freedom in the country.

This is the fifth incident in a period, where journalists covering the DP's rallies have been harassed and denied access. Similar altercations between the DP's security and journalists were reported on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 (Mombasa), 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 (Karen Residence- Nairobi) 10<sup>th</sup> August 2019 (Baringo), 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2019 (Kirinyaga) and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (Eldama-Ravine).

Consequently, the Council seeks to remind security agencies of the provision of the national mechanism for the safety and protection of journalists, under the auspices of the Kenya Media Sector Working Group where the National Police Service is a member, to respect journalists and allow them to do their work without unnecessary interference.



**David Omwoyo Omwoyo**  
Chief Executive Officer & Secretary to the Council