



**MEDIA OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF KENYA**  
Empowering The Fourth Estate

**STATEMENT BY MEDIA OWNERS ASSOCIATION ON THE UNWARRANTED  
ATTACKS ON MEDIA BY CABINET SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF  
TRADE, MR MOSES KURIA**

**DATE: JUNE 19, 2023. NAIROBI**

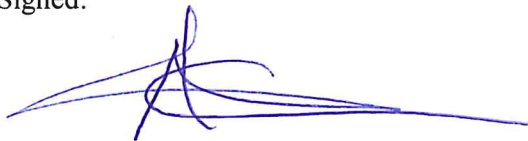
The Media Owners Association is alarmed by threats made against the media, specifically targeting the Nation Media Group, by the Cabinet Secretary of Trade, Moses Kuria, on June 18, 2023, via social media, and wishes to state as follows:

1. The media is an institution of governance established in the Human Rights Chapter of the Constitution of Kenya, and threats to any media house or individual journalists are an affront to the Constitution which Cabinet Secretary Kuria was sworn to honor and protect.
2. The Constitution which Secretary Kuria swore to fully uphold, clearly states that “*The State shall not under Article 34 (a) exercise control over or interfere with any person engaged in broadcasting, the production or circulation of any publication or the dissemination of information by any medium; or (b) penalise any person for any opinion or view or the content of any broadcast, publication or dissemination.*”
3. As media we play a critical role of informing Kenyan and holding those in power to account. It is unfortunate that that Cabinet Secretary Kuria has directly and publicly chosen to attacked the Nation Media Group for fulfilling its role of holding the government accountable.
4. If the Cabinet Secretary is aggrieved or disputes any details of any articles published by The Nation Media, there are established and legal channels, including the Media Council of Kenya and courts, that individuals who feel aggrieved by the media should and can use to seek redress. Cabinet Secretary Kuria, or any other legally and justifiably aggrieved individual, is welcome to make use of these options.
5. It is unfortunate that Cabinet Secretary Kuria has chosen to threaten the media with withdrawal of State advertising. This is clear and unequivocal blackmail, contrary to

the legal provisions with regard to State advertising and Constitution and intended compel the Nation to change its reporting of important matters of governance.

6. It behooves Cabinet Secretary Kuria to understand that advertising by government and other state agencies is a legal obligation rather than a favor bestowed at the behest of himself and other public officials. Cabinet Secretary Kuria use of incendiary language is not expected of a public officer. In our respectful view, this disrespectful and clearly inciteful language disqualifies him from holding public office.
7. We are also calling upon the Media Council of Kenya to exercise its powers and investigate the Cabinet Secretary for this blatant attack on the media.
8. We wish to remind Cabinet Secretary Kuria that, as a public officer, he is duty bound to conduct himself in a way that does not bring his office into disrepute.
9. Finally, we wish to bring it to the attention of the Appointing Authority, His Excellency, President William Ruto, that the continued level of misconduct by some of his officers is unconstitutional and unethical, and not expected of any public officer, let alone the President's direct appointees.
10. That such persons continue to do that reflects poorly on the President's office and the Executive.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to the right.

**AGNES KALEKYE, CHAIRPERSON**