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## **KEG CONDEMNS AFFRONT TO PRESS FREEDOM IN CABINET SECRETARY MOSES KURIA'S TWITTER POST.**

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The attention of the Kenya Editors' Guild is drawn to a set of remarks attributed to Hon. Moses Kuria, the CS Trade and Industry, attacking a leading media establishment in the country, the Nation Media Group.

In the first statement, a Tweet, the CS describes Nation Media Group in a foul language uncharacteristic of a state officer of his rank.

*..... kwa wale malaya wa Agha Khan pale Nation Centre, you can still advertise auctioneers and funeral announcements.*

In the second statement, the CS while speaking on Sunday at the Akorino Annual Convention in Embu virulently attacked the same media house:

*... Nation Media, you must now decide whether you are a newspaper, broadcasting house, media house or a political party. I have said, from tomorrow, from today even, any government department found placing advertising in Nation Media Group, consider yourself out (of government).*

We do not know the context in which such unwarranted, uncalled for and totally off-the-mark remarks were made given that the CS did not expound further. It is however safe to conclude that the CS is unhappy with the work of Nation Media Group in informing or educating Kenyans.

The media plays a very important role in a democracy, including holding power to account. In doing so, the media does not operate above the law. If a State Officer or any Kenyan for that matter, is aggrieved by the work of the media, they have an array of avenues to raise them, including pursuing the legal route or reaching out to the media entity concerned.

To go out in public spaces to lambast and reduce the important work the media does to whorish business is the highest form of insult to media professionals in the country. Indeed, Hon. Kuria's remarks have taken us back nearly 30 years ago when the late Mulu Mutisya, a one-party dictatorship zealot, described journalists in similar terms.

Hon. Kuria must have slept through the revolution. Our country has come of age to appreciate the rule of law, and the separation of roles in a democracy. The language of threats to both media and government officials was buried in the year 2010.

Kenya Editors' Guild expects unconditional apology from CS Kuria following these unfortunate remarks. Editors, journalists and all media practitioners expects assurance from the Kenya Kwanza administration that the sentiments expressed by CS Kuria do not represent the policy of government, and the media enterprises will be accorded their space to execute their mandate.

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For and on behalf of the Kenya Editors' Guild

ZUBEIDAH KANANU  
PRESIDENT

**About the Kenya Editors' Guild**

The Kenya Editors' Guild (KEG) is a not-for-profit professional organisation that brings together senior print, broadcast, digital and other electronic media editors. It seeks to: defend and promote media freedom and independence in Kenya; promote quality and ethical journalism; provide a forum for the discussion of the challenges facing the media and editors; and to network with other professional organisation, among other imperatives.

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