

MEDIA STATEMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXTENSION OF SPECIAL MEDIA PASSES TENURE

Following the outbreak of COVID-19 Pandemic, the government announced a raft of containment measures. During the 15th Presidential Address on 26th March 2021, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta directed the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government and the Ministry of Health to review protocols for reissuance of curfew passes and exemption.

Further, via the Kenya Gazette Notice No.50 on the Public Order (State Curfew) order 2021 published on 29th March 2021, the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government Dr Fred Matiang'i allowed licensed broadcasters and media houses to operate during the curfew hours as designated Essential Service Providers.

Following this development, the Media Council of Kenya on 1st April 2021, announced it would issue temporary Special Media Passes to non-journalistic staff critical to the operations of media houses. Accredited journalists were advised to use their press cards for identification by security officers during curfew hours.

On August 18, 2021, President Kenyatta extended the nationwide curfew by sixty days.

The Special Media Passes issued by MCK expire on 30th September 2021. In this regard, the Council announces as follows:

1. The tenure of the Special Media Passes is hereby extended for a further six (6) months to **March 31, 2022**.
2. Journalists are advised to continue using their Press Cards until they expire on 31st December 2021.
3. Journalists can begin renewing their press cards from 15th December 2021, through the Media Council of Kenya accreditation portal.
4. All accredited journalists, media practitioners, and non-journalistic staff issued with SMPs are advised to always carry their cards.
5. All queries on SMPs and Press Cards can be channeled through the accreditation hotline 0110 131 447.



David Omwoyo Omwoyo

Chief Executive Officer & Secretary to the Council