

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **THREAT TO NATION MEDIA GROUP BY THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KISUMU**

Our attention has been drawn to a letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021 by the County Government of Kisumu to the Nation Media Group regarding a Covid-19 related documentary scheduled for airing this evening.

The Council takes great exception to the threats issued against Nation Media Group over a preview of the above documentary entitled “**inside Kisumu’s Covid Isolation Ward (#fightforbreath)**”, where the County Government of Kisumu has raised concerns with how the journalists accessed the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching & Referral Hospital (JOOTRH), interviewed some patients and took video footage for the story.

While the Council recognises the right of the County to demand ethical standards in journalism are upheld, it expects that the same shall be demanded of the County Government for violating freedom of expression, press freedom and access to information as provided for in the Constitution in articles 33, 34, 35 and the Media Council Act, 2013.

In this case where the County Government is aggrieved by the ethical standards observed by journalists and media enterprise, the County is urged to file a complaint with the Media Complaints Commission which is legally mandated to handle such matters under **section 27** of the Media Council Act, 2013 and issue remedies as it deems appropriate.

Threatening journalists about their work or intimidating them not to undertake their duty especially on matters of public interest is a violation of Press freedom and the Constitution.



**David Omwoyo Omwoyo**

Chief Executive Officer & Secretary to the Council