

## Public Notice

### Recognition of Mobile/Smart Phones as Professional Journalistic Equipment

The Media Council of Kenya wishes to notify the public and all security officers that mobile/smart phones, while in use by duly accredited journalists and media practitioners, are recognised as professional media equipment.

A study by the Council on the impact of digital technologies on media practice in Kenya established that the operations, structures, and performances of traditional, new and converged media formats have been affected by the availability and appropriation of digital technologies.

The Council has noted some disputes between a section of security officers and leaders on the use of these gadgets to record and transmit news from public events and wishes to clarify that mobile/smart phones, while in use by professional trained and accredited journalists and media practitioners should be allowed when needed.

With advancement in technology, mobile phones are now being used to not only take photos and videos but also record voice clips and undertake live broadcasting including live links by media.

The Council advises that duly accredited journalists and media practitioners who seek to use their mobile phones during events of public interest or newsworthy happenings should be allowed to do so without being hindered or harassed.

Journalists and media practitioners are advised to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the Practice of Journalism in Kenya as provided under Schedule II of the Media Council Act 2013. Specifically, Clause 8 of the Code of Conduct provides for the use of technological tools and prohibits use of hidden cameras or phones unless there is NO OTHER way to access the news.

The Council is encouraging training institutions, media organisations and professional support group to escalate the inclusion of the use of smart phones as tools for journalistic practices in their training curricula as a matter of priority.

For further information, please contact the Media Council of Kenya on:

Telephone: +254 20 273 7058/ 727 735 252 Email: [info@mediacouncil.or.ke](mailto:info@mediacouncil.or.ke)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Omwoyo Omwoyo".

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