

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MCK COMPLAINTS COMMISSION PERMITS WITHDRAWAL OF CASES

The Media Council of Kenya's Complaints Commission permitted withdrawal of two cases during a virtual mention session presided over by the Chairperson Mr. William Oketch. The session which took place on 16th March 2021 gave directions on four (4) complaints that were among eleven (11) pending cases due for determination.

The Commissioners adopted the withdrawals, entered consent judgment and settled two cases; **MCC 02/2018 TATU CITY vs NATION MEDIA GROUP** and **MCC 06/2018 NATION MEDIA GROUP & 6 OTHERS vs TATU CITY LTD.** In 2018, Ahmednasir, Abdikadir & Co Advocates filed the first complaint against Nation Media Group and its then top editorial team alleging that they had violated the Media Council of Kenya's Code of Conduct for the Practice of Journalism by publishing misleading, inaccurate, inflammatory, biased, racist and ethnically focused content in the Business Daily.

In a cross-complaint the Nation Media Group and six (6) respondents represented by the firm of Iseme, Kamau & Maema Advocates filed a cross complaint against Tatu City Ltd alleging defamation and publication of inaccurate, misleading and improper imputation of corrupt conduct against their person by Tatu City in a rejoinder letter published on its Twitter handle on 10/6/2018.

Both cases had been assessed admissible and set down for hearing when both parties indicated that they were amenable to going through mediation. However, the cases stalled after the term of the previous Commission lapsed in October, 2019. In order to fast track and clear case backlog the new Commission appointed into office in October 2020 scheduled the matters for mentions and subsequent mediation. The parties were facilitated to amicably settle the matter and the Complainant formally withdrew the complaint through notice of withdrawal dated 9/3/2021. Yesterday, the Respondent, Nation Media Group, made oral application to withdraw the cross complaint.

Two other complaints filed by Brookside Dairy Limited against the Standard Group and Nation Media Group, respectively have been referred for mediation; **MCC 06/2016 BROOKSIDE DAIRY LTD vs STANDARD NEWSPAPERS & ANR** and **MCC 08/2016 BROOKSIDE DAIRY LTD vs DAILY**



NATION. The Chairperson of the Commission will in a fortnight appoint mediators from amongst the Commission members to facilitate settlement of the disputes.

About the Complaints Commission

The Complaints Commission established under section 27 of the Media Council Act. Its core function is to mediate or adjudicate in disputes between the government and the media and between the public and the media and intra media on ethical issues and ensure the adherence to high standards of journalism as provided for in the code of conduct for the practice of journalism in Kenya.

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