

## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **MEDIA COMPLAINTS COMMISSION (MCC) REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO MEDIA ETHICS, URGES AGGRIEVED PARTIES TO FILE COMPLAINTS**

**Nairobi, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026-** As Kenya moves closer to the 2027 General Elections, the Media Complaints Commission (MCC) reaffirms its statutory oversight and commitment to safeguarding media ethics while protecting the freedoms guaranteed under Articles 33 and 34 of the Constitution, which enshrine the right to seek, receive and impart information and guarantee a free and independent media. These freedoms, however, carry corresponding responsibilities, and the media must exercise them in accordance with the highest standards of professional ethics, accuracy, fairness and accountability in the public interest.

The MCC today stands as the independent body mandated to handle public and state actor complaints, as well as disputes between media houses and enterprises. The Commission holds that free, independent, and responsible media is the bedrock of an open and democratic society. The media informs the public, scrutinises power, and helps citizens make informed choices at the ballot box. This responsibility grows even more important as the country prepares for the upcoming electoral cycle.

In carrying out this mandate, the MCC is guided by the Code of Conduct for Media Practice. This code requires journalists and media enterprises to act with fairness and accuracy, always give affected parties the right of reply, and remain independent from undue influence. It also requires the media to remain accountable to the public, report responsibly on national cohesion, protect privacy and children's rights, avoid discrimination, and uphold freedom of expression.

While the Media Complaints Commission (MCC) does not have the authority to award damages to complainants, it possesses a range of enforcement powers designed to deter professional misconduct, including the imposition of fines where circumstances warrant. In particularly serious cases, the Commission may recommend the suspension or revocation of a journalist's accreditation. Nonetheless, the MCC regards litigation and punitive measures as remedies for the last resort. Its preferred approach is mediation, which provides a non-adversarial forum for resolving disputes and enables parties to reach mutually acceptable and amicable settlements.

Over the course of its history, the MCC has demonstrated its impartiality and reach, having handled disputes filed by ordinary Kenyans, a sitting Prime Minister, Cabinet Secretaries, Members of Parliament, a Central Bank Governor, and others. This track record shows that the MCC is not a distant regulatory body, but an accessible forum for justice. With a simple and efficient complaints procedure, anyone may lodge a complaint if they feel aggrieved by content published in broadcast, print, or digital media.

The Commission pledges to handle every complaint swiftly, impartially, and judiciously, ensuring that Kenya is served by an accountable, responsible and robust media landscape.

*Issued in Nairobi on 26th June 2026*  
**By the Media Complaints Commission**

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**About the Media Complaints Commission (MCC)**

Established under Section 27 of the Media Council Act (NO.46 of 2013), the MCC is an independent body mandated to mediate or adjudicate disputes between the government, the media, the public and intra-media stakeholders. Its decisions carry the force of a court ruling and are applicable only to the High Court.

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