



# KENYA EDITORS' GUILD



HALF-YEAR  
**NEWSLETTER** 20  
JULY-DECEMBER 24



*(From left) KEG President Zubeidah Kananu and the LSK President Faith Odhiambo display the signed MoU during a ceremony held at the LSK offices in Nairobi*

**JULY**

## **KENYA EDITORS' GUILD, LAW SOCIETY OF KENYA SIGN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**O**n July 25, 2024, the Kenya Editors' Guild (KEG) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), marking a significant milestone in promoting collaboration between the legal and media sectors. The partnership emphasizes the importance of legal knowledge, public interest litigation, and civic engagement in enhancing ethical journalism and press freedom. It establishes a framework for joint training programs, conferences, professional development initiatives, and capacity building for KEG members. It aims to empower media professionals with a deeper understanding of legal matters while fostering ethical reporting standards.

The collaboration focuses on several key areas. Public Interest Litigation (PIL) will involve media highlights in legal cases, documentation and briefings, and training on PIL stages, with guidance for KEG in executing actual cases. Legal education initiatives will address good governance in public institutions,

climate change, land use, and the protection of riparian areas, while also promoting authentic and informed media reporting. KEG will provide media platforms to support civic education and public dialogues, while also offering editorial training for LSK staff and committees to enhance corporate branding, public speaking, and editorial skills.

Under the MoU, KEG will facilitate member participation in the training programs and provide information on threats to media independence to support advocacy efforts. LSK, on the other hand, will assist KEG in Public Interest Litigation, organize joint training sessions as part of Continuous Professional Development (CPD), and host training programs where applicable.

The signing ceremony, held at the LSK offices in Nairobi, symbolized a shared commitment to advancing press freedom, legal education, and ethical standards in journalism. This partnership aims to empower legal and media professionals for the public interest.



**This partnership aims to empower legal and media professionals for the public interest**



*Prof. Hamadi Boga, Vice President, Alliance Green Revolution Africa (AGRA) addressing editors during the Press Club Luncheon held at the Sarova Stanley on July 8, 2024*

Africa holds **60%** of the world's **arable land** yet struggles to **feed itself.**



## Advancing Food Security

On July 8, 2024, the Kenya Editors' Guild (KEG) hosted a Press Club Luncheon under the theme "Building Resilient Farming Systems and Becoming Food and Nutrition Secure." The forum, part of KEG's Thought Leadership Series, sought to amplify agricultural issues on the editorial agenda and advocate for policy action to address food security challenges.

KEG CEO Rosalia Omungo opened the session by emphasizing Africa's vast potential to transform its food systems amid rising climate shocks. She underscored the critical role of journalists in working alongside scientists to amplify success stories and promote the adoption of innovative agricultural technologies. "How best can journalists work with scientists to ensure the technologies that build resilient farming systems are reported and success stories replicated?" she posed.

The keynote speaker Prof. Hamadi Boga, Vice President of the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa, emphasized the need for targeted investments in agriculture. "Africa holds 60% of the world's arable land yet struggles to feed itself," he noted.

Prof. Boga called for substantial investment in agriculture, urging African governments to allocate a budget to the sector. "We are a credible voice that pushes to have candid conversations with governments. African governments need to invest 10 percent of their budgets in agriculture." He said.

He also emphasized the importance of research and development, crop improvement, and robust extension systems to support farmers in adopting modern technologies. Smart subsidies, effective water management, and policies enabling intra-African trade were also critical components for driving agricultural productivity and addressing food security challenges.

Media professionals were encouraged to advocate for increased agricultural investment and robust policy frameworks addressing food security challenges. Through these collaborative efforts, the forum aimed to drive transformative change in Kenya's agricultural sector and ensure that food security remains a priority on the national and regional agenda.



*Editors pose together with officials from AGRA after the Press Club*



KEG CEO Rosalia Omungo speaking during the forum

**AUGUST**

## BRIDGING MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY

**K**EG CEO Rosalia Omungo participated in a transformative forum on "Global Opportunities in Deepening China's Reform in the New Era," hosted by China Media Group in Nairobi on July 29, 2024. The event brought together key players from Chinese and Kenyan media sectors to explore opportunities for collaboration, particularly in advancing technological innovation within the broadcasting industry.

Highlighting the evolving role of technology in journalism, Ms. Omungo emphasized, "The significance of AI in journalism cannot be overstated. How can we utilize these technologies to support local media industries? What steps can we take to facilitate regular exchanges that empower local media to leverage technology effectively? She emphasized the necessity of collaborative solutions to enhance the capacity of Kenyan media in adopting emerging technologies.

A recurring theme at the forum was reshaping narratives about Africa in global media. Ms. Omungo called for an end to the disproportionate focus on crises and tragedies, urging instead for a celebration of Africa's potential and achievements. "The brighter side of Africa is not sufficiently told.

Chinese and African media can work together to mitigate this and tell a more balanced story," she stated. She further advocated for African platforms to amplify African voices, countering distortions perpetuated by media dominance from the Global North. "African agency and voices must be carried by African networks to reflect the continent's goals and objectives accurately," she added.

Ms Omungo also highlighted KEG's broader initiatives, including efforts by the Kenya Media Sector Working Group to influence the Journalism Sustainability Fund. She underscored the need for increased support to bolster the fund, which aims to cushion journalists during disruption and promote long-term media viability.

An Xiaoyu, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of CGTN, reaffirmed China's commitment to strengthening ties with Kenyan media. "We highly value our cooperation with Kenyan media and are in discussions to establish a 'China-East Africa Media Cooperation' mechanism for easier information and program sharing," he announced.



Participants during the forum

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Rosalia Omungo ”



MCK CEO David Omwoyo leading a discussion during the dialogue forum between the government and media leaders

## Strengthening Media-Government Relations: A Call for Collaboration and Responsibility

Kenya's media stakeholders, led by the Media Council of Kenya (MCK), convened for a Government-Media Leaders Roundtable Forum held from August 9-11, 2024. The Naivasha forum aimed to address the strained relations between the government and the media and explore pathways to foster collaboration and improve regulatory mechanisms.

David Omwoyo, CEO of the Media Council of Kenya, emphasized the importance of mutual respect and dialogue. "We need to stop branding the media as anti-government while the media should also play its rightful role within prescribed standards. Anyone fighting the media is out of order given the critical place of media in democracy and governance," he stated. Omwoyo called for the establishment of continuous dialogue between editors and government representatives to improve relations and promote national interests.

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David Omwoyo”



KEG President Zubeidah Kananu speaking during the dialogue forum held from 9-11 August in Naivasha

### Addressing Press Freedom and Ethical Standards

Kenya Union of Journalists Secretary General Eric Oduor highlighted the impact of current challenges on Kenya's World Press Freedom Index ranking. He expressed the willingness of industry players to engage with the government at all levels to reverse this trend.

Zubeidah Kananu, President of the Kenya Editors' Guild (KEG), voiced concerns about increasing attacks and threats against journalists, particularly during Gen Z-led protests. "We remain relentless in calling for an end to attacks and threats against journalists," she asserted, urging for action against perpetrators and a renewed commitment to ethical journalism.

Ms. Kananu also called for joint training sessions between the media and internal security forces to enhance understanding and cooperation. She pointed out the challenges faced by the MCK as a regulator, which continues to operate under significant constraints due to ongoing litigations. Kananu urged the Ministry of ICT to prioritize resolving these issues to enable the Council to fulfill its mandate effectively.

## **Government and Security agency Commitments to Media Freedom**

Judy Munyinyi, Secretary of Information at the Ministry of ICT, reaffirmed the government's commitment to upholding press freedom. Representing PS Edward Kisiangani, she acknowledged the challenges posed by misinformation and emphasized the importance of forums like this to drive constructive industry conversations. "Such engagements are key, and I commend the Media Council of Kenya for leading them," she said.

Vincent Monda, Senior Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, represented the Director of Public Prosecutions, Renson Ingonga. He reiterated the DPP's commitment to working with journalists to ensure justice for both the media and the public. He revealed that the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) is awaiting results from the Independent Policing and Oversight Authority (IPOA) regarding allegations of harassment and assault against journalists during recent demonstrations. Monda encouraged affected individuals to provide statements to aid investigations.

## **Championing Responsibility and Accountability**

David Mugonyi, Director General of the Communication Authority of Kenya, represented by Chris Wambua, Director for Corporate Communication, emphasized the vital role of a free and independent media in Kenya. "Whether in government or the media, we all have a duty to the Constitution and the laws of this country. A truly free media is one that is chained to the truth, objectivity, impartiality, fairness, and a diversity of opinion," Wambua stated.

Dr. Resila Onyango, Spokesperson of the National Police Service, defended the police's commitment to maintaining a positive relationship with the media as outlined in



**Chris Wambua, Director for Corporate Communications, CA speaking during the forum**

standing orders. She decried misinformation about law enforcement's role during protests and assured attendees that incidents of misconduct by police officers are investigated by the Internal Affairs Unit and IPOA. "Nobody is above the law. Let us not vilify the entire police force for the mistakes of a few officers," she urged.

The forum underscored the need for collaborative efforts to strengthen media freedom, ethical journalism, and accountability across all sectors. By fostering dialogue and mutual understanding, media stakeholders and the government can work together to safeguard democracy, promote good governance, and ensure the safety and professionalism of journalists in Kenya.

# **A New Dawn for Media-Security Collaboration**



**KEG member Linus Kaikai speaks during the meeting**

**In a significant step toward improving relations between law enforcement and the media, key representatives from both sectors convened on August 13, 2024, to address shared concerns, enhance journalists' safety, and explore collaborative opportunities. The meeting brought together senior media representatives and top security officials, signaling a renewed commitment to transparency, mutual respect, and professionalism in their interactions.**

**Director of the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), Mohammed Amin, underscored the media's pivotal role in exposing and resolving criminal cases,**



Media leaders during a meeting led by acting Inspector General Gilbert Masengeli

emphasizing its contribution to a functioning democracy. “We recognize and respect the role the media plays in our society. However, we are operating in unprecedented times, with unregulated social media platforms posing additional challenges,” he noted.

In a show of accountability, Amin issued a public apology to veteran journalist Macharia Gaitho over a case of mistaken identity in a botched operation. “What happened to Mzee Gaitho was unfortunate. The DCI deeply regrets this incident. Our target was Francis Gaitho, not Macharia. Such errors are unacceptable, and we are committed to ensuring they don’t recur.”

He further dismissed allegations that the DCI was involved in kidnappings, affirming the agency’s cooperation with the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA). “We remain ready and willing to support IPOA in investigations and hold those who break the law accountable,” he asserted.

Deputy Inspector General Eliud Lagat reaffirmed the police service’s dedication to enforcing the law within legal bounds. “We have an obligation to follow the law, and we commit to addressing isolated

cases of misconduct swiftly. Let us continue engaging in open dialogue to resolve these issues,” he appealed.

Gideon Nyale, Commandant of the Kiganjo Training College, elaborated on the protocols that guide police operations, emphasizing that police officers are trained to engage responsibly with the media. “Our training manuals are clear about how to interact with journalists. However, operational decisions are often dictated by on-the-ground intelligence,” he explained. He defended the use of civilian attire by officers, citing its necessity for intelligence gathering, and urged media professionals to provide balanced coverage during protests by reporting on injuries sustained by both civilians and police officers.

Acting Inspector General Gilbert Masengeli highlighted the need for enhanced training to bridge gaps in understanding between the media and law enforcement. “The security sector must develop clear guidelines for engaging with the media, particularly on sensitive matters under investigation. At the same time, we urge the media to uphold professionalism and ensure fairness and balance in reporting,” he said.

Masengeli called for joint training initiatives to equip both journalists and police officers with the skills needed to navigate the challenges of evolving technologies and misinformation.

The forum culminated in several actionable commitments aimed at fostering trust and cooperation:

- **Joint Training:** Both parties agreed to organize training sessions to enhance mutual understanding and professional engagement.
- **Improved Communication Channels:** The National Police Service Spokesperson's

Office will serve as the focal point for timely communication and crisis management.

- **Regular Media Briefings:** Security agencies committed to holding frequent briefings to address emerging issues, ensuring transparency and curbing misinformation.
- **Enhanced Journalist Safety:** Both sectors will work together to create a safer environment for journalists, particularly during high-risk assignments such as protests.

## Forging Self-Reliance in Africa's Healthcare Sector

Africa's journey toward self-reliance in healthcare manufacturing took center stage during the Press Club Luncheon held on August 23, 2024, at the Sarova Stanley Hotel, Nairobi. Organized under the Kenya Editors' Guild's Thought Leadership Series, the forum brought together media leaders, industry players, and policymakers to discuss the theme: Improving Health Medical Outcomes, Empowering Self-Reliance.

The event highlighted Africa's immense potential to address its healthcare challenges through local manufacturing of medical devices and innovations, with a focus on boosting health outcomes and empowering communities.

Roneek Vora, Director of Sales and Marketing at Revital Healthcare, announced a groundbreaking step in the fight against emerging diseases. "Revital will launch its own rapid antigen test kit for Mpox, which the WHO recently declared a global public health emergency," Vora revealed.

As a leading African manufacturer, Revital Healthcare had already set standards in medical device production. Its manufacturing plant produces 300 million auto-disabled syringes annually for routine immunization and over 2.2 billion medical devices to meet critical healthcare needs. Building on its existing capacity, the

company was set to use the same cutting-edge technology it employs for rapid antigen test kits for diseases such as Hepatitis B and HIV to create Mpox diagnostic kits.

"But it's not just about the products we make. It's about the lives we touch. Every job we create, every syringe or test kit we produce, and every life we save is part of a bigger picture," Vora emphasized, underscoring the human impact of local manufacturing.



*Roneek Vora Director, Sales and Marketing, Revital Healthcare addressing editors during the Press Club Luncheon*

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Revital Healthcare produces **300 million** auto-disabled syringes annually for routine immunization and over **2.2 billion** medical devices to meet critical healthcare needs

Roneek Vora”





**Dr. Samoel Khamadi Deputy Director, Director Centre for Virus Research KEMRI makes a presentation on their health research and responses on diseases, outbreaks including Mpox**

Dr. Samuel Khamedi, Acting Deputy Director at the Centre for Virus Research, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), highlighted the increasing prevalence of viral infections due to climate change. "We need very high-quality diagnostic kits to detect these viruses and mitigate their impact," Dr. Khamedi noted.

Bernard Mwinzi, a KEG member and seasoned journalist, stressed the importance of aligning healthcare policies with the realities of ordinary citizens. "The major problem in the health sector is the disconnect between policies and the real experiences of the people. For us to achieve

**“ Journalists must champion the cause of boosting local manufacturing of medicines and health commodities as a sustainable solution to combat diseases. ”**

universal health care, we must address access and affordability of essential health commodities," he said.

KEG CEO Rosalia Omungo highlighted the growing importance of health and innovation desks in newsrooms. "With more and more newsrooms dedicating desks to cover innovation, health, and medical outcomes, we must prioritize training opportunities and informative sessions to empower journalists," she remarked.

Omungo called on journalists to amplify stories of communities benefiting from locally manufactured healthcare solutions. "As journalists, we need to tell the full story—not just the challenges but also the triumphs of communities impacted by local innovations," she added.

The forum concluded with a clear call to action: journalists must champion the cause of boosting local manufacturing of medicines and health commodities as a sustainable solution to combat diseases. This includes highlighting policy gaps, celebrating successes, and advocating for greater investments in Africa's healthcare infrastructure. Collaborative efforts between manufacturers, policymakers, and the media are essential to making universal health care a reality.



**Mombasa based Journalists during their visit to Revital Healthcare EPZ in Kilifi on August 17, 2024**



ICT CS Dr. Margaret Ndung'u during the presentation of the report by the ICTSWG held on September 16, 2024 at the Kenya School of Government



**SEPTEMBER**

## ICT SECTOR WORKING GROUP UNVEILS BOLD REFORMS

**T**he ICT Sector Working Group (SWG) produced comprehensive policy and structural reforms to transform Kenya's digital and communications landscape. The group officially presented its report to the Cabinet Secretary for Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy, Dr Margaret Ndung'u, at the Kenya School of Government on September 16, 2024.

Below are the key reforms proposed across ten thematic areas:

### 1. Digital and Telecommunications Infrastructure and Services

- Revise the National ICT Policy 2019 to focus on manufacturing semiconductors and expanding broadband internet.
- Incorporate ICT infrastructure in all major national projects like roads and energy.

### 2. Software and software services

- Establish Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in primary schools and universities to nurture local software talent.
- Creating and supporting a professional association for software developers.

### 3. Data Governance

- Form a Data Governance Coordination Committee (DGCC) to guide data use across ministries and the private sector for the sector's socio-economic development.

### 4. Emerging Technologies

- Develop a National AI and Emerging Technology Policy with regulations that are flexible and progressive enough to allow innovation while being firm enough to protect consumers.

### 5. Cybersecurity

- Create a National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) and specialized cybercrime courts.
- Enhance cybersecurity education in the judicial and criminal justice systems.



Officials from the Ministry of Information, Communications and The Digital Economy display report handed over by the ICTSWG



#### 6. Innovation and Enterprise Development

- o Incentivize research and development through tax breaks and reform the SEZ (Special Economic Zones) to include big tech and startups.
- o Introduce "Innovation Visas" to attract global talent and support the innovation ecosystem.

#### 7. Digital Skills and Jobs

- o Develop a national digital skills strategy with lifelong learning programs in partnership with the private sector.

#### 8. Postal, Courier, and E-commerce

- o Overhaul the Postal Corporation of Kenya (PCK) Act to align with Kenya's digital transformation agenda.

- o Create standalone policies for postal services and e-commerce.

#### 9. Media and Broadcasting

- o Develop a National Content Media Policy and restructure KBC to support local content creation and media freedom.
- o Establish a new Media Diversity and Sustainability Fund jointly established by the government and the private sector to ensure media sustainability in the face of digital disruption

#### 10. PR and Communications

- o Develop a National PR and Communications Policy to improve government communication and counter misinformation.

## Raising the Bar on Public Procurement: Media's Role in Accountability

Editors and journalists were urged to intensify their focus on high-risk public procurement transactions and improve their coverage of procurement-related fraud. This call to action came during a media breakfast meeting held by the Kenya Editors' Guild (KEG) in partnership with the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) on September 27, 2024.

The forum, centered on public sector accountability and Kenya's procurement system, highlighted the critical need for transparency and compliance in public procurement.

Jackline Kagume, Programme Officer at IEA, explained the legal basis for accountability within the Public Procurement System and introduced participants to the Public Procurement Risk Index (PPRI). "Non-compliance in public procurement is a national problem," she said, emphasizing the media's role in amplifying these issues and pressuring entities to enforce transparency and accountability.

Leo Kemboi of IEA presented insights on the development of the PPRI and policy insights from the Public Procurement Information Portal (PPIP). He highlighted that low disclosure compliance in public procurement not only increases the risk of fraud and corruption but also: Undermines public oversight and accountability, erodes trust in government spending, and compromises value for money.

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interests

Leo Kemboi



Leo Kemboi from Institute of Economic Affairs gives a presentation during the breakfast meeting with editors



# Commemoration of International Day on Universal Access to Information

“We need to be governed by the rule of law, not personal interests,” Kemboi stated. “Scrutiny is essential—are we getting value for money? The disclosure of contracts and an early warning system are critical to catching violations before they harm Kenyans.”

The forum concluded with a resounding agreement on the media's indispensable role in promoting accountability. Journalists were urged to champion transparency as a preventive measure rather than waiting to expose malpractices after the damage has been done.

“Transparency is an end in itself,” a participant noted. “If we wait to act after the fact, it will already be too late.”

Media stakeholders gathered in Nairobi on September 28, 2024, to mark the International Day for Universal Access to Information under the theme: Mainstreaming Access to Information and Participation in a Digitized Sector. The event underscored the importance of access to information in fostering transparency, accountability, and innovation in the digital age.

Kenya Editors' Guild (KEG) CEO Rosalia Omungo emphasized that universal access to information is a fundamental right that empowers individuals to seek, receive, and share knowledge. She noted that while digital advancements have transformed information flow, challenges such as misinformation, media sustainability, and ethical concerns must be addressed.

“Journalism is under threat, and innovation will be the key to saving the media,” Omungo asserted, calling for new and creative storytelling techniques as one way of mainstreaming access to information. She also stressed the need for continuous capacity building and sensitization of journalists, particularly in understanding defamation laws within the context of AI.



Speakers during the commemoration of the International Day on Universal Access to Information

Kenya Union of Journalists (KUJ) Secretary-General Eric Oduor highlighted the risks of misinformation, stating that an unlimited flow of credible information is essential in safeguarding journalism. Meanwhile, Media Council of Kenya's Director of Media and Training, Victor Bwire, pointed out that digitization has reinforced the need for public bodies to proactively share timely and reliable information.

Commission on Administrative Justice (Office of the Ombudsman) CEO Mercy Wambua reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening access to information through the appointment of information access officers, institutional information committees, and robust record management policies. She urged public institutions to embrace innovative technologies and community networks to enhance information-sharing and citizen participation in governance.

Katiba Institute's Acting Executive Director, Christine Kuria, advocated for greater inclusion, emphasizing the need to enhance access to information for Indigenous communities and persons with disabilities.

National Democratic Institute Resident Country Director, Dennis Omondi, drew a direct link between access to information and public participation, emphasizing that transparency in government operations enables informed decision-making among citizens.

UNESCO Programme Specialist for Social and Human Sciences, Hugue Ngandeu, called for proactive disclosure mechanisms and suggested establishing



*KEG CEO Rosalia Omungo giving a speech during the commemoration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information held in Nairobi on September 27, 2024*

an independent oversight commission to monitor access to information efforts.

- **While** acknowledging progress made, stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to:
- **Advocating** for full implementation of access to information laws
- **Promoting** proactive disclosure by public entities
- **Leveraging** technology for inclusivity and accessibility
- **Supporting** journalism and media innovation to protect the public's right to know
- **Cultivating** a culture of transparency and accountability across all sectors



*Participants pose for a group photo after the breakfast meeting with the Institute of Economic affairs held on September 27 in Nairobi*

## **MENTORSHIP & MEDIA: A LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR BILAN JOURNALISTS**

**F**or the second year in a row, the Kenya Editors' Guild (KEG) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have continued their support for the groundbreaking Somali Women Media Project (SWoMP). This initiative, a first of its kind in Somalia, has empowered female journalists by establishing Bilan, a women-led media unit within an existing Mogadishu-based media house.

As part of their long-term training, the Bilan media journalists embarked on a three-week learning tour in Nairobi. This immersive experience included media placements in Kenyan newsrooms, allowing the journalists to interact with editors and reporters while gaining first-hand insights into the country's media landscape. Additionally, the team underwent intensive videography training from a renowned videographer, equipping them with essential filming and editing skills. Seasoned KEG editors also provided mentorship, further enhancing their storytelling capabilities.



*Videographer Igor Riabchuk takes the Bilan team through a skills course on videography and camera work*

Beyond technical training, the journalists participated in networking sessions and received psychosocial support to help them navigate the cultural and security challenges they faced as young women in the media industry. This holistic approach aimed to bolster their resilience and professional confidence.



*(From left) Jamila Mohamed Managing Editor, Kiswahili, Bilan journalists Farhio Mohamed and Hinda Abdi, Linus KaiKai, Editorial Director, Royal Media Services and Annie Waite, Programme Assistant, KEG*



*Bilan media team during their one week learning programme in Nairobi, Kenya*

## **Fostering Unity: Media's Role in Transgenerational Conversations**

The Kenya Editors' Guild (KEG), in partnership with the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), hosted a breakfast meeting on October 14, 2024, in Nairobi to discuss the media's critical role in facilitating meaningful transgenerational conversations. The event took place following the launch of NCIC's Transgenerational Conversations: The

Quest for Political Decency and Accountability in Kenya framework, which aims to address intergenerational tensions, social fabric degradation, and structural inequalities.

NCIC CEO Harrison Kariuki emphasized the importance of amplifying voices across generations. "The wisdom of the past and the

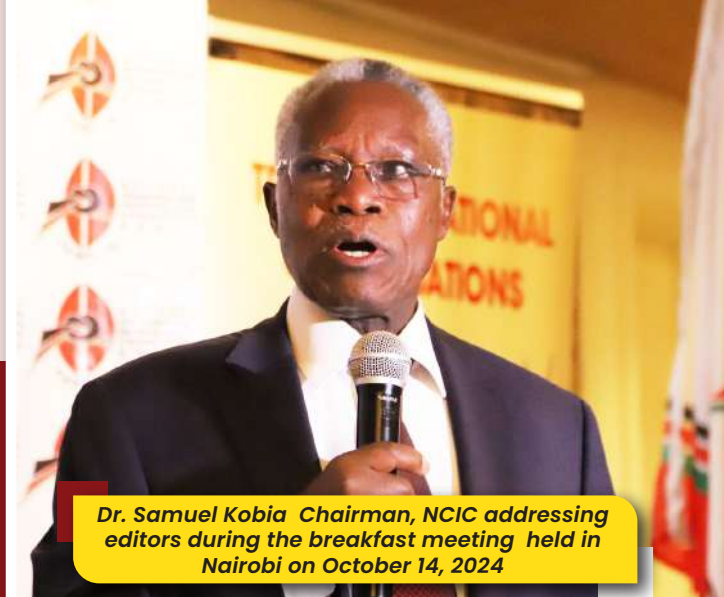
aspirations of the future must come together to shape the present. This is what transgenerational conversations are all about," he stated. He highlighted that collaboration with the media would leverage its broad reach to amplify stories, ideas, and experiences from diverse age groups.

The framework identified lack of trust, the erosion of Kenya's social fabric, intergenerational tensions, and structural inequalities as the most pressing issues currently impeding national peace and cohesion.

The forum's Chief Guest, NCIC Chairman Samuel Kobia, stressed the need to empower youth voices, noting their active role in shaping public narratives. "The Gen-Z awakened the conscience of the nation. They challenged the status quo and brought a fresh perspective to long-standing issues," he said. "We need to engage the youth from the beginning for them to own the outcomes of processes."

Kobia acknowledged that the media can play an indispensable role in the Transgenerational Conversations Framework by bridging generational gaps, empowering youth, promoting inclusivity, and encouraging accountability. "By facilitating constructive dialogue, shaping public perception, and fostering innovation, the media helps create a cohesive society," he added.

To foster further engagement, Kobia announced plans for nationwide town hall meetings across all 47 counties, providing a platform for continued transgenerational discourse. The strategy aims to empower peace actors to initiate and sustain initiatives that promote mutual understanding, conflict resolution,



*Dr. Samuel Kobia Chairman, NCIC addressing editors during the breakfast meeting held in Nairobi on October 14, 2024*

and social cohesion within Kenyan communities.

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society  
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*Samuel Kobia*

Reflecting on recent events, Kobia noted that bridging generational gaps, as witnessed during the Gen Z protests, is crucial to moving the country forward. "The Gen Zs have refused dialogue and instead embraced transgenerational conversation to take the country forward," he observed.

KEG CEO Rosalia Omungo raised concerns over the growing prevalence of hate speech on social media, contrasting it with traditional avenues such as political rallies, which are easier to monitor. She challenged NCIC to outline mechanisms for tracking and countering online hate speech. "Capacity building and sensitization of journalists in identifying hate speech is key, and we look forward to partnering with the commission to build capacity for journalists in this area," she stated.



*Editors pose together with officials from NCIC during the breakfast meeting*

# **MEDIA CALLS FOR JUSTICE ON CRIMES AGAINST JOURNALISTS**

**M**edia stakeholders, led by the Media Council of Kenya (MCK), convened to mark the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists under the theme: Safety of Journalists in Crises and Emergencies. The forum underscored the escalating threats journalists face and the urgent need for justice and accountability.

MCK CEO David Omwoyo emphasized the critical role of the media in society, warning that continued attacks against journalists, coupled with lack of accountability, erode press freedom.

“We gather here today to commemorate and demand justice for journalists whose rights have been violated in the line of duty. As a country, we must hold perpetrators accountable. If we fail, journalists will continue to suffer,” said Omwoyo.

Kenya Editors’ Guild (KEG) President Zubeidah Kananu called for the prosecution of aggressors targeting journalists.

“We must demand accountability and justice for crimes committed against journalists. Violence against the press cannot be tolerated, and those responsible must be prosecuted,” she stated.

She noted that many journalists shy away from reporting violations due to fear of victimization, which hampers legal action. Kananu also highlighted the growing mental health crisis among journalists, exacerbated by workplace pressures and unresolved violations. She urged media houses to prioritize both the physical and psychological well-being of their staff.



*KEG President Zubeidah Kananu gives a speech during the commemoration of IDEI held in Nakuru county from November 1-2, 2024*

**Violence against the press cannot be tolerated, and those responsible must be prosecuted**

**Zubeidah Kananu**

“We commend the ongoing training initiatives between the National Police Service and the Kenya Media Sector Working Group aimed at reducing conflicts between police and journalists. Two successful sessions have been held, with our editors actively participating,” she added.

Kenya Union of Journalists (KUJ) Secretary General Eric Oduor stressed that media houses must take responsibility for the safety of their staff. He cited political, institutional, and economic threats, gender-based violence, and poor remuneration as major injustices against journalists. “Every stakeholder in the media space has a role in preventing crimes against journalists. Protecting press freedom is a collective responsibility,” said Oduor.

Media Complaints Commission Chairman Demas Kiprono lauded journalists as the backbone of democracy. He assured stakeholders that the Commission would fast-track cases of journalist violations to ensure justice is served.







Participants pose together during the editors breakfast meeting held by UNIS in Nairobi on November 22

The forum concluded with key recommendations to strengthen protections for journalists:

- **Media houses** should develop a risk assessment framework to monitor and evaluate threats against journalists.
- **Journalists** should join professional associations to facilitate documentation, reporting, and follow-up on press freedom violations.
- **Strengthening** legislative frameworks to enhance the fight against crimes targeting journalists.
- **Prioritization** of journalists' mental health and workplace safety through institutional policies and capacity-building initiatives.



## Editors Tackle Information Integrity Challenges at KEG-UN Breakfast Forum

On November 22, 2024, KEG, in partnership with the United Nations Information Service, hosted an editors' breakfast meeting to discuss the UN Global Principles for Information Integrity. The forum focused on the challenges and opportunities surrounding information integrity within the Kenyan media landscape.

KEG CEO Rosalia Omungo, kicked off the discussion by posing a critical question: "What can editors do to ensure that the principles of information integrity are upheld?" In an era dominated by social media and digital platforms, news outlets must create opportunities for credible voices to be heard.

Sandra Macharia, Director of the UN Information Service in Nairobi, presented on the UN Global Principles for Information Integrity. She highlighted the key principles as: Societal Trust and Resilience, Healthy Incentives, Public Empowerment, Independent, Free, and Pluralistic Media and, Transparency and Research.

She emphasized the challenge of maintaining trust, especially during a crisis: "Trust is the confidence that people have in their sources and the reliability of the information they trust. When a crisis strikes, it becomes difficult to uphold that trust."

The UN's approach to misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech is rooted in its impact on the Sustainable Development Goals. "We've seen misinformation particularly target women, pushing them out of the public sphere. We need to create an inclusive, open, and secure information environment to prevent harm," Sandra added.

“When a **crisis strikes**, it becomes **difficult to uphold that trust**”

Sandra Macharia

A central theme of the forum was the belief that information integrity can only be achieved through an independent, free, and pluralistic media. Sandra urged the media to take ownership of covering issues surrounding information integrity and to publicly commit to the UN's Global Principles.

The conversation also turned to the influence of AI and digital platforms. "If you can't trust what you see, what does that mean for the social contract?" Sandra asked. "We must ensure that AI is used ethically."

Churchill Otieno, Executive Director of the Eastern Africa Editors Forum, underscored the role of media in ensuring information integrity: "Those we serve with information don't distinguish between social media and traditional news outlets.

If there's a problem with the information, it matters little whether it's on TV or social media." He also questioned the power of big-tech companies in shaping the information we consume, raising concerns about how platforms like X make decisions on what content is shared.

The event served as an important platform for reflecting on the role of media in maintaining information integrity. It included a strong call to action for journalists and media organizations to adopt principles of transparency, trust, and ethical standards.



Those we serve with information don't distinguish between **social media** and **traditional news outlets**

**Sandra Macharia**



Sandra Macharia, Director, United Nations Information Service, Nairobi presenting the report on the UN global principles on Information Integrity



Media stakeholders during the commemoration of IDEI held in Nakuru County from November 1-2, 2024

# EDITORS BREAKFAST MEETING WITH **URAIA TRUST**

**“W**e need to move culture from the middle and move it to the foreground of our headlines,” editors were urged during a breakfast meeting with Uraia Trust on December 10, 2024. The forum, held under the theme “Reimagine Kenya: The UTU Policy Framework – A New Deal,” explored opportunities for the media to champion and amplify the UTU philosophy, which emphasizes human dignity, unity, and shared national values.

Oliver Waindi, Executive Director of Uraia Trust, set the stage for the conversation by noting, “We have lost it as humanity. If we can work on our value system, the rest will be easy. There is more to human beings than just telling them what to do and what not to do. The question is: what are those values?” He stressed the importance of restoring a strong value system in Kenyan society as the foundation for lasting progress.

Dr. Mshai Mwangola, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees at Uraia Trust, presented on “Promoting the National Culture of UTU,” explaining that the issues Kenya faces are not simply about the constitution or laws, but about a deeper cultural shift. “What Kenyans need is values,” she said. “We are struggling because UTU is often seen as a cultural concept that we have not fully embraced. Culture is at the heart of what makes us Kenyans.”

Dr. Mwangola emphasized that culture must be the foundation of the nation. She highlighted the need to focus on the cultural elements that define Kenya and shape its identity. “We must pay attention to the cultural aspect of what makes us a nation,” she urged.

A central concern raised by Dr. Mwangola was that Kenya is still not fully united as a nation. She pointed out, “We are not a nation yet. Kenyans’ refusal to seriously engage in the national culture conversation is why we are struggling to come together as one.” She elaborated that a national culture is the



*Dr. Mshai Mwangola Chairperson, Board of Trustees, Uraia Trust presenting during the breakfast meeting with editors*

**“We must pay attention to the cultural aspect of what makes us a nation”**

**Dr. Mshai Mwangola**

collective effort of the people to define, justify, and promote the values that reflect their identity.

“A national culture is the whole body of efforts made by a people in the sphere of thought to describe, justify, and praise the people it was created for,” she explained.

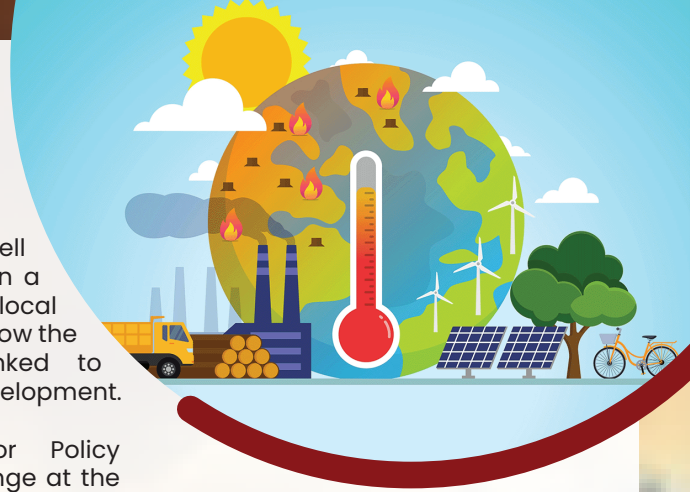
The role of the media in shaping the national culture of UTU was a key topic of discussion. Dr. Mwangola emphasized the importance of media engagement in amplifying the UTU conversation. “The media needs to shine the spotlight on intellectuals and engage with them to see how they are using their platform and in what context,” she stated. “We need to amplify the UTU discussion in the public sphere.”

She also urged the media to take a proactive approach in calling out actions that undermine the values of UTU. “Name and shame those who go against what Kenyans consider UTU,” she said, adding that the media is a powerful tool in instilling a culture of dignity and respect. “The media is a game changer when it comes to instilling a culture of UTU,” she emphasized.



*KEG member Henix Obuchunju speaking during the plenary session*

# Press Club Luncheon on Climate Change Finance



Ali Mohammed, Special Envoy for Climate Change gives the keynote address during the Press club luncheon held on December 18, 2024 at Sarova Stanley Hotel, Nairobi

**O**n December 18, 2024, the Kenya Editors' Guild (KEG) hosted a Press Club Luncheon at Sarova Stanley Hotel, Nairobi, as part of its Thought Leadership Series. The event focused on Climate Change and Development Finance, to help editors and reporters better understand the policies around climate change finance and how to effectively report on these issues.

Ali Mohammed, the Special Envoy for Climate Change, delivered the keynote address, urging journalists to enhance their knowledge and reporting on global climate policy. He emphasized that climate change is not just an environmental issue but an all-encompassing challenge that affects every aspect of life. "Journalists and editors are the eyes and ears of society," Mohammed noted. "You bring discussions on issues many people are not able to understand." He also highlighted the global agreement reached during the COP conference in Baku, where world leaders committed to a new financial target of USD 1.3 trillion per year by 2035 to tackle climate change.

Mithika Mwenda, Director of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), stressed that climate change should be understood as a developmental issue rather than just an environmental or scientific one. "We need to reshape the narrative around climate change, making it more human, more relatable, and focused on the African context," he explained. Mwenda encouraged journalists to

seize the opportunity to tell climate change stories in a way that resonates with local audiences, highlighting how the issue is intricately linked to economic and social development.

Peter Odhengo, Senior Policy Advisor on Climate Change at the National Treasury, provided valuable insights into climate finance. He explained that climate finance refers to funding specifically allocated to addressing climate change and building resilience. "While the money is available, it is still not enough to meet the scale of the challenge," he said. Odhengo emphasized that journalists should focus on how climate finance is being utilized at the county level, urging them to hold local governments accountable for effectively managing these resources to support climate adaptation and resilience efforts.

Joe Ageyo, Editor-In-Chief at NMG, reminded editors of the importance of understanding the broader global context in which climate change reporting is situated.

**“The media has a critical role to play in ensuring that climate change, finance, and development issues are communicated clearly to the public”**

Zubeidah Kananu

"As journalists, we must develop the right vocabulary and frameworks to give the proper context to what is happening globally and locally," he said. Ageyo highlighted the need for precision in reporting and a commitment to continuous learning to effectively communicate the complexities of climate change.

KEG President, Zubeidah Kananu, emphasised the media's vital role in bridging the gap between climate change, finance, and development. "The media has a critical role to play in ensuring that climate change, finance, and development issues are communicated clearly to the public," she stated.

She also announced the launch of KEG's Manual on Climate Change Reporting, which will be integrated into training programs at academic institutions. This initiative aims to equip journalists with the necessary tools to report on climate change in an informed and impactful way.

"Reporting on climate change requires precision and continuous training. Journalists need to understand the science behind it and communicate the findings effectively to the public," Zubeidah added.



Participants display the climate change training manual issued by KEG President Zubeidah Kananu (Centre) during the press club Luncheon