

Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA)

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PRESS RELEASE: CLARIFICATION BY KENYA DIASPORA ALLIANCE (KDA) **ON DELIBERATE DIVERSIONARY SLUR BY SECTIONS OF THE MEDIA**

For Immediate Release

NAIROBI, Kenya: The Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA) has noted with regret deliberate effort to divert the public's attention from an important ongoing case it has brought to the High Court in Kenya against the Africa Union's (AU) leadership. The matter in Court is a serious and important with potential ramifications on the future of the AU as a body meant to spearhead integration and transformation of the Continent by ensuring a corruption-free environment, and fully upholding the rule of law.

Elected leaders of an AU organ (ECOSOCC) have gone to Court to seek remedies that would bring the AU Secretariat to account and be answerable to all citizens of Africa and her diasporas, as was intended at inception. AU leadership have continuously tried to subvert the call for accountability, ignored demands for annual audited accounts, and frequently failed to comply with the AU Statutes, leading to the presently active Court matter.

A few malevolent individuals have deliberately or inadvertently fallen prey to the ploy by a small clique in Addis Ababa, in an attempt to divert the public's attention from the important matter in consideration, by introducing inaccurate and irrelevant exigencies.

Consequently, KDA categorically dismisses these baseless "conmen" allegation labels on the organization are malicious attempts of misrepresentation to tarnish the integrity and reputation of KDA in a misadvised effort to divert attention from the weighty matters presently in Court.

The allegations made against KDA lack factual evidence and have not been substantiated in any manner. We urge the public and the media to exercise caution and refrain from spreading unverified information that could cause harm to our organization's reputation.

A few months ago, the KDA Chairman Dr Shem Ochuodho and Majority members of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), affiliated to the African Union, moved to court in Nairobi to challenge an illegal decision by the AU Commission Chairman, Mr. Moussa Faki and the Commission, to un-procedurally institute disciplinary action against them after they exposed massive graft, ineptness, abuse of office, and grave violations of AU Statutes at ECOSOCC. We confirm that none of these officials is an employee of the AU, and therefore receive no monies from it.

To their surprise, repeated failure by Mr Faki and the Commission to respond to the suit has seen a rise in sustained propaganda and online attacks on Twitter by a known handful of people.

It is from these attacks that the *Daily Nation* built a story against KDA without even calling their officials for their side of the story!

In an online article titled, "Diaspora Kenyans to PS Njogu: Stop engaging cons to represent us," published in its news website (Monday, June, 19, 2023), the *Daily Nation* failed the fairness test by not according the KDA an opportunity to respond despite being the subject of the article that was full of malice and baseless accusations.

As a leading diaspora organization, KDA has been actively working towards fostering unity, empowerment, and development among Kenyans living abroad. We have consistently adhered to a code of ethics, transparency, and accountability in all our endeavors.

KDA has always been committed to promoting the interests of the Kenyan diaspora, facilitating investment opportunities, supporting community initiatives, and engaging in constructive dialogue with the relevant authorities in Kenya and beyond. We have a proven track record of delivering positive outcomes for our members and the communities we serve.

We want to assure our members, partners, and stakeholders that KDA remains fully dedicated to her mission and values. We will take all necessary legal actions to protect our reputation and hold accountable those responsible for spreading these defamatory allegations.

We urge anyone with genuine concerns or queries to reach out to us directly through our official communication channels. We are open to addressing any issues transparently and working towards resolving them in a fair and constructive manner.

KDA appreciates the ongoing support and trust shown by our members, partners, and the wider Kenyan diaspora community. We remain resolute in our commitment to serve and advocate for the rights and welfare of Kenyans living abroad.

For media inquiries or further information, please contact:

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About Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA)

The Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA) is a Registered Trust, and a Federation of fifty-six (56) registered Diaspora organizations with a nominal combined membership of over 300,000 Kenyans across the globe. KDA's affiliated memberships include: welfare, cultural, faith-based, social, philanthropic, educational, professional and business associations, among others.

The Diaspora Investment Club (DICL) is KDA's business and investment arm. It is a limited liability company, presently with start-up businesses in real estate, financial and securities markets, agribusiness, mini-industries, tech-novation (mobile apps), and business/investment consultancy.