

June 25th, 2025

MEDIA STATEMENT

Statement on Switch Off of NTV Signal by the Communications Authority

Nation Media Group (NMG) confirms that the broadcast signal for its television station, NTV, has been unconstitutionally switched off by the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA).

This action has been taken without due process, following an advisory circulated on social media by the Authority instructing all television and radio stations to cease live coverage of countrywide protests.

Nation Media Group maintains that this move is a clear violation of Article 34(2) of the Constitution of Kenya, which guarantees the freedom and independence of the media. Specifically, the Constitution states:

The State shall not--

- (a) exercise control over or interfere with any person engaged in broadcasting, the production or circulation of any publication or the dissemination of information by any medium; or
- (b) penalise any person for any opinion or view or the content of any broadcast, publication or dissemination.

Additionally, according to the recent High Court ruling, CA lacks the mandate to regulate broadcast content. This authority has been constitutionally vested in the Media Council of Kenya. The Constitution provides established mechanisms for addressing any allegations of unprofessional media conduct—mechanisms that the CA or any aggrieved party should utilise to seek appropriate redress.

The shutdown of NTV is therefore a direct interference with our editorial operations and a suppression of the media's constitutionally protected role to inform the public. At the time of the shutdown, NTV was responsibly covering ongoing protests, a matter of significant public interest and a constitutional right of the people to assemble and express dissent.

Nation Media Group strongly condemns this illegal action and affirms its commitment to fair, balanced, and credible journalism. Transparency and integrity are key tenets of our duty to the public, and we will not be deterred in our mission to report truthfully.

We advise all our viewers to access NTV Live on YouTube and across our social media platforms, even as we pursue legal recourse to resume our normal broadcasting.

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