





Dr. Kennedy ole Kerei Chairman of the Council Maasai Mara University c.c. Council Members

Acting Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kichie Magak Office of the Vice-Chancellor Maasai Mara University Narok, Narok County

22 June 2021

Dear Sirs,

## RE: Summary Dismissal from employment of CPA Spencer Sankale Ololchike

We are shocked by the news of the summary dismissal of CPA Spencer Sankale Ololchike by the Maasai Mara University Council in a letter signed by the Council Chairman Dr. Kennedy ole Kerei on 17 June 2021.

CPA Spencer Sankale Ololchike has been serving a Senior Accountant at the University. He is also a distinguished member of the 23,000 strong Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya and 17,000 supporters of Amnesty International Kenya. His treatment by the University administration and the Council following the public expose of corruption at the Maasai Mara University in 2019 is alarming. We have seen credible evidence and testimony that implicate the current administration in two redeployments and pressure for him to expunge sections of an internal audit that implicates the current Acting Vice-Chancellor and some members of the Council.

Having studied closely the legal case against the former Vice-Chancellor and others now before the court, as well as the timeline of incidents leading up to your recent action, the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya, Amnesty International Kenya and Transparency International Kenya jointly condemn the summary dismissal of CPA Spencer Sankale Ololchike in the strongest terms possible.

In taking this action, the Maasai Mara University Council, Acting Vice Chancellor Prof. Onyango Kiche Magak and the University Management appear to continue the process of intimidation and interference of a key state witness in the ongoing Mara Heist case before the High Court. This action does not seem consistent with an attempt to rescue the University from the concerns exposed by your staff in exposing the Mara heist in 2019.

We wish to advise you that this matter now has the attention of our three agencies and that we will take several actions to ensure that #Justice4CPASankale is achieved. We call on you as the University Council to immediately and unconditionally reinstate Spencer Sankale Ololchike. Failure to do so and we shall fully support him to seek legal protection in a court of law. Secondly, we shall call for the Director of Criminal Investigations, the Witness Protection Agency and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to probe this latest turn of events.

We interpret the action to summarily dismiss CPA Spencer Sankale Ololchike without a fair administrative hearing as a determined attempt to interfere with a state witness in the ongoing legal case. It is worrying that this should be happening as a draft internal audit indicates fresh allegations of corruption and mismanagement of public funds by Council members and management.

Based on this information, we call on the Ministry of Education to probe further, and should the allegations be proven true, strongly consider immediately disbanding the University Council based on their incompetence in the implementation of their oversight mandate. Furthermore, that the Education Ministry consider taking steps to remove Acting Vice Chancellor Prof. Onyango Kiche Magak and appoint a substantive Vice-Chancellor.

We further call on the University teaching faculty, student community and the administrative staff to remain vigilant and document and lawfully act to pre-empt any further mismanagement of the university's finances.

Under Chapter Six of the Constitution of Kenya, the authority assigned to you as Public Officers is to serve the public in a manner that consistently and at all times demonstrates respect and care for the public interest. The protection of whistleblowers and witnesses and the promotion of evidence-based whistleblowing is key to nurturing a nation free from corruption and upholds the highest standards of integrity and accountability to the public. It is this alone that informs these concerns and our choice to make this letter public.

Yours sincerely,

FCPA George Mokua Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya National Chairman

Renee Ngamau Amnesty International Kenya Chairperson Sheila Masinde
Transparency International
Kenya
Executive Director

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All Maasai Mara University Council members
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education
Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education
Chairperson, Education and Research Committee, National Assembly of Kenya
Director, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
Director of Criminal Investigations, National Police Service
Chief Executive, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission
Executive Director, Witness Protection Agency
Chairperson, Commission on the Administration of Justice
National Students Caucus
Amnesty International Kenya Members
Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya Members