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PRESS STATEMENT: RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW

Following reports circulating in sections of the digital media, the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) has noted with grave concern an incident in which a known political figure confronted a senior police officer within police premises in Isiolo County. Reportedly, the confrontation is said to have occurred after the police enforced an eviction order No. E.L.C. 29 of 2019, issued by the Meru High Court, which the politician opposed.

While the Authority commends the police officers involved for exercising restraint under the circumstances, IPOA strongly condemns the lawless conduct of the politician, which contravenes Chapter 6 of the Constitution of Kenya. With a fully operational Police Service and a robust Judiciary, it is unacceptable for anyone to take, or appear to take the law into their own hands. Such actions threaten to foster anarchy and undermine the rule of law in society.

It defeats the purpose of ongoing police reforms when members of the public engage in the same misconduct they criticize in law enforcement agents.

IPOA has established clear mechanisms and structures for receiving compliments and lodging complaints for investigations against the police, with the overarching goal of professionalising the National Police Service, both collectively and individually. The Authority urges all members of the public who feel aggrieved to utilise these channels, including its toll-free number 1559, to lodge complaints for prompt investigation.

In sum, IPOA urges all police officers to discharge their duties with utmost professionalism, in line with the provisions of Article 244 of the Constitution.



**AHMED ISSACK HASSAN, CBS.,
CHAIRPERSON.**

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For queries, please call 020 4906000 or email communications@ipoa.go.ke