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## ICPAK PRESS STATEMENT

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*Statement issued on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020, at CPA Centre, Nairobi*

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The Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) has noted with great concern the media reports alleging wanton misuse of COVID-19 Emergency funds by the Ministry of Health officials, Kenya Medical Supplies Agency (KEMSA), and other State agencies in collusion with businesses fronted by unidentified persons. The media reports also allege diversion or disappearance and resale at a profit of the personal protective equipment donated by Mr. Jack Ma, the Chinese philanthropist.

These media reports indict the conduct of public officers entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding the health and lives of Kenyans and the protection of frontline healthcare workers.

The allegations, which are currently being investigated by the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission and the National Assembly, point at systematic corruption networks that have infiltrated various levels of government including Ministries, State Agencies and Corporations. It has been reported that billions of shillings from State coffers, donations, emergency loans, and grants may have gone down the drain. If proven true, this conduct goes against the Government's fight against graft and undermines citizens' legitimate expectations of their government.

The funds, if prudently used for the intended legitimate purposes, would have provided much needed healthcare supplies, equipment, and affordable testing and treatment to the ordinary mwananchi in the fight against COVID-19 and universal health care to all Kenyans.

The ICPAK Council strongly condemns any looting of public funds in the guise of provision of emergency public services. We also note that similar schemes have been used to loot public funds in the past.

The ICPAK Council calls for:

- i. The Government to move with speed to investigate and arraign in court all those suspected of having been involved directly or indirectly in such schemes. All necessary measures should be taken to ensure that value is restored to mwananchi including freezing any assets suspected to have been acquired with ill-gotten funds. If found culpable, the perpetrators should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and all assets acquired with such funds repossessed without undue delay. The Kenyan public wants a shift in the fight against corruption from the 'lip service mantra' to real and tangible action;
- ii. Patriotic Kenyans and especially Professionals from all spheres, including accountants, procurement officers, and others who have credible information should be ready to provide such information to the relevant authorities to facilitate investigations into the loss of public funds. ICPAK together with Amnesty International Kenya and UNDP have

recently launched the #WAPINDURU campaign to support and encourage ICPAK members in the fight against corruption. We ask Parliament to actively support whistleblowing and whistleblowers by progressing and passing the long-pending Whistleblowers Protection Bill;

- iii. ICPAK will engage its members to provide information that may help shed light on such schemes and assist with the investigations. Where necessary the Institute will take stern action against any of its members found culpable;
- iv. All entities responsible for using public funds for the COVID-19 emergency or other public needs must be **fully transparent, accountable** and **provide regular and timely reports** to the Public and the Auditor General on how such funds have been utilised.

In conclusion, the ICPAK Council would like to reiterate that the Institute will continue to play its financial and advisory role to support the Government to achieve its development agenda as well as promote and safeguard the interests of voiceless Kenyans. We call upon all public spending units to observe the national values enshrined in the Constitution Article 10 (2) on good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability and the principles of public finance articulated in Article 201 on prudence, responsibility and transparency whenever dealing with public funds, without exception.

**FCPA Rose Mwaura, MBS**

Chairman, ICPAK

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## About us

The Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) is a statutory body of accountants established under by the Accountants Act of 1978, and as repealed under the Accountants Act Number 15 of 2008, mandated to develop and regulate the Accountancy Profession in Kenya. It is also a member of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the global umbrella body for the accountancy profession.