

Central Organization of Trade Unions (Kenya)

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PRESS RELEASE

RE: PRESIDENT KENYATTA SHOULD INTERVENE IN THE GAZETTEMENT OF NEW NSSF BOARD

The Central Organization of Trade Unions, COTU (K) now calls upon His Excellency The President Uhuru Kenyatta to directly intervene in the unresolved gazettement of the new National Social Security Fund, NSSF Board of Trustees' members that has been pending at the Government Press for over a month and save the Workers' Fund from imminent looting by an influential individual in government and his proxies.

COTU (K) is privy to information that a senior politician in the Jubilee Party and government is blocking the gazettement of both its Secretary General Francis Atwoli together with the Federation of Kenya Employers, FKE Executive Director Jacqueline Mugo to the membership of the NSSF Board and has even gone ahead to hold the government press hostage in ensuring the duo's gazettement is prevented by all means.

COTU (K) has authoritatively established that both names for the nominees were released by our mother Ministry of Labour and Social Protection as well as by the Attorney General Office to the Government Press for Gazettement but the senior politician interjected and sent out threats to the management at the government printer not to proceed and gazette the duo lest they face unspecified action from him.

Apparently, the intentions and interests of these forces against the gazettement of COTU (K) to the Board are clear as they are already strategizing on looting NSSF through coercion and intimidation to the top management at the Fund and unless the President takes immediate remedial measures to ensure the Board is fully constituted and operational, the Kenyan workers are at risks of losing their savings in billions as has been the case previously when the same forces engineered the removal of both FKE and COTU (K) from the Board for the period 2013/2014.

At the same time, COTU (K) calls upon the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, DCI together with the Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecution, ODPP to move in and establish the circumstances under which names send out to the Government Press for gazettelement as a procedural matter could be blocked and the Printer held hostage by an Individual serving his own personal interests.

It is sad that whereas the trajectory in the fight against corruption as spearheaded by the President continues to ascend every day, certain individuals in this very government remain determined and are plotting at every opportunity on how to obtain money through corrupt means and can even go ahead to scare a state institution like the Government Press with a view to creating an 'enabling environment' to stage a loot at the Fund.

The Kenyan workers are watching and our pleas are now firmly at the President's door step to intervene and save the Fund from these money- hungry individuals as it is evident from where we stand that attempts to siphon cash out of the NSSF are so glaring and the signals are already out.



Francis ATWOLI, NOM (DZA), EBS
SECRETARY GENERAL