

CONNECTED DEVELOPMENT [CODE] 'S FOLLOW THE MONEY CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS WORKING AS COMMUNITY REPORTERS

Community reporting is a very sensitive work. Accordingly, as a community reporter representing Connected Development [CODE]'s Follow The Money you must conduct yourself responsibly. However, we have synthesized below a set of ethical principles that will guide your conduct as a community reporter drawing from the African Union Principles, Society of Professional Journalists, and the African Evaluation Association code endorsed by various intergovernmental and international organizations. In this Code of Conduct, state project assistants and members on the ifollowthemoney platform are referred to as community reporters

These guidelines apply to you as a Community Reporter:

- (1) You shall respect the sovereignty of your country people to establish their own government as well as the fundamental rights guarantees contained in your country Constitution enabling citizens to uphold and defend the principle of media freedom, the right of freedom of expression and the right of the public to be informed.
- (2) You shall respect the laws of your country and the authority of the bodies charged with the administering of the public affairs of the country. You must follow any lawful instruction from the governmental, security and government officials. You also must maintain a respectful attitude towards government officers and other national authorities
- (3) You shall abide by these Guidelines and any other terms of reference or instructions given to you by Connected Development [CODE] and report to the leadership of CODE any conflict of interest or any improper conduct by other community reporters who are part of your mission.
- (4) You shall attend state briefings to which you are invited, familiarize yourself with the applicable laws, ensure that you transmit information from such briefings and laws to CODE and other project assistants and carefully adhere to the methodologies employed by CODE

(5) Follow The Money is non - political, and non - religious, as such you shall refrain yourself from any political party agitation, or support of any political party, or government institution. In essence, you shall not post any political or religious issue on our various communication platforms.

(6) You shall maintain strict impartiality in the conduct of your duties and will not at any time, publicly express or exhibit any bias or preference in relation to national or sub-national authorities, contractors, or with reference to any issue in contention in the country.

(7) You shall undertake your duties in an unobtrusive manner and will not knowingly or wilfully interfere in the project monitoring process. Nothing in these guidelines removes your right to bring irregularities to the attention of your state officials but you must not give instructions or countermand the state officials.

(8) You shall base your conclusions on your personal observation or clear and convincing fact. Conclusions should not be based on or drawn from speculations, hearsay or exclusively from media (TV or radio) or internet based report (Twitter, WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram etc) that you have not personally verified. There is a verification handbook available at <https://verificationhandbook.com/book2/> The handbook will allow you to learn how to verify information.

(9) You shall not prejudge the outcome of any project or story we are following.

(10) You shall display identification provided by CODE at all times during your duties and must provide other forms of identification if required or requested for by any national authority

(11) You shall refrain from making any personal comments to the media on what you observed during on site visits of projects before CODE makes their statement, unless you are authorized to speak to the media.

(12) You shall not accept any gift or favours that might influence your work.

(13) You shall at all times, during the period of your work on Follow The Money, including during private time away from work, exercise sound judgment and display a high level of personal discretion.

(14) You shall not attempt to take part in the actual administration of the story we are following.

(15) You shall not attempt to play active role in resolving disputes or complaints to avoid the possibility of compromising your state work or CODE's Follow The Money eventual position on the matter.

(16) You must not take any unnecessary or undue risk. Your personal safety overrides all other consideration.

(17) You are responsible for your safety and security, but at all times, the team will help guide on safety and security issues

(18) We use the iFollowtheMoney platform for reporting, knowledge and information sharing.

(19) You must be very careful and exercise utmost sense of discretion in your choice of words in describing the stories or projects that we follow.

(20) You shall not post issues that are not related to Follow The Money on the iFollowTheMoney platform that exist as a web platform and WhatsApp

(21) Any CODE's Follow The Money community reporter who flouts these guidelines will have his or her position terminated, and removed from the iFollowTheMoney platform automatically.

CERTIFICATION OF MY COMMITMENT TO THE CODE CODE OF CONDUCT PLEDGE

I, _____, certify that I have read and understand the Code of Conduct and that I agree to comply with it, at all times. I affirm that, except as indicated below, I have no personal, political, business, or financial interest that may conflict, or appear to conflict, with the best interests of CODE's Follow The Money.

Name and Surname :

Signature

Date
