VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Head of Research

Location: Mashariki Research and Policy Centre, Nairobi, Kenya

Reports to: Chief Executive Officer

About Mashariki Research and Policy Centre

Mashariki Research and Policy Centre (MRPC) is a non-profit, interdisciplinary and independent think tank headquartered in Nairobi, with focus on security and strategic studies in the Eastern Africa Region. The Centre provides a platform for research and policy discourses in pursuit of a secure and prosperous region.

Job Summary:

We are seeking a highly skilled and motivated team player to serve as the Head of Research. The ideal candidate should have an extensive understanding of research frameworks, policy analysis, project management and human resource management. This individual will play a key role in directing the Centre's security and strategic studies priorities in the Eastern Africa region.

Key Responsibilities:

- Direct in-depth research and analysis on security and strategic studies trends, challenges, and best practices in East Africa and globally.
- Support the design and implementation of security and strategic studies-related programs and projects.
- Initiate and cultivate beneficial partnerships in the research eco-system regionally and internationally.
- Write reports, policy briefs, and other publications for diverse stakeholders, including policymakers, donors, and the public.
- Facilitate workshops, training sessions, and policy dialogues to in pursuit of a secure and prosperous Eastern Africa region.
- Monitor and evaluate security and strategic studies and research projects, ensuring alignment with best practices and sustainable outcomes.
- Identify relevant funding frameworks, lead and initiate funding proposals to support security and strategic studies research at the Centre.
- Mentor early career researchers by creating structures to support the pipeline of next generation researchers and policy analysts.
- Serve as the Managing Editor of the Mashariki Security Journal.
- Line manage the Associate Research Fellows of the Centre.

- Enhance the quality assurance processes of the Centre's research and policy outputs.

Qualifications:
Education: Doctoral degree in Peace and Security Studies, Security and Governance, Political Science, Public Administration, International Relations, Law, or related fields from a recognized institution.

Experience:
At least 5 years of experience in research/academia with a strong track record in policy analysis around security and strategic studies, Experience working with governments, international organizations, NGOs, or think tanks in Eastern Africa is highly desirable. Other desirable experiences include project management, line managing human resources, and experiences with fundraising and donor relations.

Required Skills:
- Strong analytical and research skills, with the ability to interpret complex security and strategic studies.
- Excellent communication and writing skills, with experience in producing high-quality research outputs such as relevant journals and policy briefs.
- Familiarity with research frameworks and associated methodologies in academic and applied policy research.
- Ability to work independently and in a team, manage multiple projects, and meet deadlines.

Desirable Qualities:
- Experienced in research and policy publications in fields of security and strategic studies.
- Proven track record of advocacy and public speaking on security and strategic studies.
- Fluency in English (written and spoken); proficiency in other East African languages (e.g., Swahili) is an asset.
- Strong networking and partnership-building abilities.
- Experiences in grant writing and donor relations management.
- Willingness to learn on the job including the application of emerging innovations such as AI.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates are invited to submit a cover letter outlining their qualifications and interest in the position, CV, academic and professional certificates, transcripts and copies of relevant publications and or reports relevant to this role to *info@masharikirpc.org*

Please indicate on the subject line: **Head of Research**.

Deadline: Application documents should reach the Centre on or before **22nd January, 2025** by 1700 Hours.