



PUBLIC NOTICE

WARNING AGAINST IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF SOCIAL AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS

The Uganda Communications Commission was established under the Uganda Communications Act 2013, to among other things, monitor, inspect, license, set standards and enforce compliance relating to content. The Commission is also mandated to promote and safeguard the interests of consumers of all communication related services in Uganda.

Section 2 of the Act defines “Communications services” *to mean services consisting of the dissemination or interchange of audio, visual or data content using postal radio or telecommunications media, data communication and includes broadcasting.*

“Content” on the other hand is defined under the Act as *“any sound, text, still picture, moving picture or other audio visual representation, tactile representation or any combination of the proceeding which is capable of being created, manipulated, stored, retrieved or communicated electronically”.*

The Act further defines “data communication” to mean *“all electronic representations of information in any form”*, which means that every message that is sent through any regulated communication platform, including radio, Television, Telecommunication network or social and electronic communication applications, is regulated and must conform to the law and the standards set by the Commission.

Whilst the Commission is happy about the innumerable benefits that the consumers and users of communications services are deriving from the emergence of social and electronic communications platforms, including Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube amongst others the Commission is increasingly receiving complaints against offensive and illegal content that is sent, shared and/or otherwise broadcast through electronic communication platforms.

The Commission has noted with concern the increasing use of social and electronic media to perpetrate illegalities like sectarianism, hate speech, inciting public violence and prejudice, pornographic content among others, which is not only exposing the unsuspecting public to financial, social and emotional distress but also posing serious national security concerns.

This is therefore to advise the general public against irresponsible and/or illegal use of all communication platforms and to be extra careful while using social media and all other forms of electronic communication.

Social and electronic communication platform users, account managers and administrators should restrain themselves and group members against authoring, posting, receiving and sharing or forwarding any forms of electronic communications containing and or referring to illegal and/or offensive content to avoid the risk of being investigated and/or prosecuted for aiding and abetting the commission of any resultant offences.

The general public is advised to report all cases of abuse of social and electronic communication platforms to any police station nearest to them or to the Uganda Communications Commission located at UCC House, Plot 42-44 Spring Road Bugolobi Kampala and all UCC regional offices.

Dated this 14th Day of September 2017

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