



PUBLIC NOTICE

REGISTRATION OF ONLINE DATA COMMUNICATION AND BROADCAST SERVICE PROVIDERS

The Uganda Communications Commission is a Corporate body established under Section 4 of the Uganda Communications Act 2013 to regulate communication services in Uganda, including telecommunications, radio, television, broadcasting and postal and courier services.

In accordance with Section 5 of the Uganda Communications Act 2013, the Commission is mandated to monitor, inspect, license, supervise, control and regulate all communications services. The Commission is also mandated to set standards and enforce compliance relating to content.

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’ is defined to include “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”, and ‘data’ is defined to mean the electronic representation of information in any form.

Hence, under the Uganda Communications Act 2013, the provision of any services that involve the communication to the public of any content, whether by way of audio, video, sound, still or moving pictures or a combination thereof, is a communication services that is subject to the regulatory control of the Commission.

The purpose of this public notice therefore, is to inform all persons currently offering or desirous of offering online data communication services, that in exercise of its powers under section 6(e) of the Uganda Communications Act

2013, the Commission classified online data communication services as a communication services for which one requires an authorisation from the Commission.

All online data communication service providers, including online publishers, online news platforms, online radio and television operators are therefore, advised to apply and obtain authorisation from the Commission with immediate effect.

The Commission shall, from **the 2nd of April 2018**, embark on enforcement activities against all non-compliant providers of online data communication services, and this may entail directing Internet Service Providers (ISP) to block access to such websites and/or streams.

For further information on this matter, please contact the Uganda Communications Commission located at UCC House, Plot 42-44 Spring Road Bugolobi Kampala and all UCC regional offices.

Dated this 6th Day of March 2018

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