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OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP

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# CENSORSHIP FAQ

(FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

Through the general school awareness program, the Office of Censorship was able to share information to school students, teachers and from time to time, with parents and guardians.

The purpose of the awareness drive is to disseminate information to targeted audience groups particularly students in Primary, High, Secondary and Tertiary Institutions in and around the country.

The OoC team is also privileged to receive feedback from students about how they understood the information, what is important to them and what they can do with the information provided.

Below are the most frequently asked questions by students, teachers and parents & guardians when they are invited to ask questions during the awareness sessions hosted by the Office of Censorship and responses to the questions accordingly;

**1. Are cybercrime or computer related offences covered in your legislation at the present time?**

At present, the current Classification of Publication Act (1989) does not include or specify the offences related to cybercrime or any computer related offences for that matter.

The review of the current Act will allow for this (cybercrime offences) to be integrated and monitored.

**2. What are the key issues of concern in relation to Internet in your jurisdiction?**

The key concerned issues are related to the kind of information that is shared virally through the social media platforms without any jurisdiction. Information or content such as pornography, harassment and bullying.

**3. What different agencies are involved in the investigation and prosecution of cybercrime?**

There are three main agencies involved in investigation and prosecution of cybercrime are the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC), the Department of ICT and the National Information, Communication & Technology Authority (NICTA).

These agencies, including PNG Customs Services are the main stakeholder partners of the Office of Censorship, which does not have any prosecution powers within its Act of 1989.

**4. What interest is there amongst stakeholders to undertake reforms to address the key issues?**

Collaboration is the key and way forward in addressing key issues relating to Censorship while Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are being developed to strengthen

this partnership.

**5. Why are multiple DVD's still being sold on the streets of PNG even if it was banned by the government?**

Multiple DVDs continue to come into the country due to the fact that our borders are not effectively manned and protected.

**6. What is the Government doing about people/ organizations breaching Censorship laws?**

The government, through the Censorship Act (1989), and the partnership from RPNGC, are able to bring offenders into custody and to charge them accordingly, otherwise, penalty fines are paid by offenders who are caught breaching the Censorship laws in PNG.

**7. What are implications on the users of internet when they get involved in illegal activities online?**

Currently, there are no effective implications aligned to individuals who misuse the internet but responsible agencies such as the Office of Censorship, RPNGC, DICT and NICTA are working together to get internet abusers implicated accordingly.

The only mandated law that is in use to monitor internet misuse is the Cybercrime Act 2016, implemented by NICTA.

**8. Is the Office of Censorship monitoring activities online? If not, is there anything in place?**

As mentioned previously, the Office does not have regulatory powers to monitor the internet. Refer to question #1 for response.

**9. Why are illegal items such as Sex Enhancement Products (SEPs) still entering the country?**

The Office of Censorship works in harmony with stakeholder agencies such as PNG Customs and Police and these are agencies that support and effect the prohibition of such materials under their regulation.

As for Censorship, materials such as SEPs come through the Post Office, the wharf and also via efficiency of the mobile phone, which sometimes, makes it hard for the enforcement agencies to identify and prevent, however, more collaborative effort from all stakeholders is important to curb and minimise the influx of such products.

**10. Does the Office of Censorship rate movies before they are screened by the public?**

Yes, the Office of Censorship rates movies before they are publicly viewed.

The ratings and guidelines used by the Office to classify these movies, differ from overseas guidelines and ratings therefore some movies that you think should be given a 'PGR' rating are instead given an 'M' rating.



**11. Is the government doing anything to remove fake products from the shelves of shops in NCD and around the country?**

The Office works alongside partner agencies and stakeholders to conduct joint operations, these operations target shops and business houses to ensure genuine products are being sold and if caught, they are penalised accordingly under respective regulations.

In terms of fake products, the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) and the PNG Customs are working towards preventing fake products in the market.

**12. Can the Office of Censorship inform the radio announcers to use appropriate language since their information is reaching the populace around the country and sometimes the slang language they use on radio is offensive and not proper for listeners.**

Broadcasting agencies, particularly radio stations, were advised through a circular, advising radio stations to exercise self-censorship and to be mindful of the language used, otherwise, radio stations will be forced to terminate their services should they decide to not adhere to this instruction.

Any complaints or suggestions are to be forwarded to the Chief Censor's Office in writing and the issues raised will then be addressed accordingly.

Any and all comments raised during awareness sessions have been taken note of and will be addressed accordingly.