

What is Censorship?

Censorship is the process in which information is being screened or classified to ensure that the content is appropriate for viewing, listening or reading.

The Office of Censorship is an agency under the Ministry for Religion, Youth and Community Development. The Office operates under an act or law called the Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act of 1989 and it has the powers to monitor and regulate the content of information and materials.



For more information, do not hesitate to contact the Office through the contact details provided;

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Divisions of the Office of Censorship

The Office has three (3) main operational divisions including the Executive Management Division which consists of the Chief Censor and the Deputy Chief Censor. The three main divisions have different functions and are managed by the respective divisional Executive Managers who ensure that the day to day operations of the divisions are being carried out in a timely manner.

Each division including the Executive management has a role to play thus, contributing to the overall functions of the Office.

• I. EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

The Executive management comprises of the Office of the Chief Censor and the Deputy Chief Censor. Its role is to oversee the administrative functions of the Censorship Office, provides services to the Censorship Board and ensures implementation of the Board's policy directives. The Chief Censor who is the head of the Censorship Office reports to the Chairman of the Board and also to the Minister for Youth, Religion and Community Development following the elevation of the position.

• II. CORPORATE SERVICES

The Corporate Services Division provides effective and efficient administrative support services to other technical divisions toward meeting the Censorship Board's objectives. The Division is also responsible for the provisions of vital corporate services in Information Technology and Communication system; Financial Management and Accounting; Human Resource Management including training and development.

• III. ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE

The Enforcement and Compliance Division is responsible for providing support to the Censorship Board by coordinating, delegating and monitoring the implementation of policy guidelines and the Board's medium to long term strategic plans. It ensures this through collaboration with partners and stakeholders in advocating and promoting healthy mind, human decency and self-respect amongst the people by undertaking classification of films and publications; and inspection of publication premises.

It also collaborates with relevant authorities in the fight against the influx and infiltrations of indecent and harmful materials and information into the country by carrying out awareness for compliance and where necessary enforcement for breach of Censorship Policy and Legislation.

• IV. STRATEGIC POLICY AND COORDINATION

The Strategic Policy and Coordination Division is responsible for the formulation, development, monitoring and reviewing of policy guidelines on Censorship issues. It ensures this through conducting of research and providing reports on the impact of mass media on the spiritual, cultural, moral and ethical fabric of society. The Division is also responsible for initiating and conducting awareness activities in line with the vision and mission statement of the Censorship Board.

ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

Like other agencies, the Office has several functions which are;

1. Classification

The Office is responsible for classifying films, publications and video games (see separate pamphlet for rating information) through the use of a standard guideline.



This includes local documentaries, advertisements, movies, magazines, novels, video games and short films.

2. Registration of Publication Premises

Publication Premises that operate by selling movie DVDs, cable TV operators, Hotels, are all required by law, to register their companies with the Office of Censorship with specific registrations fees for different activities mentioned above.

3. Confiscation of Illicit Materials

The Enforcement & Compliance Division are responsible for confiscating materials that are deemed illegal with assistance from the RPNGC and the PNG Customs agencies respectively.

These materials include sex enhancement products (SEPs), pornographic magazines, images, video's.

According to Section 66 of the Censorship Act, 1989, Officers including Police and Customs personnel are authorised to enter any premises believed to be involved in the sale and distribution of any material mentioned above, for confiscation purposes.

4. Develop Policies

Another function of the Office is to develop policies on the implementation of programs and activities of the Office of Censorship.

