



# MiWATCH

Newsletter

OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP

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## Destruction Exercise by Enforcement & Compliance Division

As part of its annual operations the Office of Censorship (OoC) Papua New Guinea, through its Enforcement and Compliance Division, conducted its destruction exercise of all confiscated illicit materials and Sexual Enhancement Products (SEPs).

The destructive exercise by way of bonfire was held on Wednesday 13 December 2023, from 10am-2pm along the Boera Village road outside the nation's capital. Materials destroyed included SEPs, pornographic material, sex toys, pills, and cosmetics.

...continue page 3



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Official Signing Commences for the Formation of WSPCC p4

Office of Censorship Supports Manus String band p5

Censorship Ambassador School Program p6&7

Censorship Office with its Law Enforcement Partners recommend National Cyber Crime Task Force p10



# Greetings!



Greetings and welcome to another edition of MiWatch.

As we come to the end of the year, we are pleased to share another publication of news and stories on our work.

In this edition, we witness the welcoming of 10 new staff members who were briefly introduced and informed on the roles and functions of the Office of Censorship and what is expected of them as Censors. A joy of relief as we now fill up vacancies after the departure of former employees.

Some of our milestone achievements include signing of the West Sepik Provincial Censorship Committee and the implementation of the Censorship Ambassador School Program. Both activities are a part of the decentralization process and an empowering program for the young people on the roles and responsibilities of the Censorship Office.

The Censorship Office upholds our traditions and cultural practices through promoting and protecting of moral and ethical values of society. Thus, the Office provided support to the Manus String Band Music Festival and the Goroka Cultural Show to strengthen and maximize their efforts in promoting our culture.

At the forefront, the Censorship Office was highly represented both at the domestic and international scenes. Selected officers participated at 2 separate international meetings in Fiji and at 2 separate stakeholder meetings in Port Moresby and in Goroka, EHP. These gatherings provided the opportunity and learning experience for the officers. The officers were great ambassadors of the office during these meetings.

As is a requirement, the Enforcement and Compliance division undertook its destruction exercise that took place along the Napanapa

Highway where more than K50,000 street value of items including illicit materials and sex enhancement products were destroyed in a bonfire. The Police through National Drug and Vice Squad, the PNG Customs Service and the Media were there to witness.

Whilst, we acknowledge these achievements, we must be reminded that the main role of the Office of Censorship is to conduct classification of films and publications and thereby apply appropriate rating and approval for public consumption. This mandate is stipulated in the Classification of Publications (Censorship) Act of 1989. However, technology advancement has shifted this role to regulating online content of online media platforms and websites. This new role is recognized by the government through a NEC Decision No. 265 of 2023 instructing the Office, the DICT and NICTA to enforce cyber hygiene by filtering unsuitable internet content. This development is in line with the review and amendment being made to the Censorship Act to enable its relevance and validity to suit the current online environment.

Well, we hope you have enjoyed reading this edition and look forward to sharing more of our success stories and news in our next edition.

Blessings in the coming festive season.

*Ililikomau Ali*  
**Ililikomau Ali**  
Deputy Chief Censor



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# Destruction Exercise by Enforcement & Compliance Division

● from page 1

OoC's Chief Censor, Mr. Jim Abani, clarified that the destruction of illicit materials was a requirement as per the Censorship Act 1989, and it was to be done before law enforcement authorities and all relevant stakeholders. "All the explicit material confiscated are everything that was confiscated over the year 2023, and this practice serves as a reminder to the public of OOC's stern measures in curbing and disposing the importation of these illicit products," he added.

Further emphasizing the fundamental role OOC continues to play, Mr. Abani, reaffirmed that the OOC was doing its part by constantly monitoring items coming in and going out of the country. "You cannot escape because we have mechanisms in place. Once an individual or group has been identified to have

committed these illegal transactions, swift action will be taken that will have serious legal repercussions.

Censorship is about prohibiting anything that is offensive and it is through partners like PNG Customs and Post PNG Southern Region Office that we are able to effectively address the ongoing issue of illicit material importation. I commend their efforts in supporting each other and protecting the country's entry points along the border and I look forward to further strengthening these relationships," Mr Abani stated.

Mr. Gereka Kapa, OOC's Acting Manager, Enforcement & Compliance Division, clarified that the illicit properties confiscated were from January



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to October of 2023.

"The estimated street value for the products is more than K50,000, and the grim reality is that most of these items are ordered online by PNGans with few brought in by expatriates during security cargo checks at the Airport," he said.

"As shown by records, there has been a significant increase in imports this year 2023 when compared to 2022. It's become a norm where on a daily basis we are confiscating these illicit items, and it is mostly males doing the ordering," Mr Kapa said.

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# OoC Officially Welcomes New Hires

**A**n official welcome meeting was orchestrated by the Office of Censorship (OoC) PNG to inaugurate its newly hired staff.

The occasion held on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2023, from 9am-12pm, saw 10 new staff introduce themselves, after which saw existing staff also

Kilala.

OoC's Chief Censor, Mr. Jim Abani, in his welcoming remarks to the new staff stressed the important function OoC plays and urged the new recruits to carry out their responsibilities with diligence and in service of the nation. "It is more than just being about doing your job and getting paid, it is about serving the people of Papua New Guinea, our people," he said.

After welcoming onboard, the new hires, Ms. Ilikomau Ali, OoC Deputy Chief Censor, implored all staff to effectively work together in harmony to ensure the smooth operation of the agency. "Yes, we are a team, but we are also a family. The time you commit here at the office is more than that which you would spend at home. For that, take charge of duties with haste knowing that others are also depending on you," she stated.

Following addresses from OoC's Heads, each new staff was also given an opportunity to give a short introduction about themselves and their reason for joining the agency. To end the special event, light food and refreshments were provided afterward that had all happily indulge themselves in.

## Commentary from new hires:

Daniel Ealedona, OoC Research Officer, "Been a part of a government agency like the Office of Censorship is an honor personally. It has always been a career goal to join the public service, and the Office has given me the opportunity to achieve that.



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introduce themselves. Officiated with an opening prayer by Mrs. Joyce Bawa Konop, OoC Communications Officer, the opening speech was given by Executive Manager, Corporate Services Division, Mrs. Nancy

As the Chief Censor Mr. Abani emphasizes, serving the government is a duty that must be taken seriously as an employee of the State. Been a public servant, means to serve your country without favor but serving fairly the citizens of Papua New Guinea."

Jason Aoae, OoC Pay Master, "I feel honored to be a part of the Office of Censorship. It is a unique opportunity to contribute to the important balance between maintaining standards and respecting freedom of expression. I appreciate the responsibility to serve the public interest and ensure the financial integrity of the initiatives we undertake. Before departing from the Office of Censorship. I would like to leave a legacy of enhanced efficiency and transparency in our financial process."

Michael Kare, OoC Records Officer, "I am overwhelmed and pleased to have been given this opportunity by one of the most significant office of the PNG Government. Before my term is up, I'd like to deliver an integrated platform where necessary data and information for which work is done, either in enforcing or maintaining compliance; can be stored, maintained, retrieved and shared where necessary in real-time."



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## Official Signing Commences for the Formation of West Sepik Provincial Censorship Committee



Initial steps have been made toward the formation of the West Sepik Provincial Censorship Committee, after a Terms of Reference (TOR) was finally signed between the Office of Censorship and the West Sepik Provincial Administration on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> of November, 2023 in Vanimo, Sandaun Province.

The signing ceremony was officiated by the Chief Censor, Office of Censorship, Mr. Jim Abani; and Acting Provincial Administrator, West Sepik Provincial Administration, Mr Conrad Tilau.

The TOR is now in effect after the signing and is guided by eleven key pillars, and will be in effect for a period of 3 years or until altered and or terminated by agreement between the parties concerned, the Chief Censor and the Administrator.

Chief Censor, Mr. Jim Abani said, in line with the overall government direction in decentralizing national functions to lower levels of government, the Office of Censorship is embarking on the delegation of the powers and functions of the Chief Censor by establishing provincial censorship committee. "The absence of a specific Censorship representation within provincial administrative structure further results in lack of coordination of censorship matters in the province.

He said, basing on the need to delegate some roles and responsibilities of the Office of Censorship through the transfer of the Powers of the Chief Censor to the Provincial and Local Level Governments, a total of 6 provinces (West Sepik, Eastern Highlands, Morobe, Manus, East New

Britain, New Ireland) have being visited by the team from the Executive Management inclusive of the Chief Censor since 2018.

The progress so far has seen the Censorship Office Team establish dialogue with respective Provincial Administrators (PAs) and their Provincial Management Team (PMT). The process will involve setting up of Provincial Censorship Committees through existing structures within respective Provincial Government structures, he said.

Mr. Abani commended Sandaun Provincial Administration for being the first province to respond positively as a Border Province where influx of goods and services go through and from the border. "The signing of this Terms of Reference shows that all necessary requirements are in order with the formation of the West Sepik Provincial Censorship Committee.

The TOR stated that "The Committee will assist in combating importation of censorship contrabands and prohibited materials through the international PNG – Indonesia border at Wutung. The border crossing is a significant entry point between PNG and the Asia region therefore the trade of prohibited items and or publications is also a critical censorship matter.

The Committee will act as the Advisory body on all censorship matters in the Province including the Districts and the Wards. The Committee shall provide advice ensuring all censorship matters are attended to, reported and recommendation made to the Chief Censor."

# Office of Censorship Supports Manus String Band Festival



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Office of Censorship sponsored the hosting of the Manus String Band Festival with K5,000.00. as part of

its Public Relations. The festival was held from August 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and coincided with the Manus Provincial Day celebrations.

Manager, Awareness & Publicity, Ms. Karen Gabby officially handed over the sponsorship of As a Sponsor to the Manus String Band Festival, the Office set up a stall and conducted awareness on music regulation and other censorship burning issues and then distributed promotional merchandises to the participants.

This is in line with the National Censorship Policy II, Strategy 11, 3.11 on Advocacy and Awareness on censorship issues, moral and spiritual development, culture and sustainability and is also in line with regulation of Music and Entertainment industries in terms of protecting, promoting and upholding the moral and ethical values of the Society.

Manus String Band needs to be revived and sustained for Entertainment likewise for other string bands in the country and it was a great initiative by Barefoot Productions to host such an event to showcase local artists and talents.

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# Let Us Remember Reason for the Season

The official positions you and I hold today are for and to serve the people of Papua New Guinea. Let us be reminded of the meaning of Christmas which is to remember the birth of Jesus Christ and his teachings on giving and compassion towards others," said Chief Censor, Mr. Jim Abani during his address at the Christmas Office Celebration for the Office of Censorship.

The occasion was held on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> of December, 2023 from 2pm to 4pm, in the Ground Floor Conference Room of the Central Government Office (CGO) in Waigani, also had the special presence of Deputy Chief Censor, Ms. Ilikomau Ali; members from the Executive and Senior Management Team; and more than thirty OoC staff.

In his reflection of OoC in 2023, Mr. Abani made it clear that much was achieved by the Office and thanked all officers throughout OoC for their unwavering commitment in the organization. "I'd like to thank the management and all the staff because it was through your support and effort that the Censorship Office has achieved many milestones within the past 12-months," he stated.

Mr. Abani described the meaning of Christmas as a time where compassion and goodwill could be learned, and urged officers currently holding government posts to serve the people of Papua New Guinea. "You are the engine that successfully keeps this office running. But always remember that the offices we occupy no matter the government department or agency, we are to serve the people of Papua New Guinea. Let this Christmas teach us what genuine care toward others is so that we can improve ourselves and ultimately transform society," he further said.

Ms. Ali recalled the annual operation of OoC in 2023, and expressed her sincerest gratitude to its officers for making certain of this through their different roles. "Thanks to your individual inputs in whatever capacity you hold here in OoC, we've now arrived here together to share the end of



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the year and this Christmas period. The festive period is about spending special moments in life not just with friends and colleagues, but also with family," she explained.

"It's about sharing on a personal level by showing appreciation for one's commitment. Our gathering today is to celebrate the unity of teamwork, and to strengthen this family-like bond that has helped guide us to effectively carry out our duties as responsible officials of OoC," Ms. Ali further emphasized.

Mastering the Christmas ceremony was Ms. Hale Lahui, OoC Senior Research Officer. Throughout a range of items and interactive games were held that had the jolly participation of staff, they included Flip-The-Bottle and Karaoke Singing. As a token of appreciation and an early Christmas Gift, all staff of OoC were each given a disclosed amount of money to do shopping during the holidays. Food and refreshments were served afterward that saw officials gladly indulge themselves in.

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# Censorship Ambassador School Program

The Censorship Ambassador School Program (CASP) is a Behavior Change Intervention Program initiated in 2021 by the Office of Censorship through its Awareness & Publicity Branch under the Strategic Policy & Coordination Division and was piloted in Kilakila Secondary School in NCD and Mainohana Catholic Secondary School in Central Province.

It was designed for secondary school student Leaders to understand the roles and functions of the Office of Censorship and most importantly to contextualize and emulate the six values of the Office of Censorship (**Commitment, Professionalism, Service, Integrity, Ethics, Gender Equality & Social Inclusion**) into their own values that are instilled to them by their parents, church leaders, community leaders or teachers. The program also involves the participation of Role model Ambassadors from within the province who are homegrown to share their experience on the values that ignited their success stories as their contribution for inspiration and motivation purpose for the participants. School term holidays were selected for the implementation of the program because of the intensity and content of the program which requires full attention and participation of the students. It ran for three days and the students were certified as fully pledged Ambassadors in their respective schools, homes and community at large.

In 2023, the program was revised and further piloted in three selected secondary schools in East New Province, Malabunga Secondary School, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Vunapope Secondary and Kokopo Technical Secondary School and two selected secondary schools in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Hutjena Secondary School and Bishop Wade, Tariena Secondary School.

## Target Audience

Student leaders and aspiring students who demonstrate strong position and influence in their peer group, have good communication skills with a history of standing up for their friends are selected to participate in this program.

The CASP is recommended and ideal for the following categories of students.

- Student Leaders
- Members of the School Representative Council
- Head Boy/Girl
- Prefects
- Class Captains
- Vice Captains
- Leaders of Elective Groups
- Students who have exceptional leadership qualities recommended by Personal Development subject teachers

## Objectives of CASP

1. For students to know about the existence of the Office of Censorship including its roles and functions.
2. For students to identify and relate the Office of Censorship mandate to God & Country.
3. For students to identify the Vision, Mission and Values of the Office of Censorship.
4. For students to relate the Vision, Mission and Values to their everyday life, be able to identify these and uphold them.
5. Formation of the Ambassador to carry out the Vision, Mission and Values in their daily student and home life.
6. The Censorship Ambassador School Program will enable the students to build into the character of respect and decency and to uphold to the morals and values on which the Office of Censorship is based upon.

## Implementation of Censorship Ambassador School Program



Together, a total of forty-two (42) students were trained and certified as Censorship Ambassadors.



A total of forty-eight (48) student leaders participated in the CASP program in ENBP



A total of thirty-five (35) student leaders participated in the CASP program, fifteen (15) from Bishop Wade Secondary and twenty (20) from Hutjena Secondary Schools respectively.



OFFICE OF CURRICULUM & O'BI  
BC

BOOK PROGRAM  
2021

CRASH COURSE  
CASP

STANLEY  
AUGO

Maristella Baring

MANU

AGALUT

# PNG Participants Attend Symposium in Suva, Fiji

The 'Safe and Equal Online Spaces – Pacific Cyber Safety Symposium' which was held from 12-14 September 2023 in Suva, Fiji, convened by the Pacific Community (SPC) through its Pacific Women Lead at SPC (PWL at SPC) programme, in partnership with Australia's eSafety Commissioner, and supported by the Australian Government. As a member of the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP), SPC is collaborating with other CROP partners: The

experience given that TFGBV is a new agenda at the regional level. The participants acquired a wealth of information through presentations and sharing of experiences and stories from PNG and other Pacific countries. PNG as we know is quite advanced in terms of policy and law relating to addressing TFGBV, however a major concern is harmonizing these pieces of legislations and collaboration between the different agencies that administer these frameworks to enable a more cohesive approach in



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University of the South Pacific (USP) as Chair of the CROP ICT Working Group, and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) as lead of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

The emergence of digital technologies has the potential to foster economic growth, increase education and employment opportunities, and elevate voices often left behind. However, it also provides spaces for the perpetration of harm at all levels, from individuals to communities and nations. A broad range of stakeholders attended the Safe and Equal Online Spaces symposium, from civil society to government, private sector and regulatory bodies.

Papua New Guinea was represented by several participants both from the government and non-government organizations. The government included, Department of Police, Department of Community Development and Religion and Office of Censorship. The non-government organizations included Equal Playing Field, Save the Children Fund (PNG) and a young IT enthusiast and entrepreneur. This is the first ever TFGBV organized symposium attended by most of the PNG participants and all expressed great satisfaction and gratitude for the opportunity.

For the PNG participants, it was an eye opener and a new learning

addressing GBV and TFGBV effectively.

PNG participation in this Symposium on #TFGBVpacific provided the opportunity for the participants as they learnt at first-hand concerted efforts by island states and countries in effectively addressing TFGBV. Although the Department for Community Development and Religion has in placed the Papua New Guinea National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to GBV (2016-2025), it does not capture TFGBV. Similarly, the Office of Censorship has been advocating on GBV as part of our awareness and advocacy programs, however, TFGBV was never included. We may have talked about it but just as online violence and abuse in general.

The following recommendations were made by the PNG delegates;

1. Government to recognize TFGBV as a big problem, and therefore declare it as a national state of emergency, because this is impacting lives of young people and families.
2. The national resources of the country can be pulled together such as police, government agencies and civil society organizations to work together to put a stop to TFGBV.



3. Form an emergency community, where the police get involved, including various public and civil agencies and departments to effectively address TFGBV.

4. TFGBV issues are cross-cutting and generational. Thus, young people are going to be corrupted and distracted en-masse, and our country is going to suffer when these young people become adults and bring forth children and start families, and the future does not look bright if we continue down this trajectory.

5. Government to pass laws to require technology companies, like social media platforms, to conform to certain national standards and requirements, such as what India did in 2021, by introducing rules social media companies are required to comply by or face a ban. Such actions can be done as follows;

a. with the national internet gateway, DataCo to monitor and ensure those requirements that align with the national laws, policies, traditions and norms of the country, to adhere to our standards.

b. big tech firms such as Meta, Microsoft, and Google - should use the power of AI and the power of large language models (training of large language models to monitor such behaviors such as hate speech, grooming) to detect such behavior of bad actors).

c. Big tech companies can be a part of the solution. They have a social and community responsibility/obligation to do whatever they can within their power to ensure their systems are safe. No one is asking the big techs on how they can improve their technologies to make sure users

are safe online. Companies have a business, social and moral responsibility to ensure their technologies are safe for their users to use.

- The issue has not only gotten worse, but it's got multi-dimensional.
- One platform can be used in multiple ways to carry out all these activities.
- So, the tech companies should have a social, morale and business responsibility to ensure their users, both young and old, male and female, are protected and have a fare and safe experience online.

6. Alignment of key stakeholders who are a part of the prevention, referral pathways, and responsive process, to ensure governments, policy makers and regulators, law enforcement, CSOs, and other online safety stakeholders have clarified their roles and responsibilities, and understand where they come in when it comes to preventing and addressing TFGBV.

7. More education programs that teach responsible use of the internet, and other social media platforms teaching kids and young people how use and surf the web safely, as well as acceptable behaviors on online.

8. More focus needs to be on educating young people of the dangers available online that they need to be aware of, and how to respond to different scenarios and cases of TFGBV.

9. Parents' Guide on what to do and how to seek support and make referral to help their young children who are facing TFGBV.

## Office of Censorship Supports Goroka Cultural Show PNG Culture Must Maintain Uniqueness

A generous donation of funds was made by the Office of Censorship (OoC) PNG to Goroka's Sinu Festival Committee in preparation for its Mini Cultural Show scheduled to occur in December.

The cheque of K6000- was presented by Chief Censor, Mr. Jim Abani, on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> of November, 2023, and receiving the cheque on behalf of the Committee and the National Cultural Commission (NCC) were Ms. Julian Mathew, Chairlady, and Assistant, Erolyn Pandan. Also present to witness the occasion was Ms. Karen Gabby, Manager Awareness & Publicity, Office of Censorship.



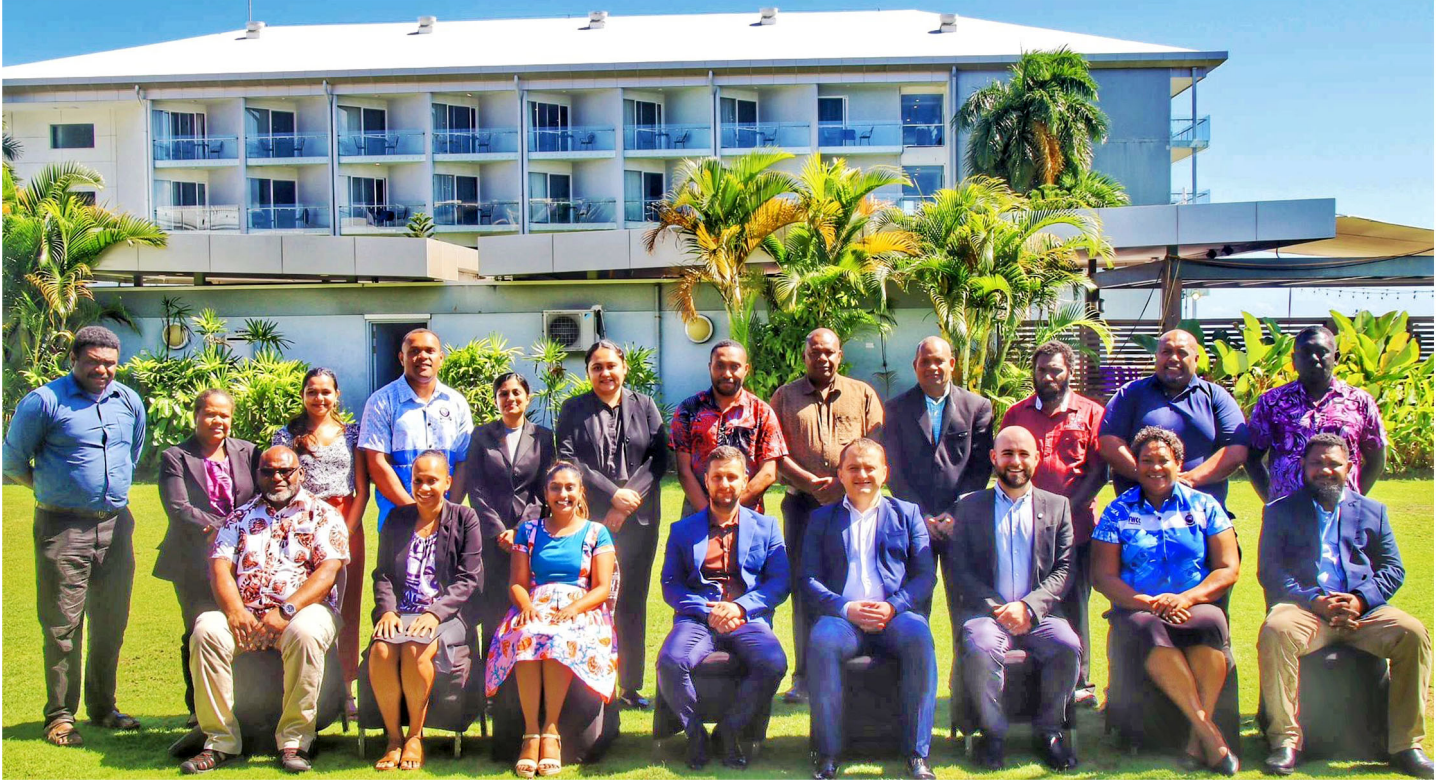
In his reference to the NCC and PNG Tourism Promotion Authority, Chief Censor Abani, said the support was fundamental to preserving the nation's diverse and rich cultural heritage. "OoC is helping because this is where its policy lies, in protecting our culture and doing what is right for our people by ensuring it remains pure and uncompromised by contemporary lifestyles," he stated.

"PNG culture must maintain its uniqueness and values by remaining unhindered from modern norms that many assume to have no negative implications. The OoC is looking forward to collaborating very closely through this Committee and its partners because this is an effective way

of promoting our culture and encouraging the engagement of our young people," Mr. Abani emphasized.

Ms. Mathew described the Cultural Show as an opportunity to learn and know what culture was all about. "In 2022, we had the participation of 7 local villages and students from the University of Goroka. This year 2023 we intend to involve more students especially from primary schools because we want them to appreciate from a young age who they are. It's about celebrating and respecting their identity, and showcasing the traditional wonders of our local societies," she added.

# Censorship Office with its Law Enforcement Partners recommend National Cyber Crime Task Force



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In its bid to tackle cybercrimes committed online, the Office of Censorship and its partners in law enforcement are aiming to establish a National Cyber Crime Task Force.

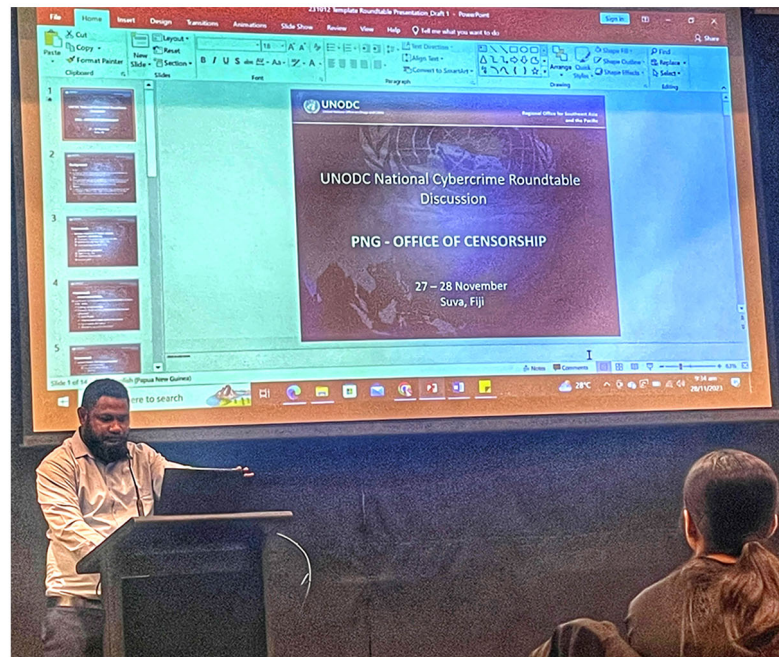
This remark was made by Compliance Officer from the Office of Censorship, Mr. Steven Lapun after attending a Cybercrime and Ransomware Training held at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva, Fiji from the 27<sup>th</sup> of November to the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, 2023.

Mr. Lapun was amongst twenty-one (21) participants from the Melanesian countries of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. The participants were representatives from law enforcement agencies of Police, Cybercrime, Censorship and Public Prosecutors.

In emphasizing the training's benefits to OoC in curbing Cybercrime in PNG, Mr. Lapun said that a big task now lay ahead in creating a National Cyber Crime Task Force.

"The PNG team that participated in the event will submit a collaborative report with more emphasis on relevant stakeholders' collaboration and establishing of a National Cyber Crime Task Force and related frameworks. This will bolster our office's capacity to address cybercrimes effectively," he said.

Mr. Lapun added that the training was instrumental in addressing the escalating challenges of cybercrime and ransomware experienced across Melanesian countries. "The occasion had many eminent experts share valuable perspectives and strategies to effectively counter these threats. From the presentations made and knowledge shared I was able to identify resolutions and focus areas for OoC that require improvements and implementations in its operations," he said



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He concluded that the resolutions and focus areas covered in the training included Cybercrime working group, identifying existing governance frameworks, coordination with key stakeholders, and clarity of roles within the office.

# OoC Attends Child Fund Annual Forum

The Office of Censorship was invited by Child Fund, under the Impact program to attend the annual forum held for two days at the Gateway Hotel from the 4<sup>th</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> of July, 2023. The forum theme was "Wholistic Approaches for Youth Development".

The Impact program was carried out in the Port Moresby South Electorate, Joys Bay Community as well as some selected Secondary Schools in the Nation's Capital and the Central province. The program targeted youths, promoting the message of Rights, Respect and Resilience. It's a five-year program that enabled to create positive change for children and young people, despite the challenges faced living in communities.

The panel discussions were on Youth Development Issues, Prevention, Management & Way Forward. The topics discussed were;

- Drug & Alcohol Abuse – NYDA
- Teenage Pregnancy – Marie Stopes, CFPNG Health, Kemapolo HS
- Gender Based VIOLENCE – NCD FSVAC, FSVU, HELPLINE
- Menstrual Poverty – Queens Pads, Kotex PNG, PE Mentor
- Financial Abuse – School Rep, PE Mentor, ChildFund IRRR

According to Philip So'on, First Assistance Secretary, the program supported in implementing the National Department of Education Behavior Management Policy and also challenged the teachers present to be honest and transparent and to lead by example at their respective schools. The highlight of the presentation was by Lawrence Tau from National Youth Development Authority on Illicit Drugs and Alcohol which raised more concerns from the participants.

The forum was held to measure the impact that the program had on communities and participating schools. Many youths from the Joys Bay



community as well as students shared wonderful experience of positive change testaments, including the challenges encountered in the program.

The forum ended with a gallery walk to visit schools and community posters for rating by the partners which were present, this includes the Office of Censorship. Amongst the schools that participated, Magarida Junior High School in the Central Province was rated first and won cash prize.

Everyone was encouraged to embrace the values in the program and own them and make them become part of their lifestyle.

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# Office of Censorship Participates in Guidance & Counseling Conference

Office of Censorship was invited by the National Department of Education (NDoE) to attend the Guidance and Counseling Conference from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the Village Inn Hotel, Wewak in the East Sepik Province. The theme of the Conference was "Quality Teaching for Quality Education" and sub-theme, "Through Strengthening Guidance and Counseling Services and Programs in all Schools".

Principal Research Officer, Ms. Hale Lahui and Communications Officer, Mrs. Joyce Konop were nominated by the Office of Censorship to participate in the Conference. Their participation involved doing PowerPoint presentations on two (2) very important activities that were undertaken by the Office on; Research on Media & Sexual Content amongst young people, a Research that seeks views and perspectives of young people as to how, when, why and where they access any form of media, especially with sexual content and to further indicate what potential harms there may be. The findings of that Research were presented by Ms. Lahui while Mrs. Joyce Konop presented on the Censorship Ambassador School Program, which is a Behavior Change Intervention Program initiated by the Office of Censorship in 2021 targeting student leaders. The participating students of CASP were certified as Censorship Ambassadors to continue advocating on moral principles and ethical values back in their family, school and community.

The Conference was officially opened by Mr. Alphonse Kami, Deputy Provincial Administrator, Social Services, under the East Sepik Provincial Administration and Mr. Philip So'on, First Assistant Secretary for Guidance and Counseling under the National Department of Education (NDoE) provided opening remarks with emphasis on character development; social quotient and emotional quotient, that helps to improve a child's





performance academically, that is, Intelligent Quotient.

Mr. So'on stated that according to Psychologists, there are four (4) types of intelligence; Intelligence Quotient (IQ) measures level of comprehension, Emotional Quotient (EQ) measures our ability to maintain peace with others, being responsible, honest, respect boundaries, being humble, genuine and considerate, Social Quotient (SQ) measures our ability to build a network of friends and maintain it over a long period of time, and Adversity Quotient (AQ) measures our ability to go through a rough patch in life and come out without losing our mind.

While more attention is given on the Intelligent Quotient (IQ), the other quotients are not addressed in the development of a child, hence, the child is left behind considering not all students are intelligent academically, said Mr. So'on,

The work of the Office of Censorship is very important and significant in addressing Emotional Quotient, Social Quotient and Adversity Quotient through its research and awareness programs.

The first presentation by the Office of Censorship officers was the Censorship Ambassador School Program (CASP) which recommended for a Terms of Reference to be signed between National Department of Education and Office of Censorship. The objective of the Terms of Reference is to provide the program objectives, its scope of work, activities and the specific tasks to be performed by both parties.

The second presentation was on the research findings and recommendations on Media and Sexual Content. Some participants made the following comments and recommendations;

### 1. Plenary Discussion

Questions/Comments	Recommendation	Questions/Comments	Recommendation
1. Two new curriculum, in-school and out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education is going through vetting to address online bullying which has become detrimental to the education of our young children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office of Censorship will be invited to be part of this consultation and implementation.</li> </ul>	4. Are there any laws to penalize pornography viewers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes, according to the Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act 1989, pornography is illegal and there are related penalties</li> </ul>
2. What have we done so far in order to address the findings of the research data, in terms of putting a stop to the communication network. How do we address the root cause?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An NEC Decision in Sept. 2023 was announced in the media to filter the internet content. Office of Censorship and relevant stakeholders from the ICT Sector have been instructed to implement the filtering of inappropriate internet content.</li> <li>Office of Censorship also intends to develop a Policy on Internet Content Filtering in 2024. NDoE will be part of the policy consultation</li> </ul>	5. Parents not aware of children's online activity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The eight (8) recommendations highlighted from the research findings can be followed up by the Guidance and Counseling Division for implementation at respective schools in the country.</li> </ul>
3. Lyrical content that is publicly aired is unsuitable for children. It may have a negative impact on their mindsets and behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office of Censorship recently hosted a Music Forum that presented a Draft Classification Guidelines on Music through which also considers lyrical content.</li> </ul>	6. Where does Guidance and Counseling come in the Censorship Ambassador School Program?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OoC and NDoE to sign a Terms of Reference (ToR) that provides guidelines for respective roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>OoC should be part of NDoE in the space of ICT policy.</li> </ul>



PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
CENSORSHIP BOARD &  
OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP  
**PROHIBITED  
ITEMS**

**DECISION CONCERNING MATTERS OR GOODS OTHER THAN FILMS AND PUBLICATIONS**

The Papua New Guinea Censorship Board and the Office of Censorship are mandated under the **Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act 1989** (the Act) for the determination and declaration of the classification of films and publications produced locally and or imported internationally. This includes regulating and monitoring content of the mass media and public communication systems to rid-off unwanted and indecent information and materials.

In accordance to sections 11 and 12 of the Censorship Act of 1989, the Censorship Board resolved in its Meeting No. 02/2003 on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2003 to ban all objectionable publications including matters or goods other than films from entering Papua New Guinea.

The objectionable publications provided for in section 2(a) of the Censorship Act include;

**a) Sexual Enhancement Products**

All imported sex enhancing products in whatever state, form or shape are not permitted unless specifically prescribed

contacted to verify its use. Such products in this category would include capsules, tablets, sprays, creams, powders, vibrators, penis enlargers, vibe condoms, sex novelties, etc.

**b) Medical Drugs**

Medical drugs purposely made to cure or correct a sexual dysfunction are permitted on the condition that the drug is registered by the Medical Supplies Branch of the Department of Health to be used as directed by a medical doctor.

**c) Dietary Supplements (Vitamins)**

Dietary supplements intended for consumption by Papua New Guineans are permitted provided the prescription or prescriptions on the packages or on inserted leaflets are in English.

The Censorship Board views such products and materials as objectionable publications or prohibited items and strongly recommended that these items must not be sold or distributed for use and consumption as they are illegal in the country.

**PENALTY:**

The general public is reminded that any persons in possession of any of the Prohibited Items are in breach of the Censorship Act and can be imprisoned up to six months or charge a penalty fine of K3,000.00 (individual) or K10,000.00 (Corporate Body).

Authorized by;

**Mr. Jim. Abani**  
Chief Censor

**Classification of Publications (Censorship) Act 1989 Sec.82 (d)**

**SCHEDULE 1**

**NEW FEES AND CHARGES FOR REGISTRATION OF PUBLICATION PREMISES**

No.	Description	Former Rates (Kina)	New Rates (Kina)
1.	Publisher's Certificate	200.00 per year	500.00 per year
2.	Public Television Station Certificate	5,000.00 per year	20,00.00 per year
3.	Radio Station Certificate	2,500.00 per year	6,000.00 per year
4.	Public Cable Television Certificate	5,000.00 per year	20,00.00 per year
5.	Limited Hotel Television Certificate	1,500.00 per year	3,000.00 per year
6.	Special Cable Television Certificate	1,000.00 per year	2,000.00 per year
7.	Film Theatre Certificate	500.00 per year	500.00 per year
8.	Video Library Certificate	500.00 per year	500.00 per year
9.	Video Cinema Certificate	2,000.00 per year	5,000.00 per year
10.	Video Outlet Certificate	300.00 per year	300.00 per year
11.	Film Production Certificate	5,000.00 per year	6,000.00 per year
12.	Literature Distributor's Certificate	500.00 per year	1,500.00 per year
13.	Literature Dealer's Certificate	300.00 per year	500.00 per year
14.	Audio Distributor's Certificate	500.00 per year	1,000.00 per year
15.	Audio Dealer's Certificate	200.00 per year	300.00 per year
16.	Internet Service Providers' Certificate	5,000.00 per year	10,000.00 per year
17.	Internet Gateway Certificate	10,000.00 per year	100,000.00 per year
18.	Change of Publication Premises Certificate	200.00 per year	300.00 per year
19.	Video Distributor's Certificate	New	500.00 per year
20.	Video Dealer's Certificate	New	500.00 per year
21.	Film Production Certificate	New	500.00 per year
22.	Film/Movies Importers Certificate	New	2,000.00 per year
23.	Digital Music Distributors Certificate	New	1,000.00 per year
24.	Internet Cafe	New	1,000.00 per year
25.	Recording Studio Certificate	New	1,000.00 per year
26.	Compact Digital Music Dealers Certificate	New	300.00 per year
27.	Gaming-ware Distributor Certs (Hardware & Software)	New	5,000.00 per year
28.	Gaming-ware Dealer Certificate (Hardware & Software)	New	2,500.00 per year
29.	Online Gaming Certificate	New	6,000.00 per year
30.	Multimedia Production Certificate	New	5,000.00 per year
31.	Advertising Production Certificate	New	5,000.00 per year
32.	Public Wireless Television Certificate	New	5,000.00 per year

**NEW FEES and Charges FOR Classification | \*Caption in Foreign Language (CFL) \* Classification Fee (CF)**

33.	Foreign Publication other than film	5.00 per title	20.00 per title
34.	PNG Produced publication other than film	3.00 per title	20.00 per title
35.	Foreign Periodic series publication other than film	30.00 per title	50.00 per title
36.	Review of Foreign publication other than film	10.00 per title	30.00 per title
37.	Review of PNG produced publication other than film	7.00 per title	30.00 per title
38.	Review of Foreign Periodic series publication other than film	40.00 per title	100.00 per title
39.	Review of PNG periodic series publication other than film	20.00 per title	100.00 per title
40.	Foreign produced cinema feature film	20.00 per title	50.00 per title
41.	PNG produced digital feature film	20.00 per title	50.00 per title
42.	Digital film that contains dialogue or CFL	9.00 + CFL	50.00 + CFL
43.	Foreign produced digital film advertising matter	10.00 per title	100.00 per title
44.	PNG produced digital advertising matter	5.00 per title	100.00 per title
45.	Digital film advertising matter that contains dialogue or CFL	5.00 per title +CF	100.00 per title +CF
46.	Foreign produced video disk (DVD) feature film	20.00 per title	50.00 per title
47.	PNG produced digital video disk (DVD) feature film	15.00 per title	50.00 per title
48.	DVD feature film that contains dialogue or CFL	15.00 per title+CF	50.00 per title
49.	DVD advertising matter that contains dialogue or CFL	10.00 per title+CF	100.00 per title
50.	Foreign DVD film advertising matter	50.00 per title	50.00 per title
51.	PNG produced DVD film advertising matter	50.00 per title	50.00 per title
52.	Foreign produced film intended for television broadcasting	5.00 per title/episode	20.00 per title/episode
53.	PNG produced film intended for television broadcasting	5.00 per title/episode	20.00 per title/episode
54.	Film advertising matter (previews) intended for television broadcasting	2.00 per title	100.00 per title
55.	Digital commercials intended for television broadcasting	25.00 per title	200.00 per title
56.	Digital commercials intended for radio broadcasting	25.00 per title	200.00 per title
57.	Review of foreign produced digital feature film	40.00 per title	200.00 per title
58.	Review of foreign digital advertising matter	7.00 per title	100.00 per title
59.	Review of PNG produced digital feature film	25.00 per title	200.00 per title
60.	Review of PNG digital film advertising matter	3.00 per title	100.00 per title
61.	Review of foreign DVD feature film	50.00 per title	150.00 per title
62.	Review of PNG produced DVD feature film	30.00 per title	200.00 per title
63.	Review of foreign produced DVD feature film (trailers) advertising matter	9.00 per title	100.00 per title
64.	Review of PNG produced DVD feature film advertising matter	7.00 per title	100.00 per title
65.	Review of foreign film intended for television broadcasting	15.00 per title/episode	100.00 per title/episode
66.	Review of PNG produced film intended for television broadcasting	15.00 per title/episode	100.00 per title/episode
67.	Review of advertising film matter intended for television broadcasting	3.00 per title/episode	30.00 per title/episode
68.	Review of commercials intended for television broadcasting	50.00 per title	150.00 per title
69.	Review of playstation/ computer games	20.00 per title	100.00 per title
70.	Foreign produced periodic series film	New	20.00 per title/episode
71.	Papua New Guinea produced periodic series film	New	20.00 per title/episode

Note: Where an application to which a fee referred to in this Schedule is not granted, 90% of the application fee paid shall be refunded to the applicant.



**“BE A SMART VIEWER AND WATCH APPROPRIATELY”**  
**“CENSORSHIP STARTS AT HOME”**



The Office of Censorship information can be accessed via these various social media platforms for your convenience. You can also share your thoughts for the purpose of development.

Instagram Account | LinkedIn Account | Twitter Account | Website Page | Facebook Page

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