



PRESS RELEASE

Launch of Uganda Media Sector Working Group

March 26, 2020

For immediate release

After many months of preparation and consultations within the media fraternity and among industry stakeholders, we wish to announce the launch of the Uganda Media Sector Working Group (UMSWG) due on Tuesday 30th March at 8:30-13:30 at Skyz Hotel in Naguru, Kampala.

UMSWG was formally initiated in May 2020 as a multi-stakeholder platform to create dialogue within the media industry and to address protracted issues that bedevil it. These include diminishing professionalism, media freedom and accountability to the public, ineffective regulation and out-of-date legal framework, growing personal risks to journalism practitioners, and challenging economic environment.

The platform emerged out of the realisation that the media sector is fractured and lacks a uniform voice to articulate its issues to the Government and to the public. The UMSWG will therefore initiate new and support long-standing efforts to build a media industry that is more professional, accountable, and trusted by the public. This will enhance citizens' rights and the media's role in the development of Uganda. The launch is organised by the Media Council of Uganda in collaboration with the Uganda Chapter of the International Training Programme (ITP) on Media Development in a Democratic Framework and other industry stakeholders.

The Minister of ICT and National Guidance will be the chief guest. The launch event will feature open dialogue and panel discussions by industry stakeholders under the themes: "The right to inform vs. the right to protect the public: How can newsrooms strike the balance?" and "Strengthening the enabling environment for the media: How can regulation promote the right to free expression?"

The nine-member Founding Committee will be unveiled. It comprises representation from Media Council of Uganda, Uganda Communications Commission, ITP Uganda Chapter, African Centre for Media Excellence, Uganda Editors' Guild, Uganda Journalists Association, National Association of Broadcasters, and Online Media Publishers Association-Uganda.

The launch programme is attached.

Signed:

Paulo Ekochu
Chairperson, Media Council of Uganda
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PROGRAMME		
8:30 – 9:00	Arrival & registration	
9:00 – 9:15	Opening remarks: Background to the UMSWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Lugalambi, National Facilitator, ITP Uganda Chapter
9:15 – 9:30	Case for the UMSWG: Industry perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innocent Nahabwe, Vice Chairperson, National Association of Broadcasters
9:30 – 9:45	Case for the UMSWG: Regulatory perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paulo Ekochu, Chairperson, Media Council of Uganda
9:45 – 10:15	Guest of honour: Keynote address and launch of the UMSWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Minister of ICT & National Guidance
10:15 – 10:45	Break	
10:45 – 12:00	<p>Panel Discussion 1: The right to inform vs. the right to protect the public: How can newsrooms strike the balance?</p> <p>Moderator: Charles Bichachi, Public Editor, Nation Media Group-Uganda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Kaija, Editor-in-Chief, Vision Group • Winston Agaba, Managing Director, Uganda Broadcasting Corporation • Carol Beyanga, Managing Editor-Digital, Nation Media Group-Uganda • Giles Muhame, Chairperson, Online Media Publishers Association-Uganda • Julius Mucunguzi, Advisor and Head of Communications, Office of the Prime Minister
12:00 – 1:15	<p>Panel Discussion 2: Strengthening the enabling environment for the media: How can regulation promote the right to free expression?</p> <p>Moderator: Emilly Maractho, Uganda Christian University</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Okello Jabweli, Member, Media Council of Uganda • Rose Mary Kemigisha, Senior Human Rights Officer/Editor, Uganda Human Rights Commission • Abudu-Sallam Waiswa, Head of Legal, Uganda Communications Commission • Pheona Nabasa Wall, President, Uganda Law Society • Mathias Rukundo, President, Uganda Journalists Association
1:15 – 1:30	Concluding remarks and closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent Secretary, Ministry of ICT & National Guidance
1:30	Lunch	