# **THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**NATIONAL ASOOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS (“NAB)**

**CHAIRMANS REPORT**

I am delighted to welcome all of you to the Annual General meeting of NAB for the year 2022.We thank you for setting time aside to be part of this meeting

It is important to note that the year,2022 following the opening of the economy was recovering from the lockdown which was characterized by supply chain disruptions, economic uncertainty, adoption of hybrid work-from-home practices, inflation rates and uncertainties arising from the repercussions of the COVID-19 global pandemic, and the recently reported Ebola pandemic in the Country.

All the foregoing negatively affected the media Industry,and since then the recovery of the economy and the used to be normal business in the industry is changing, from decline in advertising expenditure due to budget constraints and change in consumer behaviors

That notwithstanding, the National Association of Broadcasters has continuously labored to deliver on its mandate and the Chairman, on behalf of the Executive of the National Association of Broadcasters reports on the activities of the year,2022 as follows;

**AMENDMENT OF THE MEDIA LAWS BYGOVERNMENT:**

1. NAB in exercising its mandate did meet the the Ministry of Finance & ICT wherein we requested for in-depth consultation of the stakeholders and industry players before the laws are passed.
2. Unfortunately, the Amendment to the Computer Misuse Act was passed regardless of our reservations and opinions hence its current vagueness and the threat it might be to the rights and freedoms of expression and the press.
3. Our prayer and emphasis is that the government should have numerous meetings with the media stakeholders especially NAB to gather tried, tested and experienced opinions from the industry players, because these laws will be affecting us more than any other,it is our hope that Government will hid to these prayers

**We further raised the issue of the outstanding amounts owed to the media.**

1. Government still has a debt of 13bn to clear the media industry.Let us all move together as we engage the Ministries of ICT (UMOA & RUBA). RUBA is willIng to work with NAB to achieve the main goal for a stronger industry. There’s need to educate the government from the head of state to tell them that;
2. this media should be paid for,ducate stake holders to budget for the media. We need to be strategic & plan on how to package this how can media impact & accelerate this.
3. It is high time we introducing aging debts/attracting interest on government business because it is our biggest client and beneficiary but taking more than 90 days sometimes three years or more to pay does not leave the outstanding amount to have the same value in the economy,1 billion in 2019 is not the same in 2022, hence the need to introduce the interests and surcharges when they fail to pay within an agreed time period, we shall engage our Commercial arm UMOA on this proposal

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

1. **ACME AWARDS:**

NAB as a partner of ACME Contributed 5m and participated in the awards for journalists that were organized by ACME 21st December 2021 and this year we have contributed 3m towards the same cause.

1. **PROPOSAL FOR A MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SPREAD OF EBOLA VIRUS**

In October,2022, we wrote to the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, Health and other relevant ministries with a proposal that they set aside a budget through the Ministry of ICT and NG, the feedback was positive but they did not take any action

1. **IMPLEMENTING THE AGM RESOLUTION IN RESPECT TO THE SISTER MEDIA ASSOCIATIONS**

We also wrote & sent out letters to our sister associations including; UMOA, Editors Guild, RUBA asking them to be part of the executive for proper execution of plans & strengthen the media industry. We have representation from UMOA & RUBA on the NAB Exco to work towards strengthening the Media association. We are awaiting from Editors Guild

1. **EXCO MEETING 2022**

 We had our first Exco meeting on 27th January 2022 to plan for the year:

My communication as Chairman was that the Ministry of ICT passed the regulations for the Communications tribunal, I stated that the team shall continuously engage the minister to ensure implementation & operationalization of the tribunal with the 6 months agreed period, I request members who have recommendations for the Communications tribunal to forward their names, we need people that understand the industry and are professional.

1. **THE PARISH DEVELOPMENT MODEL PROPOSAL:**

Members agreed that a deliberate and intentional proposal on how government can leverage the PDM through the media should be developed, a consultant was engaged to come up with a proposal for the team to present to the Ministry of finance & ICT. The secretary NAB coordinated a committee of three committee members (Central Rep.East,etc) towards this proposal but we still await governments response

1. **ENGAMENTS:**

We planned to engage our members through regional outreaches where people from different regions will be trained and we create awareness on NAB. We are in talks to conduct the consumer parliament with UCC. We are going to work with regional representatives to achieve this and executed in 2023

1. **INTERNAL REGULATIONS:**

We plan to embark on internal self-regulation mechanisms headed by (Secretary & Legal NAB) through the regional outreaches,we shall partner a programme with individual journalists & train them in short courses. -Secretary (in conjunction with media council and UCC)

1. **UCC Consultative Meetings.**

On March 25th 2022, NAB received an invitation to attend a consultative meeting with UCC which was about article 35 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda which provides to the effect that persons with disabilities have a right to human respect & dignity & the state & society shall take appropriate measures to ensure that they realize their full mental & physical potential and parliament shall enact laws appropriate for the protection of persons with disabilities.

They asked to be included in the content plan by every TV and in shows vide;n Interpreter for every programme. We suggested that government can create a dedicated channel for them but can also train our sign language interpreters on how best we can serve them for now considering the financial implication of the demandsc

1. **ICT COMMITTEE MEETING AT PARLIAMENT:**

on April 14th 2022, NAB executive was invited to Parliament by the chairman Parliamentary ICT committee where we presented the brief below in respect to the challenges affecting the industry;

1. ***We request that the Parliamentary ICT Committee should work with the Ministry of ICT to enact a regulation that clarifies on the payment and the application of the 2% levy to telecoms as opposed to broadcasters and redefining the operators to whom the 2% levy was intended to apply to.***
2. ***We request for the establishment of the UCC Tribunal as provided for by the UCC Act 2013, and as was promised by the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance on various occasions, the latest being in September 2021.***
3. ***We propose that every government program should have a 2-5% budget component in every financial year for sensitization and awareness and this should be dedicated towards buying media across all platforms from Tv, Radio, Online and Newspapers such that citizens are updated on government projects***
4. ***We request for a permanent solution to address the challenges arising from SIGNET services***
5. ***We request the Committee to advocate for the respect and protection of members of the Fourth Estate and accord them necessary support when executing their duties. Respect of the Media Rights as expected in a Democratic Society.***

This was a very successful meeting because the above proposals were presented for implementation to parliament by the Chairperson ICT Committee;

1. Parliament had given the Hon Minister of ICT 1 month to affect the tribunal.
2. Scrap of the 2% from UCC
3. Separate signet from UBC
4. **UCC MEETING**

The NAB Executive led by myself met the UCC ED and her team on August 29th 2022.

1. We proposed that they should establish or effectively constitute the directorate in charge of content. Content needs to be given the attention it deserves; many channels comply with the local content requirement but the others that don’t comply create unfair competition.
2. Since NAB deals with Policy issues relating to the media Industry, the regulator agreed to consult and engage the Association extensively in respect to the law reviews on UCC Act, Computer Misuse Act, Press and Journalist Act, and the UCC Act
3. In light of the challenges raised by our members, UCC informed us of the Online portal that has been developed to ease license renewal process, type approvals and other Application processes
4. **Report and Actions on the PDM Proposal**
* Galabuzi, who is in charge of PDM received our letter and he has forwarded our request for the money for media, we shall re-engage with him to see whether he pushed for the money in the first quarter
* The Secretary was requested to share with members the PDM report
* It was further reported that the PS-Min of ICT is pushing for money for Covid-19 for those who were not paid.

**Other Issues**

**IPSO’s**

* On the division caused by the IPSOs research, let’s Find a way of working together on this because it is misleading the market, as an industry we can work together. Let our commercial arm UMOA engage researchers and we find a **professional solution to IPSOs since the challenge caused by them is commercial in nature even if it means us establishing our own trusted research entity**

 **UCC AND LICENSES**

* Most Radios have paid UCC their dues, but UCC delays to give them their licenses.
* There is a problem of Un coordinated billing form UCC.
* **No station in Western Uganda has a valid license from UCC, we need to meet UCC ASAP since it looks like there is no sense of direction.**
* No station from the Faith Based has been licensed.
* We need to work with UCC to fast track licensing of the radios that have fulfilled most of the requirements.
* Some standards are not practical, UCC needs to relax some of these standards like biometric doors, etc in some of the up-country stations.
* URA & Ministry of Finance squeezing the radios for money. These are a risk to some of these stations which have had to shut down because of URA. Communicate to URA to stop stifling the industry.
* Media council process is taking too long in registering the editors, we shall engage them.

**DAILY MONITOR:**

* Daily Monitor is made 30 years! we congratulate our members on such a milestone the media Industry in Uganda.

**DISCOVERY SPORTS LIMITED:**

* NAB issued a statement on the public notice issued by DSL in respect to the EPL rights below;

***STATEMENT BY NAB ON THE PUBLIC NOTICE ISSUED BY DISCOVERY SPORTS LIMITED IN RESPECT TO THE EPL RIGHTS***

*This is to inform the Public that the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) hereby acknowledges the Public Notice issued by Discovery Sports Limited in respect to their acquisition of the English Premier League Intellectual Property Rights, on behalf of its members, NAB has invited DSL for a meeting to establish and request;*

*1. Full disclosure concerning the mandate and rights that they hold and determine the extent of authority and authenticity of their claim, and*

*2. To understand the nature of their license to establish whether they have due authority to stop anyone rebroadcasting from a primary licensee.*

We also went ahead & met DSL at the KTA offices, submitted our reservations, and emphasized among others that DSL's license is limited to Live Audio programs of up to ten matches per week produced by Talk Sport and DOES NOT apply to any other content produced outside Talk sport.

whereas we disagreed on the interpretation and stated that the binding solution to enable us arrive at the final interpretation would be a court of law with competent jurisdiction, we concluded that before proceeding to court on the subject we engage further;

However, considering the new developments that indicate that they indeed have the rights, we have advised UMOA to take it up with our affected members and we agree on a reasonable rate for our members. Our legal team have engaged them for now to proceed on others but leave NAB members for now until we conclude.

**NEXT MEDIA PARK**

Next Media Park which is our member & hosts the offices of NAB was officially launched by His Excellency the President of Uganda on 1st October 2022. We congratulate them upon this milestone