



Q1 newsletter

2026

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Members and Stakeholders,

As we move beyond the intensity of the recent election period, I extend my sincere appreciation to each of you. Your resilience, professionalism, and commitment to responsible broadcasting were a cornerstone of our democratic process. You informed the public and upheld the highest standards under challenging circumstances.

Now, we turn to a new phase of stability, collaboration, and renewed focus. The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) is more committed than ever to strengthening our partnerships with government, regulators, and the creative industry. Our goal is clear: to build a sustainable, inclusive, and forward-looking media ecosystem where broadcasters can thrive, innovate, and serve the public effectively.

This quarter, we have made significant progress through focused advocacy and technical engagement. As we look ahead, I encourage all members to remain actively engaged. Together, we will secure the long-term growth and sustainability of our sector

FEATURE FOCUS: THE NEW COPYRIGHT BILL – MAKING COMPLIANCE SIMPLE & AFFORDABLE FOR YOU

You may be aware that the Ugandan Parliament has passed the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (March 2026), now awaiting Presidential assent. This law modernizes protections for artists, increases penalties for piracy (up to UGX 50 million / 10 years imprisonment), and strengthens regulations for collecting societies et al. For broadcasters, this means a renewed legal framework for paying for copyrighted music, movies, and content. NAB has been at the table, ensuring your voice is heard and compliance is practical. Here is what NAB is actively doing for you:

Engaging the Collecting Societies and URSB

The Background: In 2025, the Uganda Performing Right Society (UPRS) proposed shifting royalty fees to a percentage of gross (or net) revenue.

NAB's Action:

We firmly insisted on maintaining the predictable lump-sum approach. Continuous engagement has kept this fair model on the table, protecting you from unpredictable and unprecedented percentage-based costs that is unrealistic to our Ugandan economic and business media environment.



1. Negotiating a Fair & Modernized MOU :

Following a key consultative meeting with UPRS on 3rd March 2026 (chaired by URSB), both parties are now working on an addendum to the existing 2016 MOU (last reviewed in Gulu, 2021). This new addendum aims to create a balanced, growth-oriented licensing framework that is legally compliant and fair to both creators and broadcasters.

2. Securing Affordable, High-Quality Ugandan Content (Pearlwood Partnership)

NAB has received a proposal from Pearlwood (Association of Core Film Producers) offering access to over 430 Ugandan films (2005-2023). We are currently negotiating favorable terms on your behalf to arrive at a flexible, and subsidized amounts with the spirit of promoting local content, this rate will be applied to all movie related arrangements to the extent of of royalty or licensing fees



Our Commitment:

NAB will continue to negotiate the most favorable, transparent terms for all members. We will provide full details of the final agreement in our next communication

OTHER SECTOR UPDATES (Brief Overview – Full Details in Subsequent Newsletters)

Finance & Tax Advocacy :

NAB engaged the Ministry of Finance on two key fronts:

A dedicated, ring-fenced budget for government media communications



A request for Tax Policy/Legal Review ;

VAT to be due only upon confirmed client payment (not at invoicing), to better align with broadcaster cash-flow realities. We shall update you on the progress in due course

New UCC Technical Guidelines:

NAB also participated in a UCC workshop on new RF-EMF exposure guidelines (replacing 1998 standards). Operators will now measure power density instead of using fixed mast distances, with annual compliance reports required

LOOKING AHEAD: WHAT NAB IS PREPARING FOR YOU

1. Strengthened Regulatory Engagement :

We are continuously engaging and maintaining our strategic relationships with our regulator UCC, the Ministry of ICT and other key regulatory bodies. This will foster a more integrated and responsive environment for your business in light of the changing media dynamics and harsh business environment

2. Mobilizing Funding for Capacity Building

We believe that the time has come to mobilise funds and as such NAB is actively seeking funding for media training and skills development. Expect initiatives focused on technical innovation, ethical journalism, and digital adaptation to build and strengthen the expertise of the Broadcasters for a future-ready industry an



LOOKING AHEAD: WHAT NAB IS PREPARING FOR YOU

3. Direct Compliance Support :

Please be reminded that the NAB Secretariat is available to support any member facing challenges with UCC compliance or related requirements. Do not hesitate to reach out to us directly

4. Membership Subscription Reminder:

Annual dues are essential for our collective advocacy. Please remit on time. If you face challenges, contact the Secretariat for assistance.





CONTACT US
FOR INQUIRIES, SUPPORT OR TO ENGAGE FURTHER:
NAB Secretariat
Email: nabofuganda@gmail.com
Tel: **+256 757 850 360/ +256 744 226 839**

Q1 newsletter

©2024