



**Our Ref:** LA/182/26

6<sup>th</sup> February 2019

The Managing Director,  
Monitor Publications Limited  
Plot 29 – 35 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Industrial Area  
P. O. Box 12141  
**KAMPALA**

**DIRECTIVE TO STOP ILLEGAL PROVISION OF DATA COMMUNICATION SERVICES (ONLINE NEWSPAPER) IN UGANDA**

Reference is made to the above subject matter and the Commission's directive and public notices dated 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018 wherein all providers of online data communication services, which includes provision of online newspaper services, were directed to register and obtain authorization from the Uganda Communications Commission.

Further reference is made to a complaint dated 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019 from the office of the Hon. Speaker of Parliament of Uganda wherein the Right Honorable Speaker of Parliament states that Monitor publications Limited, through its online news platform, allegedly published fake news against the person of the Speaker with the intention of damaging her reputation. *(A copy of the Complaint is hereunto attached for your noting)*

UCC's preliminary investigations have revealed that Monitor Publication Limited actively runs an online newspaper platform, which falls within the scope of data communication services, provision of which requires one to obtain an authorisation from the Uganda Communications Commissions in accordance with sections 5(1)(a) and 27 of the Uganda Communications Act 2013, which Monitor Publication has never applied for.

WHEREFORE, the Commission has, in accordance with sections 5(1)(j), 31, 45 and Schedule 4 of the Uganda Communications Act 2013, commenced full investigations into the subject complaint to determine whether/or not Monitor Publications Limited published the subject story in accordance with the expected standards and codes of ethics of journalism.

*Communication for All*

The Managing Director  
Monitor Publication Limited

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In order to avoid a recurrence of similar breaches during the investigations, and in view of the fact that Monitor Publication Limited refused to obtain the requisite authorisation for the provision of Data Communication services in Uganda, the Commission hereby DIRECTS as follows:

- (a) That Monitor Publications should **immediately SUSPEND** any further provision of online data communications services (online newspaper services) until Monitor Publication has applied for and obtained the requisite authorisation from the Commission in accordance with law and the Commission's earlier public directives.
- (b) That Monitor Publication should within five (5) days from the date hereof submit to the Commission written representations regarding the subject story about the Hon. Speaker of Parliament, including the basis for the publication and why Monitor ignored/and failed to balance the subject story by seeking to obtain the complainant's side of the story before publication of the same.
- (c) That Monitor Publications Limited should within five (5) days show cause why the Commission should not institute criminal proceedings against the Daily Monitor for broadcasting without a license contrary to section 27 of the Uganda Communications Act 2013.

Please note that should Monitor Publications Limited fail/or otherwise refuse to comply with any of the above directives, the Commission shall proceed to determine this compliant and may issue any regulatory sanctions in accordance with Section 41 of the Uganda Communications Act, 2013.



Godfrey Mutabazi  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Copy to:** Hon. Speaker of Parliament