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## **National Communications Authority**

### *Press Release*

#### **NCA and NMC Cooperate to Regulate Media Content**

**Accra, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2021:** The National Communications Authority (NCA) on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on the regulation of Electronic Communications Content with the National Media Commission (NMC) and other stakeholders. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Information and agreed by interested parties through a Stakeholders' Consultative Meeting held in April this year, the Memorandum of Cooperation seeks to ensure that electronic communications content complies with the basic legal and ethical standards within the overall constitutional guarantee of free expression.

Speaking at a short ceremony in Accra, the Chairman of the NMC, Mr. Yaw Boadu-Ayebofoh, said that in regulating the media space specifically content, both the NMC and NCA are handicapped. He noted that the NMC, by law, can only recommend, discuss or advise whilst the NCA is mandated to regulate the technical operations of broadcasters. As a result, it has become necessary for a memorandum or mechanism to be implemented for institutions to rely on each other without undermining the rule of law. He added that it is important that the media takes into consideration the interest of Ghanaians and broadcast educative and ethical content.



- ***Mr. Yaw Boadu-Ayebofoh giving the opening remarks***

The Director General of NCA, Mr. Joe Anokye, in his opening statement said the NCA is excited that a framework of cooperation has been executed for all stakeholders regarding content regulation. He further stated that the Authority, as part of the Government's digitalisation agenda, has established the Broadcast Monitoring System (BMS) in all its offices across the country to monitor the Key Performance Indicators as stipulated in the Broadcasting Authorisation. He added that the

BMS can record the activities or programmes of the various TV and radio stations and therefore urged the NMC to take advantage of the system as the NCA is willing to assist with any information they may require.



- ***Mr. Joe Anokye giving his opening statement***

In his remarks, the Minister for Information and guest speaker for the event, Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah, said that following some media content infractions which caused a public uproar earlier this year, there was the need for stakeholders to examine and strategise to monitor content in the electronic media space. He expressed that though he appreciates that these infractions still exist, the signing of this Memorandum will ensure sanity in the media space going forward.



- ***Hon. Kojo Oppong Nkrumah giving his remarks***

He further urged the NMC to rely on the NCA's BMS for information, enhance their complaints system and procedure, and in the interest of transparency, publish decisions by warning broadcasters or redrawing their Authorisations. Hon. Oppong Nkrumah also encouraged the Ghanaian citizenry to report any content they deem deviant to the NMC for the necessary investigations and punitive actions to be taken. Bringing his remarks to a close, the Minister for

Information congratulated the NMC, NCA and other stakeholders for signing the Memorandum of Cooperation.

Also present at the event to sign the Memorandum were representatives of the Ghana Journalist Association, Media Foundation for West Africa, Ghana Independent Broadcasters Association, Writers Association, Trades Union, UNESCO Ghana, Ghana Armed Forces, Ghana Police Service, National Film Authority, Bank of Ghana, Local Government Service, National Cyber Security Centre, Judiciary, National Security Secretariat and Gaming Commission.



- ***Group photograph of representatives from the various institutions***

***Issued by the National Communications Authority:***

*No. 6 Airport City, Accra*

*Tel: (0)30 – 2776621/2771701 or 050-145-1522/3.*

*E-mail: info@nca.org.gh*

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**About NCA**

*The National Communications Authority, (NCA), was established by an Act of Parliament, Act 524 in December 1996, which has been repealed and replaced by the National Communications Authority Act, 2008 (Act 769). The Authority is the statutory body mandated to license and to regulate electronic communication activities and services in the country.*