

For Immediate Release

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STATEMENT ON THE SHUTDOWN OF NATION MEDIA GROUP OUTLETS BY PRESIDENT INDOJA

The leadership of Independent online Journalists Association (Indoja-U) has received with deep concern, reports regarding the shutdown of Nation Media Group (NMG) outlets, including NTV Uganda, Spark TV, Dembe FM 90.4, KFM 93.3, Daily Monitor and related media platforms.

Indoja-U joins the media fraternity to strongly condemn any action that undermines press freedom and the independence of the media not only in Uganda but globally.

A free and independent press is one of the fundamental pillars of any democratic society. **The Fourth Estate (Media)**, provides an essential bridge between leaders and the people they govern. Through its reporting, investigation and analysis, the media enables citizens to understand how public institutions function, how public resources are utilized, and how decisions affecting their lives are made.

When that bridge is weakened or collapses, the public becomes disconnected from the workings of government and loses an important channel through which accountability and transparency are maintained. This is not only detrimental to journalists and media houses, but also to the broader national interests.

Over the years, NTV Uganda, Daily Monitor and other Nation Media Group platforms have played a significant role in informing the public, promoting civic awareness and contributing to national discourse. Like all institutions, the media may face criticism and challenges, just like a section of people today may have reservations on how the military conducts itself, but such concerns must be addressed through lawful, transparent and constructive engagement rather than measures that restrict access to information.

We therefore encourage the Government of Uganda to continue appreciating the indispensable role the media has played in the country's development and transformation. The progress Uganda has achieved in civic participation, public awareness and democratic engagement over the last four decades has been supported in no small measure by the growth and professionalism of the media sector.

It is our belief that dialogue, not confrontation, provides the most effective path toward resolving disagreements between state institutions and media organizations. We call upon all stakeholders to

engage in meaningful discussions that uphold the Constitution, protect media freedoms and safeguard national stability.

We further appeal to the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), and the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) to urgently facilitate constructive dialogue that will lead to the reopening of NMG and the restoration of its normal operations.

Beyond the broader implications for democracy and freedom of expression, we must also remember the human impact of this closure. Hundreds of journalists, technicians, producers, support staff and other employees depend on these institutions for their livelihoods. Their families and dependents now face uncertainty and hardship as a result of the shutdown.

Uganda's future will be strengthened not by silencing voices, but by encouraging responsible dialogue, mutual respect and a shared commitment to national progress.

We remain hopeful that wisdom, restraint and constructive engagement will prevail.

Yours Sincerely,



Andrew Irumba Katusabe

President

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