



**OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP
Office of The Chief Censor**

Ministry for Youth, Religion & Community Development
P.O. Box 1745 Boroko, NCD
Central Government Office, Tower A, 4th Floor

STOP NOTICE

Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act No. 18 of 1989

NOTICE REF: OC/SN/2026/001

Date: 03rd June 2026

TO: THE MANAGEMENT
THE COSMOPOLITAN NIGHT CLUB
PO Box 689
Vision City, Waigani
Papua New Guinea 121
(Hereinafter referred to as "the Respondent")

FROM: CHIEF CENSOR
OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP
PO Box 1745
Boroko
NCD

RE: STOP NOTICE — PROHIBITION OF "PRIDE NIGHT" EVENT

1. AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF CENSOR

Boroko

I, JIM ABANI, Chief Censor of Papua New Guinea, by virtue of the powers conferred by Section 17 (I) of the Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act of 1989 and all other powers enabling me, hereby-

- (a) Issue a stop Notice for Cosmopolitan's "PRIDE NIGHT" event;
- (b) Direct the Respondent to immediately and permanently cancel the planned "PRIDE NIGHT"

- (c) The Respondent must not host, facilitate, promote or participate in any event that promotes, glorifies or is themed around LGBTQ+ identity, culture or practices, being matters that are contrary to the laws and public standards of Papua New Guinea;
- (d) All remaining promotional material relating to the "PRIDE NIGHT" event, whether digital, printed or in any other form, must be immediately removed, taken down or destroyed; and
- (e) Written confirmation of compliance with Directions I through 4 above must be provided to this Office within forty-eight (48) hours of the date of this Notice.

2. BACKGROUND AND PRIOR INFRINGEMENT NOTICE

On 1ST June 2026, the Office of Censorship received complaints in relation to a digital advertisement published on the Respondent's official Facebook page promoting a "PRIDE NIGHT" event scheduled for Thursday, 4 June 2026, at The Cosmopolitan Night Club, in association with Crystal Bar & Lounge.

Upon investigation, it was found that the advertisement constituted three (3) separate criminal offences under the Act, namely:

- (a) Publishing an Objectionable Publication contrary to Section 70(1) of the Act;
- (b) Publishing an Objectionable Publication in a Public Place contrary to Section 73(1) of the Act; and
- (c) Making an Objectionable Publication contrary to Section 74(1) of the Act.

It is now brought to the specific attention of the Respondent's Management that, in addition to the offences already identified, the planned conduct of the "PRIDE NIGHT" event itself would constitute a further and continuing offence under the Act. The advertising alone has constituted criminal offences. The event must not proceed.

3. LEGAL BASIS FOR THIS STOP NOTICE

The Respondent is reminded of the applicable legal framework under the Act:

Section 2(1). Definition of Objectionable Publication: A publication is objectionable if it describes, depicts, expresses or otherwise deals with matters of sex, immorality, blasphemy, or revolting or abhorrent phenomena in a manner that is likely to be offensive to a reasonable adult person in Papua New Guinea and is undesirable in the public interest. The "PRIDE NIGHT" event and all promotional material associated with it falls squarely within this definition.

Section and Section 18: Powers of the Chief Censor: The Chief Censor is empowered to administer and enforce the provisions of the Act, to investigate publications and to issue binding notices and directions in respect of breaches thereof.

Section 33(2)(a) and Censorship Content Standard No. 1: All publications must conform to the standards of morality, decency and propriety generally accepted by a reasonable adult person in Papua New Guinea. Censorship Content Standard No. 1 - PUBLIC NUDITY AND SEXUAL CONTENT, Table 2, expressly classifies the promotion of homosexuality as a

harmful publication constituting an unnatural act. The "PRIDE NIGHT" event constitutes such a publication.

Sections 70(1), 73(1) and 74(1). Criminal Offences: The conduct of the "PRIDE NIGHT" event would constitute ongoing and repeated commission of these offences, each carrying a maximum penalty of K5,000.00 for a body corporate, in addition to the offences already committed through the publication of the advertisement.

Section 79. Forfeiture: The Chief Censor and the Court are empowered to order the forfeiture of any objectionable publication, which would extend to all promotional materials, including digital and printed content associated with the event.

4. FORMAL STOP NOTICE AND DIRECTIONS

TAKE NOTICE that the Chief Censor, acting pursuant to Sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act No. 18 of 1989, hereby issues the following binding directions to the Management of The Cosmopolitan Night Club:

1. The "PRIDE NIGHT" event scheduled for Thursday, 4 June 2026, and any future event of a similar nature, character or theme, is **HEREBY PROHIBITED** and must **NOT** proceed;
2. The Respondent is directed to immediately and permanently cancel the "PRIDE NIGHT" event and all associated activities;
3. The Respondent must not host, facilitate, promote or participate in any event that promotes, glorifies or is themed around LGBTQ+ identity, culture or practices, being matters that are contrary to the laws and public standards of Papua New Guinea;
4. All remaining promotional material relating to the "PRIDE NIGHT" event, whether digital, printed or in any other form, must be immediately removed, taken down or destroyed; and
5. Written confirmation of compliance with Directions 1 through 4 above must be provided to this Office within forty-eight (48) hours of the date of this Notice.

5. WARNING OF FURTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The Management of The Cosmopolitan Night Club is hereby formally and unequivocally warned that: _____

- (a) Should the "PRIDE NIGHT" event proceed as planned or in any modified form, the Office of Censorship will take immediate and further enforcement action against the Respondent and all responsible persons;
- (b) Such enforcement action may include referral to the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary for investigation, arrest and prosecution of the Respondent and its Directors in respect of all offences under the Act; _____
- (c) Application will be made to the Court for forfeiture of all objectionable publications pursuant to Section 79 of the Act;
- (d) The matter will be referred to the relevant licensing authority for immediate review and possible revocation of the Respondent's operating licence; and _____

(e) This Office reserves the right to take all such further action as may be necessary and available under the Act and all other applicable laws of Papua New Guinea.

THE "PRIDE NIGHT" EVENT MUST NOT AND WILL NOT GO ON.

6. CONCLUSION

6. CONCLUSION

The Office of Censorship has brought this matter to the attention of the Management of The Cosmopolitan Night Club in the discharge of its statutory duty under the Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act No. 18 of 1989. The Respondent has been duly warned.

The Respondent's advertising alone has already constituted criminal offences under the Act. Any further conduct - including proceeding with the "PRIDE NIGHT" event - will be treated as deliberate and wilful defiance of this Office and of the laws of Papua New Guinea, and will be met with the full force of the law.

You are to adhere to the Notice and Comply as of this date.

Issued by:

JIM ABANI

THE CHIEF CENSOR

Office of Censorship

Independent State of Papua New Guinea



Date:

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IMPORTANT: This Stop Notice is issued pursuant to the Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act No. 18 of 1989. Any person or body aggrieved by a decision of the Chief Censor may apply to the Censorship Board for review in accordance with Sections 40 and 41 of the Act. Non-compliance with this Notice constitutes a further offence under the Act.