



CENSORSHIP BOARD OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA



CENSORSHIP BOARD

The Censorship Board of Papua New Guinea is established under Section 4 of the Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act of 1989. Its membership functions, policies, terms and conditions of the office are found in the same Act.

Specifically, the Censorship Board falls under Part II – Administration. Division 1 of this part of the Act details the specific wordings and make up of the National Censorship Board. Below is an extract taken from the specific section of the Act.

The Board, as established, is a policy making body, whose decisions and directions are executed by the Censorship Office.

Acting on advice, the Minister for Religion, Youth & Community Development appoints citizens to the board for a term of three years, included in the appointment is the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

The main functions of the Censorship Board are; to formulate polices of censorship & set standards.

PART II - ADMINISTRATION

Division 1 Censorship Board

4. THE CENSORSHIP BOARD

(1) There is established a Board called the Censorship Board

(2) The Board shall consist of:-

(a) the Chief Censor or his delegate; and

(b) a member of the Police Force nominated by the Commissioner for Police; and

(c) an officer nominated by the Departmental Head and the Department responsible for education matters; and

(d) a member representing and nominated by the National Council of Women; and

(e) a member representing and nominated by the Melanesian Council of Churches; and

(f) a lawyer nominated by the Departmental Head of the Department responsible for justice matters; and

(g) a member representing the mass media industry; and

(h) a member representing and nominated by the National

Cultural Council; and

(i) a member representing and nominated by the National Youth Council; and

(j) a psychologist nominated by the Departmental Head of the Department responsible for health matters; and

(k) two female members.

(3) The members of the Board referred to in Subsection (2)(b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) and (k) shall-

(a) be citizens; and

(b) be appointed by the Minister by notice in the National Gazette;

(c) be appointed for a term of three years and be eligible for re-appointment.

(4) The members of the Board (other than members who are officers of the National Public Service or any other State Service) shall be paid fees and allowances in accordance with the Boards (Fees and Allowances) Amended Act 2021.

5. CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.

(1) The Minister may appoint one of the members of the Board to be Chairman of the Board and another member to be Deputy Chairman of the Board.

(2) The Chief Censor is not eligible to be appointed as Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Board.

6. RESIGNATION OF APPOINTED MEMBERS.

A member of the Board appointed under Section 4(2) (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) or (k) may resign his office by writing signed by him and delivered to the Minister.

7. LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The Minister may grant leave of absence to a member of the Board on such terms and conditions as the Minister determines.

8. VACATION OF OFFICE.

(1) If a member of the Board—

(a) is absent, except on leave of absence granted under Section 7, from three consecutive meetings of the Board; or

(b) becomes permanently incapable of performing his duties; or

(c) resigns his office in accordance with Section 6; or

(d) fails to comply with the obligations under Section 9,

the Minister may terminate his appointment.

(2) Where the Minister believes that a member of the Board is guilty of misbehaviour or misconduct which has, or is likely to affect the performance of his functions and duties under this Act, the Minister shall give written notice to the member advising him of his intention to terminate the member's appointment, and shall in the notice specify the reasons for his decision.

(3) Within 14 days of the receipt of a notice under Subsection (2), the member may reply in writing to the Minister who shall consider the reply and as soon as is practicable deliver written notice of his decision to the member.

(4) Where the member referred to in Subsection (2) does not, within 14 days of the receipt of

a notice under that subsection, reply to the Minister, his appointment is terminated.

9. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST.

(1) A member who has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter being considered or about to be considered by the Board, otherwise than as a member and in common with other members of an incorporated company consisting of not less than 2 persons, shall, as soon as possible after the relevant facts have come to his knowledge, disclose the nature of his interest at the meeting of the Board.

(2) A disclosure under Subsection (1), shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Board and the member shall not—

(a) be present during any deliberations of the Board with respect to that matter; or

(b) take part in any decision of the Board with respect to that matter.

(3) Where a member fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with the requirements of this section, the Minister shall

terminate the appointment of the member.

10. MEETINGS OF BOARD.

(1) The Board shall hold at least four meetings each year, at such times and places as the Chairman shall appoint.

(2) The Chairman of the Board or, in his absence, the Deputy Chairman, shall preside at all meetings of the Board.

(3) At a meeting of the Board, a quorum is constituted by the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman and three members.

(4) A question arising at a meeting shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting.

(5) The person presiding at a meeting of the Board has a deliberative vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, also has a casting vote.

(6) The Board shall cause full minutes of its proceedings to be kept in such manner as the Minister directs.

(7) Subject to this Act, the Board may regulate its own proceedings.

11. FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD.

The Board shall—

(a) formulate policies on censorship; and

(b) decide on matters or goods including publications either on its own motion or as referred to it by the Chief Censor, whether or not the matters or goods are matters or goods to which this Act applies; and

(c) perform any function as may be required under this Act or any other law.

12. POWERS OF THE BOARD.

The Board has and may exercise such powers as are conferred by this Act and such other powers as are necessary or convenient to enable the Board to carry out its functions.



MEMBERS BRIEF PROFILE

Karen Haive

Deputy Secretary
Department of Community Development, Youth and Religion



Ms. Karen Haive has been re-appointed to the Censorship Board due to her outstanding contributions to the board. Ms. Haive was the Chair of the Board from 2019-2021. She was the Deputy Chairperson and acting Chairperson from the period 2012-2014. She provided the much-needed leadership at the Board level which led to achieving several milestones. Ms. Haive holds an Attained Degree in Master of Science in Organizational Change and Development from the University of Manchester UK (2002-2003).

Appointed 2019
Re-appointed 2025 - 2028

Josephine Pitmur

Deputy Secretary
Department of Justice & Attorney General



Mrs. Josephine Pitmur has spent 16 years in the Public Service. She is among several women leaders in PNG who have worked their way up within the Public Service of the country. She has extensive managerial and leadership experience that will add value to the Censorship Board. She has served on the Censorship Board and now is looking forward to her second term. Mrs. Pitmur's contributions and input in the development of National Censorship Policy II and the review and amendment of the Censorship Act.

Appointed 2019
Re-appointed 2025 - 2028

Jim Abani

Chief Censor
Office of Censorship



Chief Censor, Mr. Jim Abani is a career officer with the Office of Censorship who rose through the rank and file to be the Chief Censor of PNG. Mr. Abani holds a Bachelor Degree in Management from DWU and an Advance Diploma of Government ,Leadership and Management from PILAG among his other notable qualifications.

Appointed 2019
Re-appointed 2025 - 2028



Steven Enomb Kilanda

Executive Director
National Cultural Commission



Mr. Steven Kilanda is appointed for the second term. Mr. Kilanda brings with him great leadership and experience as an Executive Director from National Cultural Commission. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Business Economics and a Bachelor of Arts from UPNG. Mr. Kilanda is determined to use his experiences and management knowledge to help the Board achieve its goals.

Appointed 2019
Re-appointed 2025 - 2028



Neville Choi

President
PNG Media Council



Mr. Neville Choi has been a valuable member of the board especially with his background as a journalist and editor of the Country's only Tokpisin Niuspepa, wantok Niuspepa. He holds a Diploma in Communication Arts (Journalism) from DWU. He has vast experience in Public Relations and Corporate Communications. He is the Current President of the Media Council of PNG. He has over 20 years of experience in the media industry. He is a passionate advocate of Leadership. He believes that everyone has the potential to be a leader in their own right.

Appointed 2019
Re-appointed 2025 - 2028



Loi Vele

President
Country Women's Association PNG



Mrs. Loi Vele is re-appointed for the second term as women's representative on the Censorship Board due to her outstanding contributions in the previous board. Mrs. Vele brings with her a wealth of experience as a representative of the women population to the Board. Mrs. Vele believes she has the experience and knowledge to contribute meaningfully to the Boards operations.

Appointed 2019
Re-appointed 2025- 2028



Claribel Waide

GESI Officer
National Department of Education



Ms. Claribel Waide has years of experience within the Education sector, especially within the Guidance sector and now with the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion of the National Department of Education. She holds a Bachelor in Business Management – Public Policy Management and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of UPNG. Due to her outstanding work and contributions to the previous Board she has been re-nominated to represent the Education Department for the second term. Ms. Waide is a firm believer in positive influence, thus wants to use her experiences, knowledge and available resources to efficiencies and maximum use of resources for the benefit of the wider community.

Appointed 2019
Re-appointed 2025 - 2028



Boas Binuali

Chief Inspector
RPNGC



Chief Inspector Boas Binuali represents the RPNGC in the Censorship Board. He holds a Bachelor of Law from UPNG and a Diploma in Law (Prosecution). Chief Inspector Binuali has had a long and colorful career with the RPNGC which began on the 3rd of May 1983. He has risen through the rank and file of the RPNGC. Chief Inspector Binuali replaces Chief Superintendent Dominic Kakas who had served for two consecutive Boards.

Appointed 2025 - 2028



Dr. Monica Hagali

Chief Psychiatrist
National Department of Health



Dr. Monica Hagali holds a Master of Mental Health (Child and Adolescent from the New South Wales Institute of Psychiatry, Australia, Master of Medicine (Psychiatry from UPNG and MBBS also from UPNG). She also is a member of the Parole Board with DJAG. Dr. Hagali is also member to Societies and esteemed groups both within and abroad. She also holds several professional administrative and clinical roles within the country. This will be Dr. Hagali's first nomination to the Censorship Board.

Appointed 2025 - 2028

Joe Itaki

Director General
National Youth Development Authority



Mr. Joe Itaki has served in the previous Censorship Board and is well vested with the operations of the Office of Censorship. He has made considerable contributions towards the development of the National Censorship Policy II and its implementation strategy. Mr. Itaki holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from UPNG and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from South Korea.

Appointed 2019
Re-appointed 2025 - 2028

Rev. Jacob Harry

Reverend
PNG Council of Churches



Rev. Jacob Harry is currently the Bishop of the Urban Region office of the United Church of PNG. This will be his first nomination to the Censorship Board following the revocation of former Board Member Rev. Vaburi Dabada. In 2023 he was awarded the Member of the British Empire by the King in recognition of his contributions to the Church and Community work in PNG. He holds a Bachelor in Theology, Political Science, and Diploma in Journalism among other qualifications he possesses.

Appointed 2025 - 2028

INFORMATION BRIEF FOR THE BOARD

Introduction

The Office of Censorship has been without a Censorship Board since the term of the last Censorship Board of Papua New Guinea expired in 2022.

The Office of Censorship through the Office of Chief Censor, Jim Abani and the executive team have worked tirelessly to meet all statutory requirements over the past two years to have a Board in place.

The following information is to give a glimpse of what the Office of Censorship has done over the period of two years. It is not a substitute of other official documents that capture specific operational information.

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND MISSION OF THE CENSORSHIP BOARD

1. AIMS

- To encourage the promotion of intergral human development. That development being physical, mental, social and spiritual growth and development of the people of Papua New Guinea.
- To encourage feelings of nationalism in our people.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To observe the goals and principles of the National Constitution.
- To encourage the development of healthy mind and body.
- To uphold moral values and common decency.
- To encourage and promote respect for and observation of the noble traditions and cultural values of our people.
- To assist in the promotion and maintenance of Law and Order.
- Generally monitor and safeguard against harmful effects and influences coming through the “mass medium of communication” on the individual and on all people of Papua New Guinea.

“**Medium of Communication**” refers to the channel or method used to send or receive information between people. So with Censorship function, it can refer to any book, paper, magazine, audio-cassette, film, video tape or other written or sound or pictorial matter or photogenic matter, advertising matter relating to such goods and advertising matter

relating to unethical sex aid.

BASIS OF MISSION

The Censorship Board's aim, objectives and role in the country is in accordance with the National Constitution, the Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act 1989, Summary Offences (Amendments) Act 1989 and other related laws of Papua New Guinea.

The Board recognises Papua New Guinea's pluralistic society where individuals share and benefit from aspects of life in their family and community units of our nation. Thus, the sense of pride and belonging to the nation will be encouraged through administering the Censorship Law and other related laws of this country.

3. MISSION STATEMENT

- Ensure that all forms of public communication, especially that provided by the mass media, whether from outside or within the nation, promotes the well-being of the people in their physical, mental, social, cultural and spiritual life.
- All forms of mass media and public communication whether provided for entertainment or other purpose will be monitored to encourage recognition of an individual's self-propriety, simultaneously observing the public welfare and moral life of the people of the nation.
- The Board will assess the impact of communication material on the different sections of the community in relation to their needs and vulnerability. The Board will endeavour to control and modify material which it judges to be contrary to the common good of the community, by persuasion and education rather than by coercion. Whilst viewing, deliberating and classifying communication material, the Board will ensure that material allowed for public consumption would be of general benefit to the community.
- Where there is a need because of lack of response to persuasion, or because of the seriousness of the matter, the Board will use the legal powers provided by the Act to prohibit or restrict and control the dissemination of material judged to be contrary to the nation's well-being by reason of encouraging unhealthy behavior or being offensive to a section of the community.
- The Board will consider the impact of the mass media on the entire nation and not focus on limited sections of the community. Where it is not possible or appropriate to prevent all material judged to be in some way undesirable, the Board will endeavour to promote the

production of other communications which will provide corrective measures and lessen the undesirable impact on people.

- In order to achieve its aims and objectives the Board will undertake to implement its functions and task as reflected in this Mission Statement through –

- i. the educative process and public awareness campaigns;
- ii. the administrative and implementation arm, the Office of Censorship;
- iii. the co-operation and collaboration of relevant public and private bodies, organizations and agencies, including, in particular, media, education, police, courts, or supplier organisations.

1. BACKGROUND

The Office of Censorship plays a critical role in classifying and monitoring content across various media to uphold national values, cultural norms, and public morality. Its functions are rooted in the *Classification of Publications (Censorship) Act 1989*, and its operations aim to protect citizens from harmful or indecent materials. By doing so, it classifies publications, films and other media (print, broadcast, digital) prior to being published to the public and implements decisions of the Censorship Board in pursuit of development as stipulated in the PNG Vision 2050 and the MTDP IV.

2. PURPOSE

On behalf of the Office of Censorship, it gives me great honour to present to you through this brief the key achievements of the agency starting from 2022 to present (December, 2025). While giving you an update on what the agency has done in alignment to the developmental aspirations of the country, this brief also aims to bring to your attention how greatly internet and the evolving technology has impacted the work of 'content classification'. Despite these challenges, the office has shown steady progress through effective implementation of its programs and activities.

3. MANPOWER

The present approved structure of the office consist of two statutory appointees (Chief Censor and Deputy Chief Censor) fifty eight support staff positions. Of the fifty eight only fourty eight are currently on strength. The support staff decreased in 2023 as results of promotional transfer and resignation.

4. FUNDING (2022 – 2025)

The agency received continuous annual funding from the government for both the Recurrent and Public Intervention Programs (PIP). From the

annual reports, it is noted that K23.08 million was the appropriated budget for the three years. However, the actual amount received amounted to **K19.82 million**, of which **K13.3 million** was for recurrent programs while the remaining **K6.5 million** was for PIP.

Year	A. Recurrent Funding		B. Public Intervention Program Funding	
	Appropriated. Budget (K)	Actual Amt. Funded (K)	Approp. Budget	Actual Amt. Funded
2022	4,868,704.	4,826,925.	2.5 mil	1.5 mil
2023	4,222,270.	4,222,270.	4 mil	2 mil
2024	4,492,270.	4,274,270.	3 mil	3 mil
2025	1,043,613.	695,070.	5 mil	5 mil
Total	K14,626,857	K14,018,535	14.5 mil	11.5 mil

The expenditure of these funds received was monitored by the Department of Finance and Treasury and much of it was utilized to deliver programs.

5. REVENUE

The office collects revenue from censorship fees (i.e. fees from classification of films and publications and registration of publication premises). Annual projections are done by the Department of Finance and Treasury. Revenue collected were deposited into the Consolidated Funds. Summary of revenue from 2022 to 2024 is as follows:

Revenue		
Year	Projected Amount (K)	Actual Collected (K)
2022	350,000.	359,050.
2023	400,000.	344,700.
2024	450,000.	377,850.
Total	1,200,000. million	1,081,600. million

- Revenue Projected – **K1.2 million**
- Actual Revenue Collected – **K1.0816 million**

6. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS PER PRIORITY

i. NEC Decision 265/2023 Implementation

Since the establishment and commencement of Technical Working Committee in May 2024, a total of **33,000 URLs** associated with its IP addresses have been identified. From the 33,000 URLs, a total of **5394 URLs** hosting pornographic content have been classified and rated 'Refused Classification' (RC). The classified URLs were submitted to NICTA to issue direction to the ISPs to block off the identified websites.

The office has also done monitoring on compliance by ISPs to block off the identified websites especially for mobile networks. However, there is very little compliance. 88% of the URLs are still open to users across the country on the three mobile networks.

ii. Sustainable Partnerships

Sustainable partnership is seen as the catalyst to extend the work of censorship. So far, the agency was able to establish a number of partnerships including;

- MoU with PNG DataCo Limited
- MoU with Equal Playing Field
- MoU with Sandaun Provincial Committee
- MoU with ABG
- MoU with Imbonggu Local Level Government
- MoA with Media Niugini Limited (EMTV)

Through those partnership arrangements, the office was able to deliver much of its programs.

iii. Nationwide Awareness & Advocacy on Censorship Issues

Awareness has been ongoing to deliver messages on the roles and responsibilities of the office and importantly to educate citizens on the significance of self-censoring and upholding morality in this challenging time with information overload. Population reached in each region through awareness includes:

- Southern – 5000 students, teachers and volunteers

- Highlands – 12000+ students, youths, teachers
- Momase – 1000 plus
- Islands – 5000 plus

Through the Censorship Ambassador School Program (CASP), more than **100** students and teachers were certified as censorship ambassadors.

A wider audience was reached through digital/electronic media.

iv. Delegation of Chief Censorship’s Powers to Provincial and Local Levels of Government

Work related to the Chief Censor’s powers include:

- Sandaun Censorship Committee established in May, 2024.
- Milne Bay Censorship Committee to be established soon. ToR was introduced to the Milne Bay Provincial Administration and stakeholders with anticipation for the formulation of the ToR proper and the eventual establishment of the Provincial Censorship Committee.
- Censorship Desk established in Imbonggu, SHP through the DCDC program in April, 2024
- Delivery of programs for the drawdown of powers and functions to ABG is continuing. Workplan is in place to assist the development of ABG Censorship Law.

v. Internet Content Filtering

Work under this priority includes:

- Internet Content Filtering Policy draft in place
- 3x Research reports completed. Data collected in these researches indicate the need to have a filtering system in the country for online content.

vi. Regulation of Music, Commercial Advertisements, Entertainment, Film and Television Industries.

While the Censorship Act is under review, work has progressed to regulate the different media industries. So far, the guidelines for each industry have been developed and three consultative

forums for music have also been conducted.

vii. Upgrading and Development Management Information System to take advantage of emerging global trends and technology using ICT Mediums

- Launching of Censorship Intervention Management System.
- Censorship Information Management System fully implemented. The process of registering publication premises and payments are now done electronically.
- The establishment of Censorship Data-Centre is underway.
- ICT infrastructure and services were upgraded and aligned to the Digital Transformation changes in Public Service.

viii. Activities in Relation to OoC Administrative Governance

There were several significant administrative and governance frameworks achieved that are outlined below.

- Corporate Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026 developed and launched
- Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act, 1989 review completed and is a bill now with the First Legislative Council (FLC).
- Development of Censorship Operating Procedure

6. CHALLENGES

The Office of Censorship has identified a number of issues and challenges encountered in effectively implementing its priorities include:

- i. limited funds under recurrent budget and the delay in the release of these funds
- ii. As the country advances into the digital age, the Office of Censorship is broadening its scope of work into the ICT space, hence skill gap is a huge challenge.
- iii. Revenue has dropped due to the decline in incoming films and publications and also, publication premises mainly video shops ceasing operation as people are shifting to online downloading of videos and publications.

- iv. Subsuming of new roles and responsibilities particularly into the online environment requires skilled manpower, proper office environment and the necessary infrastructure hence is also a major challenge.
- v. The tedious process of passing the reviewed censorship law has caused delays to implementing much online related work.

7. WAY FORWARD

In response to challenges imposed by technology, the Office of Censorship is now looking forward to transiting into a modernized and digitally responsive body that can meet the growing complexities of mass media and information content in this digital era.

Building on its recent achievements and guided by its administrative frameworks, the office will undertake legislative reforms and improve on enforcement mechanisms to build a better society in Papua New Guinea.

However, the realization of this outlook hinges on timely legislative support, adequate funding, skilled manpower, and the collective commitment of all stakeholders to uphold national values in the digital age.



JIM ABANI
Chief Censor



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KEY:

- BOARD MEETING
- PAY DAY
- PUBLIC HOLIDAY



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