

STATEMENT ON THE CLOSURE OF NMG-UGANDA PLATFORMS Date: June 29th, 2026

The Uganda Media Women's Association (UMWA) strongly condemns the closure of NTV Uganda, Daily Monitor, The East African, Spark TV, KFM and Dembe FM - all Nation Media Group-Uganda (NMG-U) platforms, following a night raid on June 27th. This action represents a grave assault on press freedom, the right to information, and the democratic values enshrined in our Constitution. This also includes denial to a source of livelihood to over a thousand employees likely to lose jobs.

As an organization committed to amplifying women's voices and safeguarding the role of the media in promoting accountability, transparency, and social justice, we view this shutdown as a dangerous precedent that silences diverse perspectives.

We respectfully remind the authorities that a free and independent media is not an enemy of the state but a cornerstone of a healthy democracy. Suppressing journalists and media houses erodes public trust, stifles civic participation, and disproportionately affects marginalized voices - especially women - whose stories and concerns are often underrepresented. Silencing the media voices stifles development.

UMWA therefore requests that:

1. The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), and the relevant authorities ensures swift, transparent, and lawful resolution of this matter to restore public trust and safeguard the role of the press in Uganda.
2. The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, and the UCC facilitate constructive dialogue that will lead to the reopening of NMG-U and the restoration of its normal operations.
3. That any complaint against NMG-U or any of its individual journalists be formally lodged and due process be followed under Article 31 (1) of the Press and Journalist Act (Chapter 105) Section 5(j) & 5(k) of the UCC Act 2013 mandates the Commission to receive, investigate and arbitrate complaints relating to communications and media services, and take the necessary action; as well as promote and safeguard the interests of consumers and operators as regards the quality of communications services and equipment.
4. Government upholds constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression and media independence.
5. Civil society and the public stand in solidarity with journalists and defend the right to access diverse, and credible information.
6. Constructive dialogue is fostered between government, regulators, and media stakeholders to resolve disputes without resorting to censorship.
7. Protection of journalists from intimidation, harassment, or unlawful restrictions in the course of their work is prioritized.
8. Media Rights Groups, Associations and those created by the Act of Parliament like the Uganda Media Council quickly formalize avenues that would facilitate regular interfaces with different stakeholders to avoid instances like the one obtaining today. The Uganda Media Sector Working Group is a good starting point.

As Female journalists under the Uganda Media Women Association, we stand in solidarity with our colleagues at NMG-U, and all media practitioners.

About UMWA:

Founded in 1983 by female journalists, Uganda Media Women Association is a human rights and advocacy organization, some of its key services include promoting responsive work policy environment for female journalists, change communities' attitudes and perceptions about women as they express themselves or serve in the media.

MANAGEMENT