

# Anti-pornography committee gets sh2b

By Martin Kitubi

The directorate of ethics and integrity has confirmed the inauguration of a nine-member Pornography Control Committee (PCC), to implement the Anti-Pornography Act 2014.

The Government, through the finance ministry has approved a sh2b annual budget allocation to the committee for detection of pornography, investigation and ensuring prosecution of the culprits.

This was revealed yesterday by the state minister for ethics and integrity, Fr. Simon Lokodo at the Uganda Media Centre in Kampala.

The committee, which was established last year, is chaired by Dr Annette Kezaabu Kasimbazi, the deputy vice-chancellor academic affairs, at Kampala International University.

Other members are Dalton Opwonya, Sheikh Mohammad Ali Waiswa, Pastor Martin Sempa, Joan Kyomugisha, Hafisa Kabagonja, Victoria Sentamu, Dr Fred Nyakori and Gastone Byamugisha.

"The Pornography Control Committee (PCC) has been operationalised and the inauguration ceremony has been concluded at the directorate of ethics and integrity," Lokodo said.

"The display, sale and circulation of pornographic images in the print and electronic media has increased. Sex-tease dances known as *bimansulo* are on the rise in the major urban centres in the country, exposing the youth to a risky lifestyle and thus resulting into sexually transmitted diseases."

Establishment of the PCC is provided for under the Anti-Pornography Act, 2014.

Under the Act, pornography means any representation through publication, exhibition, cinematography, indecent show, information technology or by whatever means of a person engaged in real or



Lokodo

- The committee has been mandated to ensure early detection and prohibition of pornography, ensure arrest and prosecution of culprits and collect and destroy pornographic objects with the assistance of the Police.
- The committee shall also educate and sensitise the public on the dangers of pornography, promote rehabilitation of people affected by pornography and promote appropriate educational materials against pornography in the school curriculum.
- They have also been mandated to expedite the development or acquisition and installation of effective protective software in the electronic devices, such as computers, phones and television sets for detection and suppression of pornography.

**COMMITTEE  
MANDATE**

stimulated explicit sexual activities, or any representation of the sexual parts of a person for primarily sexual excitement.

Section 13(1) of the Act, stipulates that it is an offence to produce, traffic in, publish, broadcast, procure, import, export, sell or abet any form of pornography. On conviction, the forms attract a fine not exceeding sh10m or imprisonment not exceeding 10 years or both.

In a telephone interview, Dr Annette Kezaabu told *New Vision* that the committee would commence its duties next month after induction.

"We were inaugurated yesterday and the induction is on, until today. So, as a committee, we expect to start our duties next month," Kezaabu said.

She added that the committee would establish a mini-committee with representatives from government security institutions, such as the Police, prisons and internal security organisation, who will ensure implementation of the Act at the grassroots.

Kezaabu also revealed that they would work with several individuals as whistleblowers.

According to Lokodo, the anti-pornography software will be installed at the Uganda Communications Commission in Kampala.

Lokodo warned Internet service providers who promote, publish, sell or import pornography that they risk facing closure.

He said: "We have waited for the commission for long, and this is a warning to the entire country to stop it, otherwise you will suffer the consequences."

Lokodo raised concern that several civil servants have been downloading pornographic materials adding: "Once apprehended it will be misuse of government materials, and they will be suspended from work."