



### **Media Release: Government ban on Facebook**

The Telecommunications Commission, Mr. Haggai Arumae, said today that *“...contrary to what has been discussed in the media thus far, the Telecommunications Commission is not the party which deals with bans on Facebook, or on any other class of communications or media content.”*

“Under section 96 of the Telecommunications Act, that is a matter solely for the Prime Minister. Mr. Arumae said. “The Commission is not involved at all.”

“Under the Act, on the occasion of any public emergency under section 16 of the Constitution, or in the interests of public safety, the Prime Minister can place orders on telecommunications operators, restricting telecommunications in certain respects. As far as the Commission is aware, the process for doing that has not been implemented yet”

“Whether or not the Cabinet’s current discomfort with people’s use of Facebook meet the legal standards of a public emergency, or situation of public safety, is ultimately a matter for determination by the Solomon Islands courts.” Mr. Arumae said.

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