

SOCIAL ORDER CAMPAIGN

Govt wants sex, violence off TV

Self-censorship or face consequences

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The government wants sex and violence off the tube through self-censorship by programme producers.

Deputy Prime Minister Visanu Kreungarm said yesterday the government expected producers of soap operas, game shows and even news programmes to refrain from featuring sex and vilolent contents or they may lose their contracts.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra

had mentioned that many soap operas had drinking scenes which could mislead minors into thinking there was nothing wrong with alcohol consumption, he said.

Other ministers also complained television these days had too much of obscenity and kissing and cuddling, let alone news stories filled with horrible pictures.

The government would not issue measures to control TV programme contents but wanted producers to be more careful and selective, said Mr Visanu.

The Public Relations Department told him it had a committee checking for

improper TV contents. The panel would first send a warning to offending producers. If the warning went unheeded, the panel would order their programmes terminated or refuse to renew contracts. "From now on, producers may have a hard time getting new contracts if we see them present something not nice on TV," Mr Visanu warned.

Meanwhile, producers of programmes that promote public conscience, ethics and morality would be rewarded. The public was urged to help watch out for programmes showing sex and violence, including music videos and fashion shows.