



STATEMENT BY THE KENYA FILM CLASSIFICATION BOARD CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER DR. EZEKIEL MUTUA, M.B.S, REGARDING SCREENING OF GAY THEMED CARTOONS

Our attention has been drawn to allegations by the public through various platforms of media including social media that Disney intends to screen gay themed cartoons in the country. In particular, we have received a petition signed by over 51,000 people through CitizenGo Africa to ban any content by Disney from showing in Kenya.

The CitizenGo petition alleges that Walt Disney has produced gay content which will be screening in Kenya, with reference to the following films:

- Frozen 2
- Beauty and the Beast
- Gay pride parade.

The board has reviewed the Frozen 2 trailer, a sequel of Frozen 1 that was released in 2013 and determined that it has no gay content. Frozen 1, an animated film is based on a fairytale "The Snow Queen" and the storyline is about Princess Elsa (the main character) who discovers she has magical powers. She can throw her hands on the air and cause a lightening. She can also swim across a stormy ocean. There are two Male characters Olaf and Kristoff. Olaf had melted but Princess Elsa reconstructed him through her magical powers and for that Olaf seems to be falling in love with Elsa.

Frozen 2 trailer picks from the Princess Elsa magical powers and shows her swimming in a stormy ocean.

The film itself is not accessible online because it is yet to be released. It premieres on 22 Nov in USA. At the moment the board is not fully seized of the details and can only make a determination after the film is released in November. Similarly, IMAX which is licensed by the board to exhibit films in their theatres in Kenya will get the key (Code) to screen the film after its release in the USA. They have given a commitment that they will submit the same for examination and classification by The Board before screening.

According to the petitioner (CitizenGo) there was a Gay pride parade at Disney Park in Paris on 1st June. This is a live event in another jurisdiction which probably is allowed by law. Disney does not have a theme park in Kenya where the live cartoons can be paraded. It is important to note that KFCB mandate is restricted to regulation of content exhibited and shows performed in Kenya. However, because of technological advancement the Board is keen to ensure that gay content exhibited in other jurisdictions where the same is permitted is not accessed in Kenya especially by children.

In respect to the films in contention, namely *Frozen 2* and *Beauty and the Beast*, The Board has examined the films and found nothing offensive. In fact, both films were submitted to the board in 2015 and 2017 respectively and were rated PG. Our advisory on Parental Guidance still remains the same in view of these ratings, we assure the public that both films have no homosexual themes or undertones as claimed and are fit for consumption by Kenyan children under Parental Guidance (PG) rating. We are confident that the content therein in no way compromises our fight against unbecoming behavior such as homosexuality as we endeavor to protect children from harmful film and broadcast content. The philosophy behind classification is to ensure the preservation of the family as the basic unit of society and protect children from exposure to harmful media content.

However, we are aware of the insidious efforts by the LGBTQ community to promote gay content in a bid to push the same sex agenda.

The Board remains vigilant to ensure that films exhibited in Kenya promote our dominant culture and values and preserve the institution of family which in our law is a union of 2 people of the opposite gender. Homosexuality remains illegal in Kenya and any films promoting content undermining our culture and institution of family. In light of the above, the Board would like to take this opportunity to assure Kenyans of our commitment towards ensuring that film and broadcast content on Kenyan screens and theaters reflect our predominantly acceptable values and promotes our culture, national values and aspirations.

Finally, I would like to thank the petitioners and all other concerned members of the public who have brought this matter to our attention for their vigilance and support.



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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER