



KENYA FILM CLASSIFICATION BOARD

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SPEECH BY THE KENYA FILM CLASSIFICATION BOARD AG CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MR CHRISTOPHER WAMBUA, DURING THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE KENYA FILM SUMMIT HELD ON 1ST OCTOBER, 2021 AT THE KCA UNIVERSITY, NAIROBI.

*Representative of the CEO, Media Council of Kenya,
Representative of the CEO, Kenya Film Commission
Vice Chancellor, KCA University,
Mr. Benson Ngobia - Convener, Kenya Film Summit,
Lectures present,
Film students,
Filmmakers/Creatives present,
Colleagues present,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB), allow me to express my sincere gratitude for the invitation to grace this Award Gala and closing ceremony of the Kenya Film Summit.

Allow me also to sincerely thank the organizers and partners for their contribution and commitment towards ensuring that the 2nd Edition of the Kenya Film Summit is a success.

I am gratified to note that the Board actively participated in the three-day Summit through presentations, and communications support as well as the provision of co-branded publicity materials.

The support, though not as generous as we may have wanted, demonstrate our appreciation of the key role that the Summit continues to play in promoting the creative sector and in creating a facilitative environment for film students and practitioners.

The focus of this year's edition of the Summit was **initiating a discourse on film research in Kenya, providing a platform for presentation of research papers on Kenya and African cinemas as well as showcasing and celebrating student films.**

The thematic issues covered during the Summit resonate well with the times and demands of the local creative industry. As you will all appreciate, the COVID-19 pandemic has radically transformed the production, distribution and consumption of audio-visual ecosystem in Kenya and globally. For instance, people are increasingly consuming movies and other entertainment from the comfort of their home. At the same time, more studios and media distributors are developing their own direct to consumer streaming services.



Protecting Children from Exposure to Harmful Content



At the height of the pandemic, productions were halted, and some of the most anticipated theatrical premieres were postponed, and more studios had to forego theatrical releases altogether and go direct to the consumer to generate at least some income. The role of movie theatres in consumer entertainment, in the post-COVID era, remains unclear. Film research could therefore go a long way in filling in these gaps.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My colleague, Marcos Masiga, last Wednesday shared with you the Board's Film Classification mandate.

Allow me, however, to seize this opportunity to reiterate that KFCB's chief role is to ensure creative works conform to Kenya's culture, moral values and national aspirations. This responsibility is meant to protect children from premature exposure to harmful/adult content.

It is important to note that the law allows the Board to waive licensing and classification fees **ONLY** for students intending to film as part of their learning projects. The institutions must, however, make the request to the Board in writing.

Regarding concerns on whether the Board regulates content exhibited on YouTube, it is worth noting that YouTube is a broadcast platform where film content is exhibited to the public.

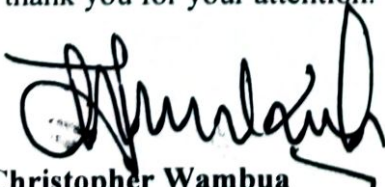
In this regard, all local content uploaded on the platform ought to comply with filming requirements as stipulated in the Films and Stage Plays Act, Cap 222. On the other hand, Video-on-Demand (VoD) platforms are not public platforms. As you are aware, subscription services provide access to the content to adults only, who do so on their own volition. Nonetheless, the Board is already engaging the VOD platforms to ensure that content being distributed comply to Kenya's classification system.

The Board remains committed to supporting initiatives such as the ***Kenya Film Summit*** to mentor local filmmakers. We are also open to working with local content creators, film students and like-minded public and private sector agencies on initiatives that are geared towards supporting the continued growth of the local film industry.

In conclusion,

I wish to once again thank the organizers of this momentous event and congratulate the winners of various awards this evening. Let us continue using film to promote our Kenyan culture and identity.

I thank you for your attention.



Christopher Wambua
Ag. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER