

CHAPTER 29 - CINEMATOGGRAPH (LICENSING)

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTIONS

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation and application.
3. Prohibition of exhibitions of film except as prescribed.
4. Provisions as to licences for premises.
5. Provisions as to licences for cinematographs.
6. Period of licence.
7. Exemption in case of certain mobile cinemas.
8. Supervision at exhibition to ensure safety from fire.
9. Commissioner's power of delegation.
10. Offences and penalties.
11. Power of entry.
12. Functions conferred on Federal officers.
13. Regulations.

CHAPTER 29

CINEMATOGGRAPH (LICENSING)

A LAW FOR THE REGULATION AND CONTROL OF CINEMATOGGRAPH EXHIBITIONS AND FOR THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC AT SUCH EXHIBITIONS AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH

1. This Law may be cited as the Cinematograph (Licensing) Law.

2. —(1) In this Law:-

"exhibition" means any exhibition of pictures or other optical effects produced by means of a cinematograph or other similar apparatus;

"film" means a film exceeding eight millimetres (8 mm.) in width designed for use with a cinematograph or other similar projection apparatus;

"Commissioner" means the State Commissioner charged with responsibility for social welfare;

"mobile cinema" means any cinematograph or other similar projection apparatus which is operated in, on or from a vehicle or which is carried from place to place for the purpose of being used for occasional exhibitions;

"premises" includes buildings and lands.

(2) The provisions of this Law shall not apply to an exhibition given in private premises to which the public are not admitted.

3. No exhibition for the purposes of which film is used shall be given except in compliance with

this Law and:-

- (a) premises or in or from a mobile cinema, vehicle or vessel licensed in accordance with this Law; and
- (b) by means of a cinematograph or other similar projection apparatus licensed in accordance with this Law.

4_(1) The Commissioner may grant licences in respect of premises, a mobile cinema, a vehicle or a vessel under paragraph (a) of section 3 to such persons as he thinks fit on such terms and conditions and under such restrictions as, subject to regulations made hereunder, the Commissioner may specify in the licence.

(2) The Commissioner may:-

(a) refuse to grant a licence; or

(b) at any time modify or vary the terms, conditions and restrictions of or revoke any licence already granted.

(3) No licence shall be granted in respect of any premises or mobile cinema, vehicle or vessel unless the Commissioner is satisfied that such premises or such mobile cinema, vehicle or vessel is safe and otherwise suitable for the proposed exhibition.

5_(1) The Commissioner may grant licences in respect of cinematographs or other similar projection apparatus under paragraph (b) of section 3 to such persons as he thinks fit on such terms and conditions and under such restrictions as, subject to regulations made hereunder, the Commissioner may specify in the licence.

(2) The Commissioner may:-

(a) refuse to grant a licence; or

(b) at any time modify or vary the terms, conditions and restrictions of or revoke any licence already granted.

6. Every licence shall be in force for one year or for such shorter period as the Commissioner on the grant of the licence may determine, unless the licence is previously revoked.

7 The provisions of sections 3, 4 and 5 shall not apply to a mobile cinema which operates under the control of the Government of the State or of a local government council or of any statutory corporation or board.

8.—(1) where the Commissioner has granted a licence upon the condition that the exhibition Shall be conducted under the superintendence of an officer of the Government of the state, It shall in such case be lawful for such an officer at any time to order such exhibition to cease, or to give any other direction which he may think necessary for the purpose of ensuring the safety from fire of the premises or vehicle or vessel in which the exhibition takes place or of the people

attending the exhibition.

(2) Any person who in any way hinders or obstructs any such officer shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine of five hundred naira or to imprisonment for six months or both.

9.—(1) The Commissioner may by notice in the State Gazette delegate to any person the exercise of any functions conferred or imposed upon him by this Law or any subsidiary legislation made delegation, thereunder.

(2) Any delegation made under the provisions of subsection (1) shall be revocable at will and no delegation shall prevent the exercise of any power by the Commissioner himself.

10. Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of section 3 shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of one thousand naira or to imprisonment for two years or both, and in addition where the offence is a continuing one shall be liable to a fine of one hundred naira for each day during which the offence continues.

11.—(1) Any police officer of or above the rank of an assistant of superintendent of police, or other person authorised by the Commissioner, may at any time enter any premises in which he has reason to believe that an exhibition is being or is about to be given with a view to seeing whether the provisions of this Law or any regulations made hereunder have been complied with.

(2) Any person who prevents or obstructs the entry of any officer or person referred to in subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of one hundred naira or to imprisonment for two months or both.

12.—(1) No function shall be deemed to be conferred by this Law upon any member of the Nigeria Police Force unless and until the President shall have given his consent to the conferring of such function.

(2) Every such consent shall be published in the State Gazette.

13. The Governor may by regulations prescribe or provide for:-

(a) the procedure for application and grant of licences under section 3 and the terms and conditions and restrictions thereof or relating thereto;

(b) conditions to be observed with reference to the safety from fire or otherwise of any cinematograph theatre or other premises or vehicles or vessels on or in which exhibitions are given and for the safety and control of persons attending the same;

(c) the issue of licences under this Law and the fees to be paid for the same;

(d) offences and penalties for the breach of any regulation such penalties not to exceed a fine of one thousand naira or imprisonment for two years or both such fine and imprisonment, and

where appropriate a fine of one hundred naira for each day in respect of which an offence continues;

(e) generally for the better carrying out of the purposes of this Law.