



MUSIC GUIDELINES FORUM

MOMASE REGIONAL MUSIC FORUM

LAE, MOROBE PROVINCE

18TH – 19TH FEBRUARY 2025

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- **BACKGROUND**
- **PURPOSE**
- **RELATED LAWS/PROVISION**
- **PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINES**
- **PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION PROCESS**
- **CONCLUSION**

BRIEF BACKGROUND

Music or audible sound today is an important part of lives. It is a way to express ourselves as individuals and groups; and it is a form of art that helps us define who and what we are. We use it to express our feelings, our views and our ideas.

However due to the drastic increase of inappropriate composition of songs and lyrics by artist and the music industry, the Office of Censorship's under the directions of the National government, its objective is to develop a regulatory guideline ensuring Music lyrics that must protect and portray the spiritual and cultural values of our society.

PURPOSE

- The main purpose of this workshop is to *create awareness of music ethics in accordance with the Classification of Publications (Censorship) Act, 1989, PNG Vision 2050 and the National Censorship Policy II (2021 – 2025) for the regulation of the Music Industry* in Papua New Guinea.
- As stated in our “Theme “**RESPECT AND DECENCY IN PNG MUSIC**”, we aim to gather collective information from music artists, producers, music studios, production companies and the general public to assist in developing a Classification guideline for regulating the local music industry.
- **The Guideline developed is to ensure music or lyrics produced must protect and portray the spiritual and cultural values of our society.**

RELATED LAWS/PROVISIONS

- i. **CLASSIFICATION OF PUBLICATION (CENSORSHIP) ACT, 1989**
(Part IV & V) Section 33 & 34 – Standards & Classification Guidelines

- ii. **PNG VISION 2050**
(Pillar 6: 1.17.10.5 & 6)
 - Regulate the production and sales of gender discriminatory songs;
 - Regulate foreign Television & newspaper advertisements

- iii. **NATIONAL CENSORSHIP POLICY II (2021 – 2025)**
 - Chapter 3 : Policy Focus Areas & Strategies
Regulation of Music Industry

PROPOSED DRAFT CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINE

The Censor when classifying a publication (Songs with its lyrics) must follow the themes closely and ask these questions during the classification process:

- a) Is the lyrics about real life, a romantic story, a dream, a place or otherwise?*
- a) Does the Lyrics encourage the development of a healthy mind, soul or spirit?*
- a) Does the lyrics uphold moral values or common decency?*
- a) Will the overall Lyrics going to be good when it is heard or viewed by the public?*

In addition to observing the above, the Censor must also see the following:

GUIDELINE KEY AREAS

EXPLICIT LANGUAGES

- Song lyrics fully revealed, expressed or made explicit and offensive references to sex or bodily functions; coarse and rude languages

SEXUAL THEMES

- Lyrics made references to sex or sexuality. Strong sexual content or frequent depictions of sexual behavior, possibly including nudity.

VIOLENCE

- Lyrics directed to inciting or producing imminent action by individuals or groups.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL USE

- Promotes and encourages the use of contraband or illicit substances

GUIDELINE KEY AREAS

BLASPHEMY

- Song lyrics with great disrespect shown to GOD or to do something unholy. Referring to something said or done that show some kind of disrespect. Heresy or opinion that does not agree with the official belief (Christianity) or opinion of a particular individual, group, religion or culture.

SEDITION

- Lyrics that causes unwarranted conduct or speech that incites people to rebel against authority or state.

HATE SPEECH

- Discriminatory (biased, bigoted or intolerant) or pejorative (prejudiced, contemptuous or demeaning) of an individual or group

GUIDELINE KEY AREAS

CUSTOMS

- Literal references to Melanesian cultural practices which are regarded as Taboo even using innuendos that are obvious

TERRORISM

- Lyrics that express or depict in details contents that can be instructive and influential

MISINFORMATION & MISLEADING

- Lyrics that contains details of a situation which can be misleading or can be misinformed.

➤ Or any other aspect that is deemed offensive or immoral by any reasonable Papua New Guinean.

Contents deemed inappropriate may be censored or restricted from public broadcast, and its artists may face consequences such as fines or ban from future performances.

PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION PROCESS

Censorship

ARTISTS/BANDS

REGISTERED MULTIMEDIA/ASSOCIATIONS/ MUSIC
RECORDING STUDIOS

PUBLIC RADIO/TELEVISION

GENERAL PUBLIC

- ✓ Artists/Bands bring in their songs/lyrics
- ✓ Registered Multimedia/Associations/Music Recording Studios Classify the lyrics according to the Guidelines and make decisions
- ✓ Public Radio/Television publishes the Approved songs
- ✓ General Public listens/views approved publications (Music)
- ✓ Censorship Monitors and ensures the Guidelines are followed.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, the office wish to facilitate discussions in this session to acquire your views, opinions and comments on the proposed Draft Music Classification Guidelines just presented.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- *Identify and List some areas to be included in the guideline.*
- *Discuss and Propose ideas from the propose classification process.*
- *List and Discuss some challenges faced by the industry.*

End of Presentation