



PRELIMINARY RESEARCH ON THE CENSORSHIP OF MUSIC

28th October – 01st November 2024

Lae, Morobe Province



**MUSIC FORUM MOMASE REGION FEBRUARY ,18-19
2025**

Purpose

- ❖ **Present key result findings on research on censorship of music**
- ❖ **Key results and findings/Recommendation assist facilitate discussion on guidelines**

Outline

- ❖ **Objective of the Research on Censorship of Music**
- ❖ **Background**
- ❖ **The Key Results and Discussion**
- ❖ **6. The Challenges**
- ❖ **7. The Conclusion**
- ❖ **8. The Recommendation**

OBJECTIVE OF THE RESERACH

1.

Investigate whether artists, recording studios, multimedia companies, television and radio stations have classification guidelines, and classify lyrical contents prior to public broadcasting;

2.

Whether the practice of classification aligns to the key elements of the Draft Classification Guidelines on Music;

Background

- Total of 46 participants were interviewed
- Recording Studios/Producers/Videographers (15)
- Radio/Television Representatives (4)
- Multimedia Studio Owners (2)
- Individual Artists (25)
- Focus Groups (FG)

Data Collection

- Questionnaires
- One on one interviews
- Observations
- Both Qualitative and Quantitative Method

The Key Findings

Focus Group Discussion: 15 Recording Studios

Does your Recording Studio have a Classification Guideline in place?

Yes	No	Unsure
11	1	3

Most of the recording studios in Lae have guidelines in place but in most cases, it is not a formally written document.

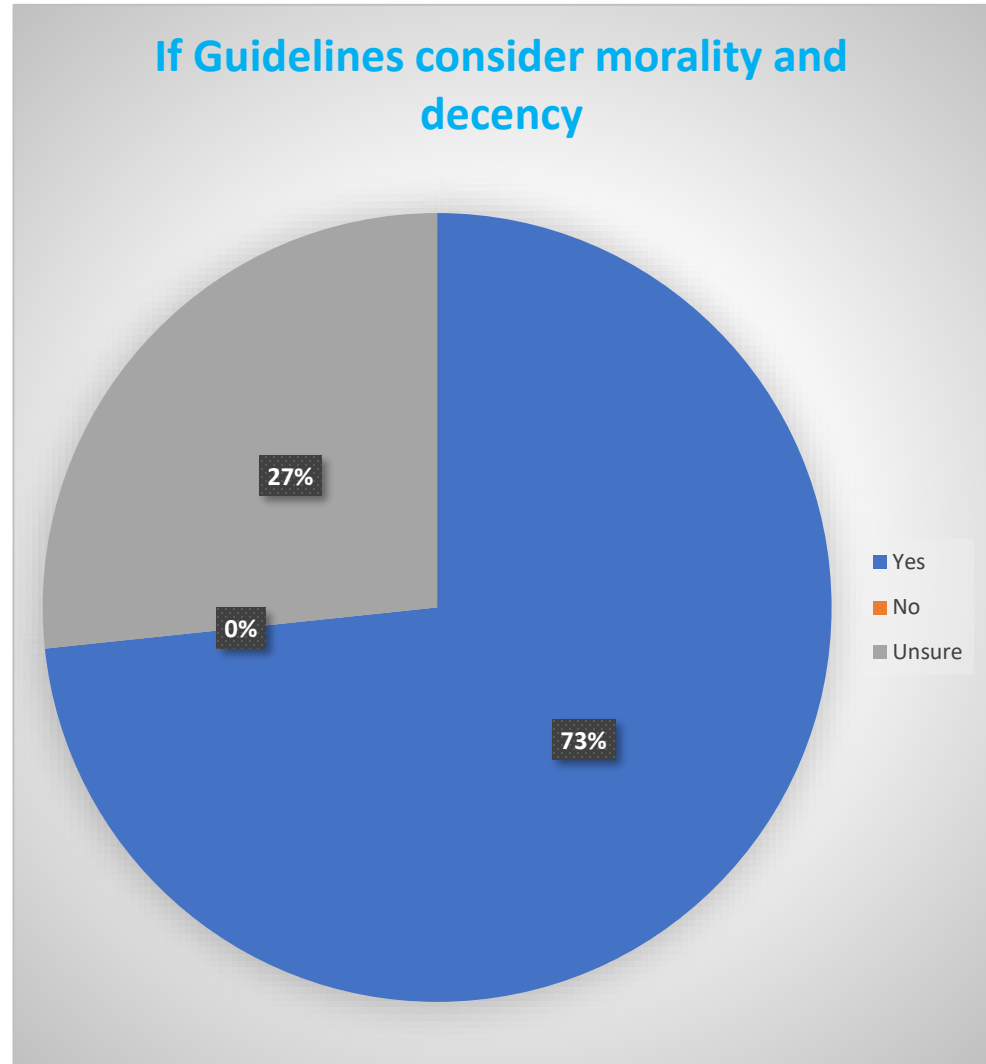
- **73% of the Recording Studios screen song lyrics for obscene and indecent words that may tarnish their studio reputation.**
- **Less than 10% indicated they do NOT have a Recording Guideline as they believe it infringes on the right of the individual artist to freely express themselves.**
- **20% of the Recording Studios interviewed indicated that they were not sure about the Classification Guideline**



Key Finding

If yes, does your Guidelines consider standards of morality and decency of lyrical contents?

Yes	No	Unsure
11	-	4

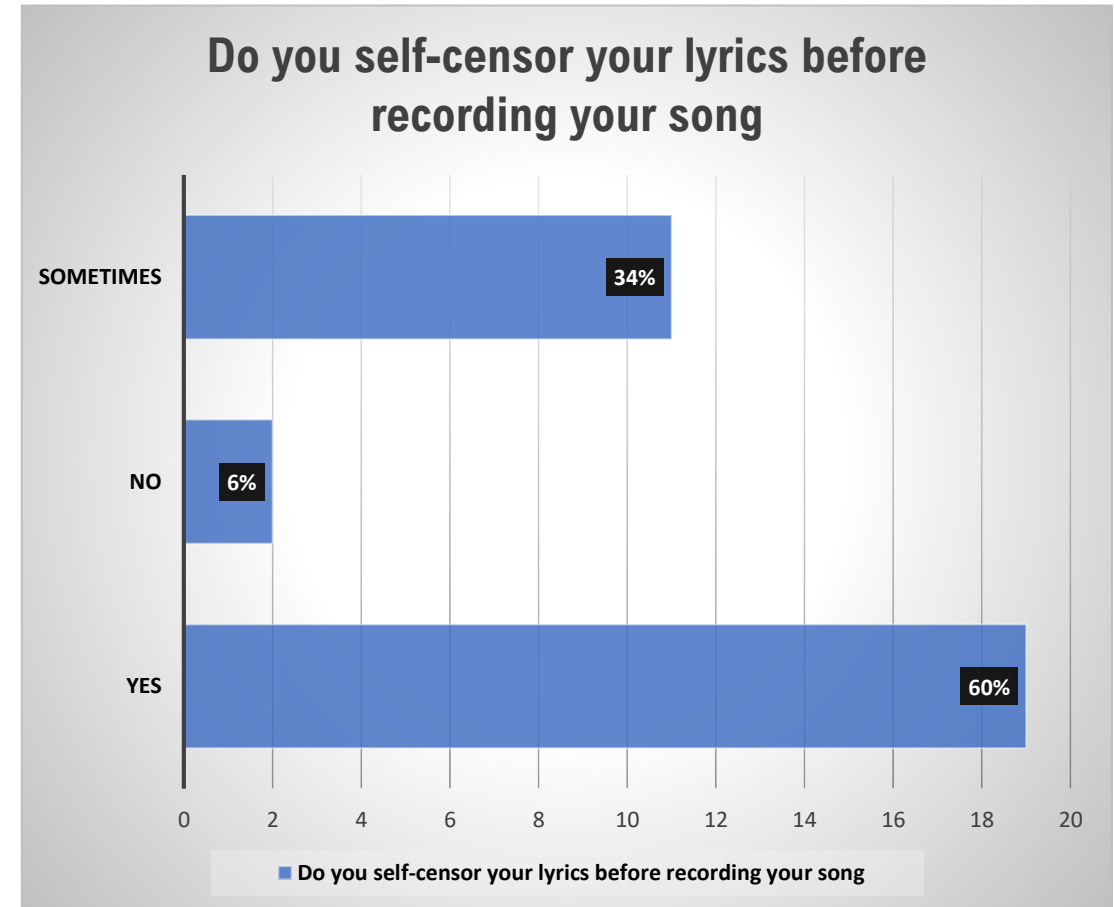


- FGD 15 recording studios
- 73% indicated that they do consider standards of morality and decency of the song lyrics before recording.
- 27% are unsure of the standards of morality and decency, however they indicated that this research conducted by the Office has now made them aware of the guidelines on music and they will be ensuring artists comply to the guidelines.
- Indication to conduct more awareness on the Music Classification Guideline as not many musicians and studio owners didn't know about the roles and functions of the Office of Censorship

Key Findings and Discussion

Do you self-censor your lyrics before recording your song?

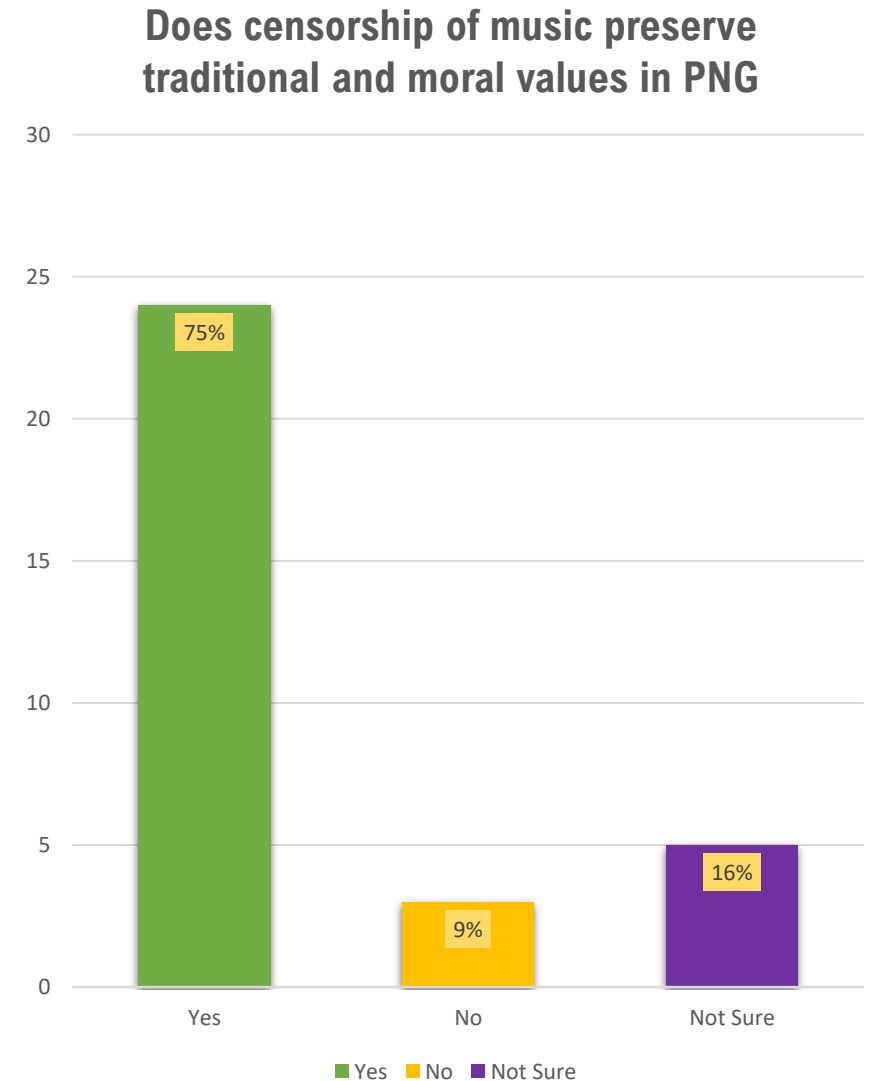
- **60%** of the artists censor their own songs from indecent and inappropriate lyrics before recording in a studio.
- **6%** do not practice self-censorship, and
- **34%** sometimes censor their own songs prior to recording.



Key Findings and Discussion

Do you think that censorship of music helps preserve traditional and moral values in Papua New Guinea?

- **75% agreed that censorship of music does preserve traditional and moral values by protecting it from western and other outside influence.**
- **9% of the artists disagreed with the statement.**
- **16% indicated that they are not sure of the impact censorship of music has on the preservation of traditional and moral values in PNG.**



Key Findings and Discussion

What Guidelines do you use to guide compose your songs?

- Results indicate that 13% of the respondents did not use any of the key elements of the Classification Guideline on Music when composing and writing their songs.**
- Most artists indicated that they mostly use component 9 (offensive or immoral)_to ensure they do not go against any deeply held moral orders of our society.**

Key Findings and Discussion

If no Classification Guidelines are used, indicate why?

- **Out of the 12 respondents that indicated they do not use any of the components of the Classification Guidelines on Music, the general consensus is that music is an art and they are free to express themselves in their lyrical compositions.**
- **They feel that censorship of music is a form of oppression or control that leaves them with no room to freely express their views on issues that concerns them daily.**

5. The Challenges

- **No coordinated mechanism amongst stakeholders in the Music Industry**, such as National Cultural Commission, and other key industry players
- **No government support**
- **Online (digital) Music** Widespread dissemination of digital music is difficult to regulate
- Little knowledge of the function of OOC
- No awareness on music guidelines



6. The Conclusion

- Mounting complaints and public outcries on social media triggered the OoC to delve into the area of music, issued Circular Instructions, giving prominence to Part IV Section 33 of the Censorship Act 1989, and identified as Policy Focus Area (3.4) under the NCP II (2021-2025)
- Preliminary Research justifies the need to develop a classification guideline on music as a administrative tool of the Censorship Act 1989, that is responsive to the unique values and needs of the children, young people and the citizens of this country.
- There is no written document although most studios do screen songs before broadcasting.
- Appropriate Code of Practice can be developed from the Classification Guidelines to provide clarity on the lawful process and procedures of the recording and multimedia studios as well as the radio and television stations
- Implications of music censorship is primarily for artists, recording and multimedia studios as well as radio and television stations.

7. The Recommendations

Based on the results from the Preliminary Research on the Censorship of Music and Industry Code of Conduct, clear recommendations emerged;

1. Awareness

- 1.1 Office of Censorship Roles and Responsibilities
- 1.2 Draft Classification Guidelines on Music

2. Classification Guidelines on Music

- 2.1 Preliminary Research supports the idea of having Classification Guideline on Music
- 2.2 Translate Verbal Classification to formally Written Classification Guidelines
- 2.3 Simplify the current draft Classification Guidelines on Music
- 2.4 Must be implemented with key players in the music industry

3. Collaborative efforts between the Government and the Industry players is needed in the Music Industry

4. Formation of Music Association to air a much more bigger voice for the music industry

5. Online Music be considered when developing the Online Filtering Policy

End of Presentation.

Thank you