

Assented to in Her Majesty's name this 15th day of July, 1966.

H. J. L. BOSTON,
Governor-General.

LS

No. 15



Sierra Leone

1966

The Cinematograph Exhibitions Act, 1966

Short title.

Being an Act to Consolidate and Amend The Law Relating to The Regulation and Control of Cinematograph and Similar Exhibitions and For Matters Connected therewith

[21st July, 1966.] Date of commencement.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Interpretation.

1. "Board" means the Board of Control appointed under the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 6;
 "exhibition" includes a cinematograph exhibition, and any other similar exhibition;
 "Minister" means the Minister for the time being charged with responsibility for matters relating to education;
 "premises" includes buildings and lands.

Exhibitions not to be given except on licensed premises.

2. (1) No person shall conduct, present, or give, or allow to be conducted, presented, or given any exhibition for the purposes of which inflammable films are used, except in premises licensed for the purpose by the prescribed authority under this Act, and in accordance with the provisions of such licence.

(2) No licence shall be granted in respect of any premises unless the prescribed authority is satisfied that such premises are safe and otherwise suitable for the purposes of the proposed exhibition.

(3) The prescribed authority may without assigning any reasons for so doing—

- (a) refuse to grant any such licence, or
- (b) grant such licence subject to such conditions and restrictions as the said authority may deem fit to impose.

Appeals from decision of prescribed authority.

3. An appeal shall lie to the Minister from any decision of the prescribed authority made under section 2 and the Minister's decision shall not be subject to question in any Court.

Supervision at exhibition to ensure safety from fire.

4. Where the prescribed authority has granted a licence under section 2 subject to the condition that the exhibition shall be conducted under the superintendence of any public officer, such public officer may at any time order such exhibition to cease, or give any other direction he may consider necessary for the purpose of ensuring the safety from fire of the premises in which the exhibition takes place or of the persons attending the exhibition.

Duty of occupier of premises in which it is proposed to give an exhibition.

5. (1) The occupier (which expression in this section includes a reference to the person managing or receiving the rent thereof) of any premises at which it is proposed to give an exhibition shall ascertain whether the said premises have been duly licensed as aforesaid.

(2) The occupier shall notify the prescribed authority if and so soon as he has reason to believe that there is an intention to proceed with the exhibition either without a licence granted as aforesaid, or with such licence, but contrary to any of the conditions imposed thereby.

6. (1) No person shall present or exhibit, or allow to be presented or exhibited, any film pictures or other similar optical effects unless the same shall first have been approved and passed by the Board of Control appointed under subsection (2). Censorship of films.

(2) The Minister may by Order, appoint and direct a Board of Control for the purpose of viewing, examining and censoring films intended for use in connection with an exhibition and the Board so appointed shall by virtue of this Act be invested with all legal powers necessary for the proper performance of its duties and functions.

(3) Whenever the Board shall pass and approve any film, it shall signify its decision by a certificate in the prescribed form.

(4) The Board may—

- (a) pass and approve part of a film whilst disapproving another part thereof;
- (b) pass and approve any film subject to special conditions and restrictions as it may deem fit;
- (c) at any time revoke its decision; or
- (d) give any directions in the matter as respects any film, as it deems fit,

and may so act as it shall think proper for the purpose of giving effect to its decision.

(5) A film or part of a film which has been passed and approved by the Board of Control may, subject always to the provisions of section 2 be exhibited in any part of Sierra Leone.

(6) When the Board has refused to pass and approve any film or part of a film, it may retain such film or excise and retain such part of a film until it is exported from Sierra Leone or otherwise disposed of in accordance with the directions of the Board.

7. No person shall display or cause to be displayed any picture, photograph, poster or figure advertising any film unless the same has been approved by the Board and marked by it in the manner prescribed. Advertisement of films not to be exhibited unless authorised.

8. Any District Officer or Police Officer may at any time enter any premises in which he has reason to believe that an exhibition is being or about to be given, with a view to seeing whether the provisions of this Act or any Order or Rule made thereunder and the conditions of any licence granted under this Act have been complied with. Power of entry.

9 (1) Any person who—

- (i) contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of this Act, or
- (ii) disobeys or fails to comply with the lawful order of the prescribed authority or of any officer charged with the execution of, or concerned in the enforcement of, any of the provisions of this Act, or

Offences and penalties.

(iii) hinders or obstructs any such authority or officer, shall be guilty of an offence, and on summary conviction thereof shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred leones and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding four leones in respect of each day during which the offence continues.

(2) Where a person has been convicted of a continuing offence under this section, the Court convicting him shall inform the prescribed authority, who shall forthwith revoke the licence (if any) granted to such person under section 2.

Act not applicable to private exhibitions.

10. The restrictions set forth in this Act shall not apply to an exhibition given in private premises to which the public are not admitted on payment or otherwise.

Rules.

11. The Minister may make Rules for the further or better, carrying out of any of the provisions or purposes of this Act, and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, with respect to any of the following matters—

- (a) the appointment of a person or persons to be the prescribed authority for any purpose under this Act;
- (b) the prescription of fees to be charged and paid under this Act;
- (c) the prescription of forms to be used for any purpose under this Act;
- (d) the procedure with respect to the application for, and to grant of, licences under section 2, and the conditions and restrictions relating thereto;
- (e) the prescription of anything which under this Act requires to be or may be prescribed; and
- (f) the prescription of the duties and powers of any person engaged or employed in the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

Repeal of Cap. 115.

12. The Cinematograph Exhibitions Act is hereby repealed except that—

- (a) all licences granted and all Orders and Rules made under any of the provisions of the said Act shall be deemed to have been granted or made as the case may be under this Act and shall continue in force until they are amended, revoked or replaced by licences, Orders or Rules made under the provisions of this Act; and
- (b) the provisions of this section shall not affect any legal proceedings pending at the date of commencement of this Act.

Passed in the House of Representatives this *10th* day of *June*, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six.

S. V. WRIGHT,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

THIS PRINTED IMPRESSION has been carefully compared by me with the Bill which has passed the House of Representatives and found by me to be a true and correctly printed copy of the said Bill.

S. V. WRIGHT,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.

M.P. S.F./38.

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