



KENYA COPYRIGHT BOARD



PRESS RELEASE

February 6, 2020

LICENSING OF COLLECTIVE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS (CMOS) FOR 2020

The Board of Directors of the Kenya Copyright Board wishes to thank his Excellency the President, members of the public and artists for their concerns regarding the management of royalties by collective management organisations (CMOS).

The Board, in its meeting of January 28, 2020, has taken decisions to protect the interests of artists by establishing a system of fair, fraud-proof royalty collection and to ensure that individuals who may have previously been involved in mismanagement of funds are punished in accordance with the law.

In order to protect artists whose livelihood depends on royalties, the board approved the issuance of provisional, six-month licenses to three music Societies namely; Kenya Association of Music Producers (KAMP), Performers Rights Society of Kenya (PRISK), and the Music Copyright Society of Kenya (MCSK).

These provisional licences are issued subject to the following conditions:

1. A forensic audit of the operations of the CMOS carried out by reputable auditors of KECOBO's choice but at the CMO's expense. The audit on Music Copyright Society of Kenya (MCSK) accounts from 2017 to 2019 will commence immediately while that of Kenya Association of Music Producers (KAMP) and Performers Rights Society of Kenya (PRISK) will be conducted once a suitable audit firm is procured, at any rate not later than March 2020.
2. All CMOS must use a government approved ICT system for collection, distribution and management of royalties;
3. All CMOS must collect the royalties jointly; and
4. Deposit all their income into a KECOBO-controlled account where 70 per cent of the total collections shall be retained and disbursed to beneficiaries as royalties and 30 per cent sent to the CMOS as recurrent costs;
5. Senior managers and members of the Board of Directors of CMOS must be vetted by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations and other competent agencies
6. The three CMOS will be further required to share with KECOBO their respective databases for the creation of a repository of creative works
7. Certain intended payments to directors of Music Copyright Society of Kenya (MCSK) must be stopped immediately. In that regard, the Board directed the Executive Director to

convene discussions with the CMOs to set harmonised allowances in line with standards established by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission.

These conditions are part of wide-ranging reforms in the music sector in compliance with the newly amended Copyright Act and are aimed at establishing proper governance systems and eradicate wasteful management of royalties.

Any CMO official involved in misuse of royalties will be prosecuted and steps taken to recover lost funds.

Edward Sigei



Executive Director

Kenya Copyright Board (KECOBO)