

RULU ARTS PROMOTERS

Fact Sheet – June 2013

Changes in copyright laws are needed for the music industry to grow



Facts

- Success in the creative industries, including the music industry depends on effective copyright laws and supporting regulations, and their proper implementation and enforcement.
- Only when songwriters, composers, performers, music publishers and sound recording companies are able to control the use of their work and are reimbursed from its use, can the music industry properly function. Why revise the copyright law and enable the Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA)?
- The Copyright and Neighboring Rights Act, 1999 (No.7 of 1999) does not clearly show the role of the police in enforcing the relevant provisions against criminal practices, which creates a feeling among police officers that it is not their duty to deal with copyright cases.
- The current law does not grant adequate power to the Copyright Society of Tanzania in terms of the scope of its mandate, including police force support. Therefore, too many loopholes allowing for plagiarism and copyrighted materials being used without paying royalties.
- The current law does not provide a mechanism, such as a tribunal for settlement of disputes, which is common for intellectual property.
- The Copyright Society of Tanzania, COSOTA, is understaffed and unable to administer the copyrights and royalties as required by law.

The Tanzania music industry Current state of operations

- Tanzania copyright laws do not respond to growing needs of the music industry
- The Copyright Society of Tanzania does not operate effectively
- High level of pirating massively affects rights of local and international artists
- Majority of music artists remain unpaid, preventing any professional investment
- Lack of opportunities bars professional development of young and emerging talent
- Music artists are not aware of their legal rights

Amendments for Copyrights and Neighboring Rights Act

- The percentage of royalties paid to artists for use of their work should be included in the Act
- Reasonable fines and penalties should be included to curb piracy
- Enforcement framework must be spelled out in the copyright law
- A Copyrights Tribunal should be introduced
- An agency to register, monitor and accredit music collecting societies
- Establish a Police Copyrights Crime Investigation Unit

Rulu Arts Promoters (RAP) is an NGO which advocating for rights and welfare of performing artists in the creative industries.

For more information, please contact Angelo Luhala.

aluhala@yahoo.com cell: 0713 325 959



Issues

- Ineffective copyright enforcement mechanisms
- Inadequate court actions against breach of copyrights law
- Poor performance of enforcement agencies
- Inadequate royalty collection management
- Limited respect for intellectual property ownership
- Absence of reliable associations of musicians
- Non-existence of a specific national music policy with set guidelines

Research and advocacy work of RULU Arts is supported by

BEST-AC



Tuboreshe mazingira ya biashara.
Doing business, let's make it easy.