



Mr. Edward Sigei
Executive Director
Kenya Copyright Board
By email: info@copyright.go.ke

20/07/2020

Dear Mr. Edward Sigei,

We are writing on behalf of the international author community regarding the proposed review of Kecobo Service Charges and Blank Tape Media, specifically the provisions for the blank media levy.

IAF represents authors from the text, screenwriting and visual arts sectors and their interests in copyright. Our members are over 70 organisations representing well over 750,000 authors worldwide.

We are glad to see that consideration is being given to extend the list of devices and media subject to levies. We believe that Kenya has an opportunity to correct a persistent inequality in the way rightsholders benefit from remuneration from private copying levies. It is important that these measures respect the entire creative value chain. Authors should be fairly remunerated for the copying of their works, and that principle should be upheld through measure such as private copying compensation.

The fact that private copying levies have not remunerated authors to this point is out of step with wider applications of these measures that work to remunerate authors. African countries where private copying remuneration has been implemented (such as Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ghana, Malawi, Morocco or Tunisia) have included authors of literary, artistic and audio-visual works.

Far too often authors are not properly remunerated for their work and there is an opportunity here to resolve this injustice. Authors of all kinds help create for culture for the enrichment of those in their country and beyond. A decent living is necessary for an author to continue creating, remuneration not only rewards their work so far but is usually the seed of their next effort. The ability of authors to make a decent living from their work is integral to the continued growth of cultural and creative sectors.

We support calls for the Kenyan Government to amend the copyright legislation to enable authors in the literary, artistic and audio-visual sector to receive remuneration for the private copying of their work.

Yours sincerely

Barbara Hayes
Company Secretary

International Authors Forum

Fifth Floor, Shackleton House
4 Battle Bridge Lane, London, SE1 2HX
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0) 20 7264 5709

E: barbara.hayes@internationalauthors.org

www.internationalauthors.org