



Voices Of Africa Today

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7TH MARCH 2023

To:
The Chairperson
The Standing Committee On Finance, Economic Opportunities and Tourism.
Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

C/O:
The Procedural Officer,
Department Of Cultural Affairs & Sports
Western Cape Government.
CapeTown – South Africa.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

**COMMENTS ON THE COPYRIGHTS AMMENDMENT BILL (MARCH 7th 2023) – WITH REFERENCE TO
The Amendment of section 9 of Act 98 of 1978, as substituted by section 2 of Act 9 of 2022**

Firstly, Voices Of Africa Today would like to commend the effort of the government for putting together and constantly amending such a comprehensive bill which we believe is perfect in all of its considerations.

However, we suggest that the government could play a significant role in administration of certain aspects of this bill as follows:

1. The government might want to think of setting up a copyrights registration portal, a platform for musical artists and content creators of all kinds to register their original works of arts at a minimum administrative fee per submission. This fee could be utilized by the government to distribute digital copies of the artworks (music) to all of its SABC Radio and TV stations nationwide for digital scheduling/ publishing, invitation to interviews and play listing – depending on the artist's location within South Africa.

The advantage of this system is that it will create the opportunity for the government to educate and identify with its own local talents. It could also generate a revenue stream for the government, as well as the artists who are in this process, guaranteed to be paid royalties from airplays on **SABC**.

We strongly believe that South African artists would have a greater level of trust in the government, than they often invest in private music distributors such as iTunes, Spotify and the many others who fail to pay meaningful returns and royalties to musical artists for their investments.

2. The **Department of Cultural Affairs and Sports**, with its **partners** could also host workshops to educate musical artists and digital content creators on copyright laws, provisions and how they can benefit from using the above suggested platform for copyrights registration and distribution for radio airplay and otherwise.

To this extent, we hope our comments are taken into consideration, while thanking (**The Standing Committee On Finance, Economic Opportunities and Tourism - Western Cape Provincial Parliament**) for granting Voices Of Africa Today this opportunity.

Yours in the services of humanity,

OHIS ABDULRAHMAN YAKUBU
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