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**PRESS STATEMENT BY THE KENYA FILM CLASSIFICATION BOARD ON THE RESTRICTING OF 'I AM SAMUEL' FILM ISSUED ON THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2021 AT 10:00 AM, AT THE BOARD'S OFFICES, NAIROBI.**

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*Colleagues*

*Members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Estate*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

*Good morning,*

Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB) is a State regulatory agency mandated by the *Films and Stage Plays Act Cap 222 of the Laws of Kenya* to regulate film and broadcast content. Regulation of film and broadcast content is meant to ensure that it conforms to our Kenyan culture, values and national aspirations, as well as to protect children from exposure to inappropriate content.

The law also vests KFCB with the responsibility of examining and classifying all film content intended for public exhibition for age-suitability and rate it as any of the following: **GE** (General Exhibition), **PG** (Parental Guidance), **16** (Not suitable for Persons under 16), **18** (Above 18 years) and/or (Restricted/Banned).

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In the course of examining a film titled: **I am Samuel**, which was submitted to the Board for classification, the Board noted a clear and deliberate attempt by the producer, to promote same-sex marriage as an acceptable way of life. This attempt is evident through the repeated confessions by the gay couple that what they feel for each other is normal and should be embraced as a way of life, as well as the characters' body language, including scenes of kissing of two male lovers. The documentary ultimately features marriage of two men, and concludes with the dedication of the film to the gay community.

By deliberately advocating same-sex marriage in Kenya, the film blatantly violates Article **165** of the *Penal Code* that outlaws homosexuality as well as the provisions of the *Films and Stage Plays Act Cap 222* of the laws of Kenya.

Additionally, the film tries to influence the viewer into believing that the older generation that was once against LGBTQ+ is slowly buying into the practice and accepting same sex marriage as a normal the way of life.

The film is, therefore, an affront to *Article 45* of the Kenyan constitution, which recognizes the family as the basic unit of society and defines marriage as between two persons of the opposite gender. Moreover, our laws, and culture re-affirm the institution of family as sacrosanct.

On this score, any film or broadcast content appearing to legalize, advocate, normalize or glorify the act contravenes the laws of our land. The documentary is, therefore, unacceptable and an affront to our culture and identity.

Worse still, the production is demeaning of Christianity as two gay men in the film purport to conduct a religious marriage invoking the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. On the basis of religion as a classifiable element, the Board finds the documentary not only blasphemous but also an attempt to use religion to advocate same sex marriage.

I must hasten to add here that the film in question was produced with funding from several foreign organizations. From our analysis, the documentary propagates values that are in dissonance with our constitution, culture, values and norms. The documentary, therefore, could easily expose vulnerable groups, including children, to unsuitable content. While adults may have a right to choose what they consume within the parameters of the law, children and other vulnerable groups are at the risk of being corrupted by such inappropriate content.

On account of the afore-cited reasons, on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2021, the Board hereby pronounces the 52-minute gay-themed film titled: *I AM SAMUEL*, as **RESTRICTED**. For the avoidance of doubt, **RESTRICTED** in this case means that it is prohibited from exhibition, distribution, possession or broadcasting within the Republic of Kenya.

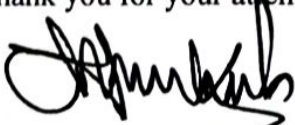
**The Board further wishes to state that:**

1. We are aware of efforts by some producers to promote gay-themed content that propagates same sex marriage contrary to our cultural beliefs and norms. The Board will not allow such productions to be either broadcast or exhibited within the Kenya as our laws do not countenance homosexuality or same sex marriage.



2. Any attempt to exhibit, distribute, broadcast or possess the **RESTRICTED** film within the Republic of Kenya shall, therefore, be met with the full force of the law.
3. While the Board welcomes local and foreign support to our budding local film industry, such funding should focus on production of content that is aligned with the laws of our country. Films that advocate same sex marriage, homosexuality or any other outlawed practices shall not be allowed for exhibition, broadcast or distribution within the country.
4. The Board remains vigilant to ensure that films exhibited in Kenya promote our cultural values including preserving the institution of family.
5. Local and international filmmakers are reminded to strictly adhere to the provisions of the *Films and Stage Plays Act Cap222 of the laws of Kenya* by acquiring filming licenses as well as submitting their content for examination and classification for age suitability.
6. We call upon parents, guardians and caregivers to remain vigilant and monitor what their children are watching on TV or other broadcast channels and guide them appropriately.
7. Finally, we appeal to the media, religious organizations, the public and other like-minded institutions to support our clarion call for creation and consumption of content that promotes Kenya's moral values and national aspirations. Working in concert is critical in ensuring that we protect children against exposure to inappropriate content.

I thank you for your attention.



**Christopher Wambua,**  
**Ag. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**