

LAW No. 4 of 2 January, 1971.

**CENSORSHIP.**

**THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL**

HAVING HEARD the Council of Secretaries;

TAKING NOTE of the approval of the Supreme Revolutionary Council;

**HEREBY PROMULGATES**

the following Law:

**Article 1**

*Censorship*

1. No public theatrical performance or cinema show shall be held **and no publication shall be circulated** without the prior authorization of the competent Censorship Board.

2. The person concerned with the public theatrical performance, cinema show or publication shall apply to the competent Censorship Board for authorization. The Board shall, if satisfied that it is not contrary to morality, public order or national interest, issue a certificate of approval.

3. **For the purpose of this Article, the term «publication» means a book, periodical, newspaper whether printed in the Republic or imported from abroad.**

**Article 2**

*Establishment of Censorship Board and Supervision*

1. The following Censorship Boards are hereby established:

- (a) the Central Censorship Board in Mogadishu;
- (b) a Regional Censorship Board at each Regional Headquarters except that of Benadir Region;
- (c) a District Censorship Board at each District Headquarters except those which are themselves the seats of Regional Headquarters.

2. The Censorship Board shall function under the supervision of the Ministry of Information and National Guidance.

3. The Secretary of State for Information and National Guidance may, from time to time issue directives to the Censorship Boards which he may consider necessary in order to ensure that they act in accordance with the Law.

Article 3

*Composition of Censorship Board*

1. The Central Censorship Board shall consist of a Chairman, a Secretary and not less than three or more than six members.

2. Each Regional or District Censorship Board shall consist of a Chairman, a Secretary and not more than three members. The said Boards may wherever considered necessary coopt other members, who shall not have the right to vote.

Article 4

*Appointment of Censorship Boards*

1. The appointment of the Central Censorship Board shall be made by decree of the President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council on the proposal of the Secretary of State for Information and National Guidance.

2. The appointment of a Regional Censorship Board shall be made by order of the Regional Revolutionary Council concerned.

3. The appointment of a District Censorship Board shall be made by order of the District Revolutionary Council concerned.

Article 5

*Dissolution of Censorship Boards*

Where the Central or may Regional or District Censorship Board does not perform the duties conferred on it by law, such Board may be dissolved and a new Board appointed; or its members may be changed. Such measures shall be adopted following the procedure laid down for the appointment of Censorship Boards.

Article 6

*Territorial jurisdiction of the Censorship Boards*

1. The Central Censorship Board shall have jurisdiction over the whole territory of the Republic and exclusive jurisdiction over the Benadir Region.

2. The Regional Censorship Board shall have jurisdiction over the Region concerned and exclusive jurisdiction over the Regional Headquarters.

3. A District Censorship Board shall have jurisdiction over the District concerned.

**CENSORSHIP LAW 1971 - Somalilandlaw.com Archives**

Article 7

*Power to impose conditions*

The competent Censorship Boards may while granting authorization impose conditions such as the exclusion of children under 15 years of age from any particular theatrical performance or cinema show. Any such condition shall be set out in the Certificate of Approval issued under Article 1 above.

Article 8

*Power to make rules of procedure*

The Censorship Boards may frame their own rules of procedure.

Article 9

*Appeal*

1. An appeal against the refusal by a Regional or District Censorship Board to issue the certificate of approval or against the imposition of any condition may be filed by the aggrieved party before the Central Censorship Board.

2. The decision of the Central Censorship Board shall be final.

Article 10

*Penalties*

1. Whoever holds any public theatrical performance or cinema show or circulates a publication in contravention of this Law shall be guilty of an offence and, where the act does not constitute a more serious offence, shall be punished with imprisonment upto six months or with fine upto Sh. So. 3000/- or both.

2. On conviction, the Court may order forfeiture of the subject matter of the offence.

Article 11

*Repeal*

The following laws and provisions are hereby repealed:

- (1) Cinematograph Ordinance (Cap. 67, Vol. II of the laws of Somaliland 1950);
- (2) Articles 44, 45 and 46 of the Public Order (Law No. 21 of 26 August, 1963);

***CENSORSHIP LAW 1971 - Somalilandlaw.com Archives***

- (3) Decree of the President of the Republic No. 140 of 17 June 1962;
- (4) Decree of the Supreme Revolutionary Council No. 5 of 25 October, 1969;
- (5) Any other law or provision contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Law.

Article 12

*Coming into force*

1. This Law shall be included in the Official Compilation of Laws and Decrees of the Somali Democratic Republic and shall be published in the Official Bulletin.

2. This Law shall come into force 15 days after its publication in the Official Bulletin.

3. All persons shall be required to observe it, and cause others to observe it, as a law of the Republic.

Mogadishu, 2 January, 1971.

*Major Gen. Mohamed Siad Barre*  
PRESIDENT  
of the Supreme Revolutionary Council

*Ten. Col. Ismail Ali Abocor*  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
for Information and National Guidance

Article 4

*Functions of the Committee*

1. The Committee shall be responsible for the co-ordination, planning, supervision and execution of all self-help projects throughout the Republic. For this purpose, the Committee shall:

- a) initiate and seek the full mobilisation of the masses with the object of preparing them further to fully participate in the tasks of nation-building;