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CISAC REGION AFRICAN COMMITTEE MEETING 2016

**SPEECH NOTES HONOURABLE TJEKERO TWEYA MP, MINISTER OF INFORMATION
AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY**

The Director of Ceremonies Mr. Andre Gariseb

Thank you for presenting me on this special occasion of CISAC Africa Region General Assembly for Copyright Management Societies.

The Chairperson of the NASCAM Board of Directors: Attorney –at Law Mr. Silas-Kishi Shakumu, the Board members and staff of NASCAM

Director General of CISAC, Mr. Gadi Oron

The Africa Regional Director General of CISAC; Mr. Balamine Ouattara

Madam Anney Irene Vieira, Chairperson of CISAC Regional Board

Distinguished delegates from all over Africa as well as Europe

The esteemed artists and all stakeholders in the arts and cultural industry of Namibia

The members of the media.

Ladies and Gentleman

Good morning and welcome to this opening ceremony of the CISAC Africa Regional Annual General Assembly, also known as the “AFRICAN COMMITTEE MEETING”

It is, indeed, a great honour and privilege to stand before you dear delegates on this historical and significant CISAC Regional Annual General Meeting, taking place for the second time in Windhoek, Namibia, since 2005.

I am pleased to state it for the record that this was done following the decision of the CISAC Africa Executive Committee that was held last year in our sisterly and neighbouring country of Angola.

This gathering today surely marks a milestone and historic chapter in the history of Copyright Management on the African continent. I am reliably informed that all the leaders and managers of Collective Management Organizations (CMO) are here to deliberate on matters affecting creators of copyright works and the progress of new development on the continent.

It is for that reason that I proudly announce that I am pleased to be associated with you all today and hope to hear more progress on how to tackle the digital new age that has become a challenge when it comes to the protection of creative artistic works, like music; literature ;films etc.

Through this engagement of experts and managers of Rights, it is here where new guide policies and reviewing of Copyright legislation needs to be developed and forwarded to us as representative government officials to enact or amend the existing policies and legislation.

I will not hesitate to assure and undertake here that the Namibian government, on its part, will not shy away from its responsibilities but is ready to support all efforts that are made to protect our cultural industries and encourage copyright societies to continue enforcing the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Protection laws nationally, regionally and internationally. You can count on us in that regard!

I have been in my new position for a year and four months as Minister of Information and Communication Technology which is the custodian of the Copyright and Neighbouring Protection Act, no.6 of 1994, and I have also served as Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry which is now the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development where the Industrial Properties Rights are governed. This translates into the uneasy situation where the enforcement and regulation of our Intellectual rights are not housed but scattered, governed and administrated from different Government Ministries.

Against that background, I am pleased to inform you that the Namibian Government has thought it opportune and imperative to not only address but, most importantly, redress this malady and have the “Intellectual Properties Rights” managed and administered under one roof and by a single authority of the Government. We have christened this, Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) whose bill will be tabled in our National Assembly very soon and be blessed with input and consultation among the many stakeholders. We wish to extend an invitation to all of you here to obtain a copy of the Bill and assist us with your collected knowledge, experience and germs of wisdom to add value to our processes!

Is our sincere hope and prayers that this Act will see the dawn of the day and be promulgated before the end of this year.

The same applies to the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Protection Act of 1994. This has been on the cards and under review. Even here, we shall gladly welcome your advice and assistance.

I am pleased to inform you that my ministry has followed up with the consultants who were appointed to look into the drafted document to ensure that it is in line with all the International Treaties and Copyrights Convention that we have rectified.

I have noticed with concern a taste of salt and bitterness the approach and feeling of many individual artists and officials from the various institutions that

deal with creativity, that they feel unprotected and exploited under the current legislation and they are not adequately remunerated for their creative works. This can and does happen because times have changed and all creative works are found “online” and very easily accessible to members of the public free of charge.

Therefore, the current laws do not cover the digital aspects of modern day technology and online piracy has increased drastically.

How many of you here are having a ring tone or just music or short film on your gadgets that you have just bought?

We are depriving someone bread who created something to survive from and we take it for granted that music or film is something for free.

QUOTE from a scriptwriters (Mr. Paul Powell) once said, “Scriptwriters and Directors are forced to give away their rights, only to see business players profit from them. This must change. Audiovisual creators deserve to participate in the success of their works”.

We should always bear it in mind that creators are there to be compensated for what they have created. That will enable us to be entertained by their works and our business to have enjoyable atmosphere.

Broadcasters are some of the major users of copyright works. I shudder and tremble to ask if they really and honestly pay Royalties based on the music and films they exploit 24 hours a day?

I was inform that only the National Broadcaster that pay out a notable Royalties fees to NASCAM, what happened to other Broadcasters which are also using the same copyrights works, do they really understand that Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Protection Act is the guide tools to all in business of Broadcasting?

Let us take a serious note that Creators Rights are their Salary and what they are doing is their profession like any other profession, through that profession they should become millionaires and have to live a decent life.

I would like to conclude that, it is about organizing ourselves as a coherent force and firmly to provide benefit measures that are benefiting those we are representing, Governments will always pass laws that protect humanity and all its diverse links.

Today we are gathered here to resolve all that affecting those we are representing and we should do so in order to save the future generation.

I therefore declare the CISAC Africa Committee Meeting officially open.

I thank you!

Hon. Minister Tjekero Tweya MP

Date: 20 July 2016

Safari Hotel

Windhoek

Namibia