

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS REGULATIONS NO. 66/2000
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS REGULATIONS TO
PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PERMIT
TO FOREIGNERS FOR SHOOTING
FILMS IN ETHIOPIA

These Regulations are issued by the Council of Ministers Pursuant to Article 5 of the Definition of Powers and Duties of the Executive Organs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Proclamation No. 4/1995.

1. *Short Title*

These Regulations may be cited as "Film shooting permit Council of Ministers Regulations. No. 66/2000."

2. *Definitions*

In these Regulations:

- 1) "Ministry" means the Ministry of Information and Culture;
- 2) "Film" means a mobile picture recorded by cellulose or magnetic tape;
- 3) "Feature Film" means a fictional film in which film actors participate;
- 4) "Documentary Film" means a film recorded with the objective of broadcasting or disseminating natural, historical, cultural, political, economical, social conditions and other factual materials through television, cinema or other electronic screen transmissions;

- 5) "Film Shooting Permit" means a permit issued under these Regulations by the Ministry to foreigners who come only to shoot a particular feature or documentary film within specific period of time and place.

3. *Scope of Application*

The provisions of these Regulations shall apply:

- 1) on foreigners who come to shoot films either for profit or non profit purpose, with the exception of film establishments which are permanently established and licenced in Ethiopia;
- 2) in all Regions of Ethiopia.

4. *Purpose*

The purposes of these Regulations are:

- 1) To create conducive environment for the film shooting, with the understanding of its preminent role in publicizing the history, culture, natural beauty, resources, political, economic, social and other activities of the country to the world;
- 2) To ensure that the rights and benefits of the country's nationals and organizations are protected during the film shooting;
- 3) To ensure that the culture and laws of the country are respected.

5. *Requirement of permit*

A foreigner wishing to shoot a feature or documentary film in Ethiopia shall obtain a permit from the Ministry.

6. *Application for shooting films*

- 1) A foreigner wishing to shoot films in Ethiopia shall submit his application to the Ministry not later than ten (10) days prior to the day on which he is due to commence filming.
- 2) The application shall contain, among other things, the purpose and title of the film, duration of the shooting and the exact location where it takes place and the total production cost of the film as well as the portion that will be used within Ethiopia.
- 3) The applicant shall submit together with his application the following:
 - (a) A copy of the film script along with its synopsis for feature films or synopsis for documentary films;
 - (b) In case an Ethiopian personality is portrayed in the film as a character, a copy of a document of no objection from such person or his heirs, certified by an organ legally empowered to approve contracts and documents;
 - (c) In case of a co-production by an Ethiopian and a foreigner, an agreement indicating the responsibilities and liabilities of each party;
 - (d) The nationality of the filming crew, the passport number, the country issuing the passport, their permanent and temporary addresses as well as other information as may be required by the Ministry.

7. *Issuance of permit*

- 1) The Ministry shall, upon ascertaining the fulfilment of the requirement laid down under Article 6 of these Regulations and payment of the permit fees determined under Article 12 of these Regulations, issue a permit to the applicant within 3 days.

- 2) Where there are locations prohibited for filming among areas which are indicated in the permit issued in accordance with Sub Article (1) of this Article, the power of the concerned institution to prohibit filming is reserved.

8. *Flight Permit*

- 1) Where an applicant wishes to use an aircraft for shooting a film, he shall obtain a flight permit from the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority.
- 2) An application for a flight permit may be made through the Ministry upon the request of the applicant.
- 3) Where the application to use an aircraft for the film shooting is found acceptable, the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority shall issue the flight permit within 10 days from the date of submission of application. Where the Authority rejects the application, it shall notify the applicant or the Ministry, in writing, its decision thereof.

9. *Obligations of the applicant*

The Applicant shall have the following obligations:

- 1) To submit to the Ministry two English VHS Video cassette copies of the film produced;
- 2) To appear in person and sign an undertaking to adhere to the conditions of permit and respect the laws of the country.

10. *Revocation of permit*

A permit may be revoked by the Ministry if the undertaking signed by the permit holder in accordance with Article 9 (2) of these Regulations has not been observed.

11. *Exemptions*

- 1) The applicant shall submit to the Ministry a list of equipment necessary for shooting film before his arrival.
- 2) Such equipment shall then be imported duty-free on the undertaking that same will be re-exported on departure.

12. *Permit Fee*

- 1) A foreigner applying for shooting film in Ethiopia shall pay to the Ministry a permit fee as follows:
 - (a) Birr, 1,000.00 (one thousand birr) for the first Birr, 100,000.00 (one hundred thousand birr) of the production cost; and
 - (b) 0.2% on the additional cost of production over and above Birr, 100,000.00.
- 2) Where Filming takes place in location where filming fees are charged, the applicant shall pay the required fee to the relevant body.

13. *Issuance of Directives*

The Ministry may issue directives necessary for the proper implementation of these Regulations.

14. *Delegation*

The Ministry may delegate the concerned Federal and Regional Government institutions to conduct follow-up and inspection work in order to ensure the observance of the conditions to which the film shooting permit is given.

15. *Penalty*

Whosoever violates the provisions of these Regulations shall be punishable in accordance with the relevant provisions of the penal code.

16. *Effective date*

These Regulations shall enter into force as of their publication in the Federal Negarit Gazeta.

Done at Addis Ababa, this 28th day of March, 2000.

MELES ZENAWI
PRIME MINISTER OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA