

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS SUPPLEMENT
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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2019 No. 80.

THE STAGE PLAYS AND PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS RULES, 2019

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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2019 No. 80.

The Stage Plays and Public Entertainments Rules, 2019
(Under section 17 of the Stage Plays and Public Entertainments Act,
Cap. 49)

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon the Minister by section 17 of the Stage Plays and Public Entertainments Act, these Rules are made this 5th day of July, 2019.

PART I—PRELIMINARY

1. Title.

These Rules may be cited as the Stage Plays and Public Entertainments Rules, 2019.

2. Application.

These Rules apply to—

- (a) permits for performance of stage plays;
- (b) permits for staging of public entertainments;
- (c) advertising the performance of stage plays and exhibition of public entertainments; and
- (d) related matters.

3. Objective of Rules.

The objective of these Rules is—

- (a) to provide for the powers and functions of the Commission under the Stage Plays and Public Entertainments Act;
- (b) to provide for the application for permits under the Stage Plays and Public Entertainments Act;

- (c) to provide for the advertising of stage plays and public entertainments; and
- (d) to provide for the withdrawal of permits issued under these Rules.

4. Interpretation.

In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires—

“Act” means the Stage Plays and Public Entertainments Act;

“authorised” in relation to an officer or employee of the Commission, means a person authorised by the Executive Director to exercise the powers or perform the duties in respect of which an authorised person is required to perform;

“cinematograph theatre” means any building, structure, tent or other erection of whatever nature or any place or land in or on which a cinematograph or video exhibition is presented to the public either gratuitously or for reward;

“Commission” means the Uganda Communications Commission established under the Uganda Communications Act, 2003;

“Executive Director” means the Executive Director of the Commission;

“exhibition” means the staging of a play or public entertainment to the public;

“inspector” means an authorised person appointed by the Commission under section 49 of the Act;

“Minister” means the minister responsible for information and communications technology;

“poster” means any picture, drawing, painting, photograph, figure or other device advertising any stage play or public entertainment;

“prescribed fees” means the fees charged by the Commission under the Uganda Communications (Fees and Fines) Regulations, 2019;

“public entertainment” includes any concert, animal or circus performance, waxworks, puppet performance, dancing exhibition, picture or art exhibition, games of skill or chance, acrobatics or other exhibitions of skill, professional wrestling and boxing bouts to which the public are admitted either gratuitously or otherwise but does not include athletics or sports;

“stage play” includes any tragedy, comedy, farce, opera, burletta, interlude, melodrama, pantomime, dialogue, prologue, epilogue or other dramatic entertainment or any part of it.

PART II—POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

5. Powers and functions of Commission.

(1) The Commission shall have the following powers in relation to stage plays and public entertainments—

- (a) to classify activities under these Rules for purposes of issuing permits;
- (b) to prescribe fees for any permit granted under the Act;
- (c) to regulate content for stage plays and public entertainments;
- (d) to prescribe fees to be paid for attendance of any officer of the Commission at the staging of a play or exhibition of a public entertainment;
- (e) to inform the public when permits issued under these Rules are withdrawn; and

- (f) to monitor content produced and exhibited in a stage play or public entertainment to ensure that it meets the minimum broadcasting standards.
- (g) prepare orientation materials containing duties and responsibilities of permit holders covering—
 - (i) health and safety;
 - (ii) welfare of children performing in a stage play or public entertainment;
 - (iii) treatment of animals;
 - (iv) erection of props and other physical structures during the exhibition or display, where applicable; and
 - (v) emergency procedures in event of a fire, sudden illness or power outages.

PART III—STAGE PLAYS AND PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS

6. Permits for stage plays or public entertainments.

(1) A person shall not, without a permit issued by the Commission, stage or exhibit a play or public entertainment to the public.

(2) A permit referred to in subrule (1) shall be required, whether the staging of the play or public entertainment is in a public hall or cinematograph theatre.

7. Contents of application for permit.

(1) A person who wishes to exhibit a stage play or stage a public entertainment shall apply to the Commission for an entertainment permit in the form set out in the Schedule to these Regulations.

(2) The application under subrule (1) shall—

- (a) state the name, address and legal status of the applicant;

- (b) state the premises where the play is to be staged or where the public entertainment is to be exhibited;
- (c) include a copy of the script of the stage play;
- (d) where applicable, be accompanied by a certificate of censorship issued by the Media Council;
- (e) where the audio-visual content is in a language other than English, include a certified translation of the content; and
- (f) attach evidence of payment of the application fee.

(3) The Commission may on reviewing the application, submitted under subrule (1) direct that the permit be issued free where—

- (a) the stage play is performed by a registered educational institution;
- (b) the performing group is an amateur group; and
- (c) the performance is free or solely for charitable purposes.

(4) An applicant shall, prior to receipt of a permit to stage a play or public exhibition, review orientation materials prepared by the Commission.

8. Cruelty to persons and animals on stage prohibited.

(1) Cruelty to or maltreatment of persons or animals in any form is prohibited in any stage play or public entertainment.

(2) The display and performance of animals shall conform to guidelines issued by the Commission.

9. Authorisation for advertisement of stage plays and public entertainments.

(1) A person shall not, without the authorisation of the Commission, using any poster or any other means, advertise a stage play or advertise any public entertainment.

(2) A person who wishes to advertise a stage play or public entertainment under subrule (1) shall apply in writing to the Commission stating the following—

- (a) that the exhibition is authorised by the owners of the stage play or public entertainment; and
- (b) that permission has been granted by the local government in the area of display, to put up posters advertising the activity.

10. No exclusion from public entertainment or stage play.

No person shall be excluded from the public performance or presentation of a stage play on grounds of race, ethnic background, gender, religious or social belief.

11. Prohibited content generally.

(1) The display or exhibition of content shall comply with any rules or regulations made under the Act and guidelines issued by the Commission.

(2) No person shall display or exhibit any content prohibited under the Uganda Communications (Content) Regulations, 2019.

PART V—MISCELLANEOUS

12. Powers of Inspectors.

(1) An inspector may enter, inspect and monitor any place where a stage play or public entertainment is being performed to ensure compliance with a permit issued under the Act and these Rules.

(2) An inspector may enter any place where a stage play or public entertainment is being performed for purposes of withdrawing a permit issued under the Act and these Rules and stopping its continuation.

(3) An inspector or other officer authorised by the Commission may impound any content, apparatus or equipment used to conduct any activity prohibited by these Rules.

(4) No person shall bar, restrain, deny entry to an inspector or other authorised officer to premises where a stage play or public entertainment is being performed upon proper identification being displayed.

13. Display of permits.

A person issued with a permit under rule 7 shall prominently display a copy of the permit at the premises where the stage play or public entertainment is to be staged.

14. Offence and penalty.

(1) A person who stages a public play or public entertainment without a permit issued by the Commission commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two thousand shillings or imprisonment not exceeding six months or both.

(2) Any person who denies entry to an inspector or other authorised person to premises where a public entertainment or stage play is being performed commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding twenty four currency points or imprisonment not exceeding one year or both.

15. Revocation of S.I.49-1.

The Stage Plays and Public Entertainments Rules S.I. 49-1 are revoked.

SCHEDULE

Rule 7

UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

**THE STAGE PLAYS AND PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS RULES, 2019
APPLICATION TO ADVERTISE A STAGE PLAY OR PUBLIC
ENTERTAINMENT**

(Application be made by the performing group or promoter or owner of the public entertainment)

	Modify or adapt where applicable	Additional Instructions
Name of applicant and address		If a registered group or company, attach certificate of registration or certificate of incorporation.
Title of play		If title of the play is in a language other than English, include title with English translation.
Date of UCC Permit for Stage Play or Public Entertainment		A permit may only be given in respect of an approved stage play or public entertainment.
Endorsement by local government council where advertisement is to be displayed or exhibited		Relevant local government council issues permission to display and remove posters or other audio-visual displays where applicable.
List of theatre or performance or exhibition venues for public entertainment		A copy of the advertisement may be attached if print/poster method is used.
Application fee receipt		Attach receipt issued by the Commission.
Application result		Official action by the Commission only.

Cross References

The Uganda Communications Act, 2013, Act 1 of 2013.

The Uganda Communications (Content) Regulations, 2019.

The Uganda Communications (Fees and Fines) Regulations, 2019.

FRANK TUMWEBAZE,
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