

Motion Picture (Production, Exhibition and Distribution) Act, 2026 B.S. (1969 A.D.)

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Amending Acts

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| 1. The Judicial Administration Reforms Act, 2031 (1973) | 2031/4/18(1974-8-2) |
| 2. The Judicial Administration Reforms (fourth Amendment) Act, 2043 (1985) | 2043/7/24 (1986-11-10) |
| 3. Motion Picture (Production, Exhibition and Distribution) Act, 2048 | 2048/8/4 (1991-11-20) |

Act No. 15 of the year 2026

An Act made to provide for systematization of production, exhibition and distribution of motion picture.

PREAMBLE:

Whereas, it is expedient to systematize the production, exhibition and distribution of motion picture throughout the Kingdom of Nepal for the convenience of the people in general.

Now, therefore, ~~His Majesty the King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev~~ has, on the advice and with the consent of the Rastriya Panchayat, enacted this Act.

- Short title, extent and commencement:** (1) This Act may be called as the "Motion Picture (Production, exhibition and distribution) Act, 2026 B.S. (1969 A.D.) ."
(2) This Act shall extent throughout the Kingdom of Nepal.
(3) This Act shall come into force at once.
- Definitions:** Unless the subject or the context otherwise requires, in this Act;
 - " Film Censor Board " means the Board constituted pursuant to Section 7.
 - "Cinema Hall" includes the main cinema hall and other houses within its premises to exhibit motion picture.
 - "Prescribed" or " as prescribed" means prescribed or as prescribed in the rules framed under this Act.
- License to be obtained for Production, Distribution and Exhibition of Motion Picture:** No one shall produce, distribute or exhibit the following motion pictures without obtaining license from Government of Nepal or by an officer prescribed by Government of Nepal:
 - Feature film and
 - Other types of motion picture as prescribed by Government of Nepal upon a notification published in the Nepal Gazette from time to time.

(2) The format of application to be submitted for production, distribution or exhibition of motion pictures pursuant to sub-section (1), the format of license and the conditions to be followed by the licensee and the payable fee shall be as prescribed.

(3) The duration of license to be granted for the distribution of motion pictures shall be as prescribed.
- License to be obtained for operation of Cinema Hall after its construction:** (1) No one shall construct a cinema hall* without obtaining license from Government of Nepal or the authority as prescribed by Government of Nepal.

(2) The format of application to be submitted in order to obtain the license for construction of a cinema hall* pursuant to sub-section (1), the format of license and the conditions to be followed as well as the fee payable by the licensee shall be as prescribed.

(3) Upon the submission of application as referred to in sub-section (2), Government of Nepal may issue license considering specially the following matters :-

* Amended by the Motion Picture (Production, Exhibition and Distribution) (first amendment) Act, 2048 (1990)

- (a) While permitting to construct a cinema hall as per the application, disturbance and inconvenience to any school, hostel, hospital, place of public importance, institutions or governmental office.
- (b) Necessity of such cinema hall on the basis of population.
- (c) Submission of design of the cinema hall has sufficient arrangement, as prescribed, for safety, health and facilities for audiences.
- (d) Whether or not such license may be issued as per the other Nepal law.

5.* **Cinema Hall to be constructed:** (1) The person who has obtain the license to construct the cinema hall under this Act shall have to complete the construction of the cinema hall as per the approved design within two years from the date of obtaining of such license.

Provided that if such licensee fails to complete the construction of cinema hall within such period due to any reasonable ground, Government of Nepal may extent such time limit for upto two years from time-to-time.

(2) In cases the licensee fails to complete the construction of cinema hall within the time limit as referred to in sub-section (1), the license obtained by him shall ipso facto be cancelled.

6. **Inspection of Cinema Hall:** (1) The Chief District Officer* may inspect a Cinema hall at any time to ensure that whether necessary arrangement of safety, health and convenience for the audience pursuant to this Act or the rules framed under this Act have been provided in any cinema hall and whether the prevailing Nepal laws has been followed or not in the course of exhibition of motion pictures.

(2) For the purpose of inspection pursuant to sub-section (1), the Chief District Officer* may inspect or cause to be inspected the Cinema hall at any time.

(3) If any cinema hall found the lack of necessary arrangement of safety, health and convenience for audiences as prescribed manner or if it has been found that the prevailing Nepal law has not been followed in the course of exhibition of motion pictures, the Chief District Officer may order to close down the cinema hall or stop the exhibition of motion picture.

(4) The person who is not satisfied with the order of the Chief District Officer* issued under this section, may file an appeal before Government of Nepal within thirty-five days from the date of issuing such order.

7. **Film Censor Board:** (1) Government of Nepal may constitute a Film Censor Board or committees as per necessity to inquire whether or not it is appropriate to grant license to exhibit any motion picture pursuant to Section 8. Each Board shall have a Chairman and members as nominated by Government of Nepal. They shall assume their posts up to the period as prescribed by Government of Nepal.*

(2) The Chairman or the members of the Committee constituted pursuant to sub-section (1) shall receive the remuneration, as prescribed, from the person desiring to have censored the motion pictures.

(3) The Film Censor Board may systematize their procedure by themselves.

(4) Government of Nepal may direct to the Film Censors Board from time-to-time as it deems necessary and it shall be the duty of the Board to abide by such directions.

8. **Censor of Motion Pictures:** (1) Any person who has obtained the license shall make an application to the Film Censors Board in the format as prescribed before the exhibition of any motion picture and the Board shall also censor such motion picture and decide to give or not to give the permission as per below :-

- (a) To permit the said motion picture to exhibit publicly without prescribing any condition.
- (b) To permit to exhibit publicly subject to any alteration, modification or abiding by any other conditions and restrictions.
- (c) To permit prescribing the condition that the said motion picture shall be exhibited publicly for the adults above the age of sixteen years or
- (d) Refuse to give permission the motion picture for public exhibition.

(2) The Film Censors Board shall give reasonable opportunity to the applicant to express his view prior to make decision whether or not the permission be given under clause (b), (c) or (d) of sub- section (1).

(3) If any motion picture or any part thereof found aversion or enmity or undermine towards ~~His Majesty King or the royal family~~ or which may jeopardize the security, peace and order of the Kingdom of Nepal or harm to the harmonious relation subsisting with the foreign states or the peoples of various castes or tribes or which may cause negative impact to the public interest or

descent behavior or morality or defame any person or contempt of court or incitement to any offence, the Motion picture Censors Board shall not permit such motion picture to exhibit.

Provided that if the motion picture is not found prejudicial to this sub-section while causing exhibited after having altered or modified of any part of the motion picture, the Film Censor Board may grant certificate to exhibit the motion picture after altering or modifying as per necessity.

(4) If Government of Nepal thinks that the motion picture already permitted by the Film Censor Board for exhibition may be prejudicial to sub-section (3), Government of Nepal may, at any time, direct to stop the exhibition of the motion picture or may order to exhibit the same with alteration or modification as seen necessary.

(5) Any person who is aggrieved by any decision of the Film Censor Board made under this Section may appeal before Government of Nepal within thirty-five days of such decision.

9. Documentary also be required to exhibit: (1) At the beginning and interval of exhibition, Nepalese record and documentaries relating to scientific invention or education or current national or international incident having immense value shall also be required to be played and shown, to the extent possible.

(2) Government of Nepal may give order, to exhibit the motion picture made by Government of Nepal or any documentary motion picture obtained to Government of Nepal, to the exhibitor of motion picture who has obtained license and it shall be the duty of such motion picture exhibitor to be abided by such order.

10A. Constitution of the Film Development Board: (1) Government of Nepal shall, for the development and promotion of motion picture sector, constitute a Film Development Board representing by the concerned person or institution related with such sector.

(2) The constitution procedure and other functions of the Film Development Board to be constituted pursuant to sub-section (1) shall be as prescribed.

11. Powers of Government of Nepal: (1) Government of Nepal may order to stop the exhibition of any motion picture if it thinks necessary for the security of the Kingdom of Nepal or public peace and order.

Provided that reasonable time shall be given to the concerned person to submit his view prior to issuance of such order.

(2) Government of Nepal may, by a notification published in the Nepal Gazette, delegate its power vested under this Act to the Board constituted pursuant to Section 10A or any official or committee.

12* . Punishment and Appeal: If a person violets this Act or Rules or order made thereunder, the Chief District Officer may fine him up to five thousand rupees and also cancel the license obtained by him.

(2) If any one produces or exhibits or distributes any motion picture without obtaining license pursuant to this Act, the Chief District Officer may fine such person pursuant to sub-section (1) and confiscate such motion picture and the equipment used at the time of producing, exhibiting or distributing.

(3) An appeal may be filed before the Appellate Court against the order issued by the Chief District Officer pursuant to sub-section (1) or (2).

13. Power to frame Rules: Government of Nepal may frame rules to implement the objectives of this Act.

14. Recognition of the licenses issued before the commencement of this Act: All licenses issued before the commencement of this Act by Government of Nepal or the officers authorized by Government of Nepal in regard to produce, distribute and exhibit Motion Pictures and construction of Cinema hall* shall be deemed to have been issued under this Act.

Provided that if the cinema hall having obtained the license before the commencement of this Act does not have the management of sufficient security, health and convenience for the audience to be managed under this Act or Rules made thereunder, the owner of such cinema hall shall be given a time limit of two years from the commencement of Rules made under this Act for the management of security, health and convenience of the audience as provided therein.

* Amended by the Motion Picture (Production, Exhibition and Distribution) (first amendment) Act, 2048 (1990)