



Media Statement by the Content Forum on New Film Classifications

CYBERJAYA, 3 FEBRUARY 2023 — The Communications and Multimedia Content Forum of Malaysia (Content Forum) applauds the Film Censorship Board (Lembaga Penapis Filem or LPF) for expanding its film classifications to match the current media landscape.

We greatly welcome LPF's move towards self-regulation in keeping ahead of the rapidly evolving times. These updated film classifications will empower audiences to make informed choices about their content consumption, and allow them to self-regulate according to their own needs and preferences. Additionally, they offer clear guidelines for protecting children and other vulnerable groups from viewing unsuitable material.

In today's world, the abundance of content from various sources makes it unrealistic to rely solely on state censorship to control what is disseminated. Instead, it's important for individuals and communities to take responsibility for self-regulation and ensure that the content they produce and consume aligns with their values and standards.

However, this does not mean abandoning all forms of regulation, as there still needs to be a measure of accountability to prevent harm and ensure that basic ethical principles are upheld. Thus, a balance must be struck between individual freedom and collective responsibility, which is what we advocate for at the Content Forum via the Content Code.

We appreciate LPF's efforts in supporting our goal of encouraging greater self-regulation among the public and local content creators, and look forward to more initiatives that will ensure a dynamic, safe, and inclusive content landscape in Malaysia.

Kenny Ong
Chairman, Content Forum
3 February 2023

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ABOUT THE CONTENT FORUM

The Communications and Multimedia Content Forum of Malaysia (Content Forum) is an independent self-regulatory industry body registered under the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) and designated by the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 (CMA'98) to oversee and promote self-regulation of content over the electronic networked medium. The Content Forum consists of key players of the content industry i.e., advertisers, advertising

agencies, broadcasters, content creators/distributors, audiotext hosting services providers, advertising agencies, internet service providers and civic groups.

Aimed at facilitating self-regulation, which provides an additional layer of consumer protection that complements the legal framework, the Content Forum is committed to govern and promote the creation, distribution and consumption of electronic-networked content.

As an industry self-regulatory body, the Content Forum comprises key members of the communications and multimedia content industry, including broadcasters, advertisers, content creators, internet access service providers and civic groups. This dynamic and robust representation of industry practitioners ensures that content standards continue to be developed with the objective of establishing a level playing field in the industry.

The Content Forum is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Content Code (“the Content Code”). The Content Code was prepared by the Content Forum and first registered with MCMC on 1st September 2004. The Content Code is the principal source for industry self-regulation as it contains governing standards and best practices for content dissemination within the communications and multimedia industry in Malaysia. The main objective of the Content Code is to outline procedures of self-regulation that provides the platform for creativity, innovation and healthy growth of a fast-evolving industry.

The Content Forum houses a Complaints Bureau that is empowered to address all complaints relating to content disseminated over electronic networks. The Complaints Bureau is empowered to investigate possible breaches of the Content Code, mediate disputes, adjudicate cases, publish orders and impose sanctions where necessary. The Complaints Bureau accepts complaints from industry players and the general public. Additionally, it plays an advisory role to any party that requires guidance on electronic content matters.

Issued by GO Communications on behalf of the Content Forum

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