



Music Copyright Society of Kenya Limited

NON-PROFITMAKING-NO SHARE CAPITAL-LIMITED BY GUARANTEE-AFFILIATED TO THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION COPYRIGHT SOCIETY-CISAC

Reg C5/83

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: 19th July 2025

ILLEGAL CLAIMS BY PAVRISK AND CLARIFICATION ON LICENSING OF MUSICAL WORKS IN KENYA

The Music Copyright Society of Kenya (MCSK) issues this public notice to clarify recent misleading communications issued by Performing and Audio Visual Rights Society of Kenya (PAVRISK) and the Kenya Copyright Board (KECOBO), which falsely suggest that MCSK no longer holds rights in musical works. We wish to unequivocally state that MCSK continues to lawfully administer the rights of authors, composers, and publishers in Kenya. These rights are derived from valid assignments granted directly to MCSK by the original creators of music - the authors, composers, arrangers and publishers - and remain in full legal force.

While KECOBO has purported to license PAVRISK as a collecting management organization (CMO) in this particular category, we reiterate that PAVRISK does not hold, and has never held, any lawful assignment of rights from the actual owners of musical works. Any attempts by PAVRISK to issue licenses, invoices, or undertake royalty collections in respect of such works are unauthorized and legally null and void. The public is therefore strongly advised to ignore any representations by PAVRISK claiming authority over musical works administered by MCSK.

Importantly, MCSK's licensing activities remain valid and fully enforceable. The authority to license emanates from the copyright owners themselves through their express assignments, and not ONLY from the administrative discretion of KECOBO. Consequently, MCSK continues to issue licenses and collect royalties on behalf of the rightful rights holders across all sectors including hospitality, broadcasting, transport, entertainment, retail, and others.

Users are further cautioned that any payment made to PAVRISK or any other unauthorized entity in respect of musical works assigned to MCSK does not absolve them of liability. Such users will remain legally obliged to obtain valid licenses from MCSK and may be required to pay again to avoid infringement. MCSK will take all lawful measures, including civil enforcement and criminal prosecution where necessary, to protect the rights of its members and ensure compliance across all sectors.

Additionally, members of the public should be aware that the decision by KECOBO to withhold MCSK's operational license is actively being contested before competent forums, failure to which a petition is set to be filed at the Copyright Tribunal. The matter is therefore sub judice, and no final decision has been rendered that extinguishes or overrides MCSK's legal mandate or proprietary rights.

In light of the above, MCSK advises all users of copyrighted music — including PERAK, RETRAK, KAHK, MELTA, broadcasters, DJs, event organizers, commercial transporters, and digital platforms — to continue

engaging directly with MCSK for valid licensing. We remain committed to the lawful and transparent administration of musical works, the protection of our members' rights, and the avoidance of double payments or legal exposure for music users.

For further clarification or to obtain a valid license, kindly contact MCSK via telephone number **0719 743 812**, email at **music@mcsk.africa** or visit our website at www.mcsk.africa. Field offices remain operational countrywide to assist all users with licensing and compliance matters.

Dr. Ezekiel Mutua, MBS
Chief Executive Officer
Music Copyright Society of Kenya