

## [ MTRCB IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS, February 03, 1997 ]

Pursuant to Section 3(a) of Presidential Decree No. 1986, the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), hereby enacts and promulgates the following Rules and Regulations:

### CHAPTER I

#### DEFINITION OF TERMS

*SECTION 1. Definition of Terms.* — As used in these Rules and Regulations, the following terms shall mean:

**a. BOARD** — The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) created under Presidential Decree No. 1986;

**b. MOTION PICTURE** — A series of pictures projected on a screen in rapid succession, with objects shown in successive positions slightly changed so as to produce the optical effect of a continuous picture in which the objects move whether the picture be black and white or colored, silent or with accompanying sound, on whatever medium with whatever mechanism or equipment they are projected or recorded for instant showing, for the purpose of these Rules, the material in which the motion picture is contained and preserved.

The term "film" as here used is synonymous with "motion picture".

**c. TELEVISION BROADCAST** — A public showing of images (video) and sounds (audio) via free television whether Very High Frequency (VHF) or Ultra High Frequency (UHF), to include cable television and other limited audience distribution.

**d. THEATRICAL DISTRIBUTION** — A public showing or exhibition of motion pictures in theaters, moviehouses, or any other places imposing admission fees to persons for entertainment, education, information and advertisement.

**e. NON-THEATRICAL DISTRIBUTION** — A public showing of full length or short feature motion pictures through the use of mobile or non-mobile projection equipment for which no admission fee is charged. This includes showing of full length and short feature motion pictures exclusively to civic organizations, societies, clubs and other similar groups including juvenile, educational, documentary, cultural, scientific, journalistic, industrial, sales, public relations and instructional films.

**f. GENERAL VIEWING** — This refers to motion pictures made available to the general public for viewing whether through film libraries or such similar organizations.

- g. GENERAL PATRONAGE OR "G"** — A classification of motion pictures, admission to which is open to the general public of all ages.
- h. PARENTAL GUIDANCE OR "PG"** — A classification of motion pictures whether shown in theaters and/or for television, cautioning parents on the delicate contents of the film and the need for parental guidance in its appreciation.
- i. RESTRICTED OR "R"** — A classification of motion pictures admission to which is limited to adults. Adults, for the purpose of these Rules, are persons eighteen (18) years of age or above.
- j. NOT FOR PUBLIC VIEWING OR "X"** — A classification of motion pictures disapproved by the Board for public viewing or for television broadcast.
- k. TELEVISION PROGRAM** — Any television program including live shows, product and/or service advertisements, dramas and/or motion pictures originally shown in theaters.
- l. LIVE SHOW** — Any television program which is telecast simultaneously as it is being performed. Pre-taped portions of these live shows shall not be classified as such.
- m. NEWS** — Refers to straight and objective news reporting as distinguished from news analyses, commentaries and opinions and editorials.
- n. NEWS ANALYSES, COMMENTARIES, OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS** — These refer to views which are subjective in nature, whether these are of the speaker's and/or the network's.
- o. PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL** — Any material used to generate public interest in or further the growth or development of something, e.g. television advertisement and commercials, movie and television trailers, advertisement copies, still photos, photo frames, leaflets, posters and billboards.
- p. REVIEW** — The process of previewing motion pictures, television programs and related publicity materials to determine whether, based on the standards set by law, are fit for importation, exportation, production, copying, distribution, sale, lease, exhibition or broadcast by television networks; and, to determine as to what classification the film may be shown.

## CHAPTER II

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

*SECTION 2. Guiding Principles.* — The Board recognizes the important roles that motion pictures and television play in a society as entertainment and informative media. As such, the Board is aware of the State's concern in molding and influencing the moral values and character of the people.

The Board's task, therefore, as mandated by law, is to safeguard these values without negating the services that motion picture and television render to the

community.

*SECTION 3. General Disposition of Review Material.* — No film or motion picture, television or promotional material intended for exhibition in moviehouses or theaters or on television shall be disapproved by reason of its topic, theme or subject matter, subject to Sections 6 and 7, Chapter III, but upon the merits of each material taken in its entire context and/or subtext.

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **SCOPE OF AUTHORITY TO REVIEW**

*SECTION 4. Matters Subject to Review.* — All motion pictures, television programs, television commercials and other related promotional materials, as defined in Chapter I hereof, whether these be for theatrical or non-theatrical distribution, for television showing on both on free and cable television, whether imported or produced in the Philippines, whether they be for local viewing or for export, shall be subject to prior review by the Board before they are exported, imported, copied, distributed, sold, leased, exhibited in theaters or broadcast on television.

*SECTION 5. Governing Standards.* — The Board shall judge the motion pictures, television programs, television commercials and other related promotional materials submitted to it for review, applying as a general standard, contemporary Filipino cultural values.

*SECTION 6. Authority of the Board.* — The Board shall delete scenes and disapprove film prints which are immoral, indecent, contrary to law and good customs, those which are damaging to the prestige of the Republic of the Philippines and its people or its duly constituted authority, or those which have a dangerous tendency to encourage the commission of a crime, violence or of a wrong, such as but not limited to:

1. Those which tend to incite subversion, insurrection, rebellion or sedition against the State, or otherwise threaten its economic and/or political stability;
2. Those which tend to undermine the faith and confidence of the people in their government and/or the duly constituted authority;
3. Those which glorify criminals or condone crimes;
4. Those which tend to encourage and/or abet traffic in and use of prohibited drugs;
5. Those which serve no other purpose other than to satisfy the market for violence, lust or pornography;
6. Those which are libelous or defamatory to the good name and reputation of any person, whether living or dead;
7. Those which may constitute "contempt of court" or contempt of any quasi-judicial tribunal or those that pertain to matters which are sub-judice in nature; and,

8. Those which clearly constitute a malicious attack against any race, or against various sectors of the community like women, youth, cultural communities, the handicapped, and urban poor sectors;

*SECTION 7. Pornographic Material and Violence. —*

**a) PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL AND/OR SCENES NOT SUITED FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION** — A film print and/or material shall be considered pornographic should the same, in the Board's exercise of the utmost consideration and evaluation, applying contemporary Filipino cultural values as standard, be objectionable for being immoral, indecent, contrary to law and/or good customs, or if the dominant theme of the material taken as a whole appeals to prurient interest.

For this purpose, the following scenes shall be considered immoral and indecent:

- 1) All explicit sexual acts, actual or simulated, such as but not limited to, sexual intercourse, masturbation, massaging, licking and fondling of sex organs;
- 2) Lewd frontal nudity and/or exhibition of private parts, such as but not limited to, female breasts exposure and pubic hair exposure (naked or thru seethrough clothing, such as, lace bikinis, wet t-shirts and transparent negligee);
- 3) All sexual pumping scenes and movements, whether the subjects are clothed or unclothed;
- 4) Sexual exploitation and abuse of children, such as, pedophilia and acts of incest;
- 5) Perverted sexual acts, such as, homosexual and lesbian sexual acts, sodomy, necrophilia and "zoerastia".
- 6) Deliberate panning of the camera to achieve a lewd and malicious close-up of sexual parts.

**b) VIOLENT SCENES NOT SUITED FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION** — Any excessive, unmitigated, brutal, distorted, irrational, ignominious, exploitative depiction of any act inflicting injury to a human being shall, for this purpose, be considered violent scenes not suitable for public exhibition.

Violent scenes as defined herein shall also refer to gory and bloody scenes that may tend to disturb the finer sensibilities of both adults and children.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **GUIDELINES ON MOVIE, TELEVISION AND TRAILER CLASSIFICATION**

*SECTION 8. Movie Classifications and Guidelines. —* Movie Classifications are: "GENERAL PATRONAGE" (GP); "PARENTAL GUIDANCE 7" (PG-7); "PARENTAL

GUIDANCE 13" (PG-13); FOR ADULTS ONLY; and, "NOT FOR PUBLIC VIEWING" (X).

**A. GENERAL PATRONAGE (GP)** — Movies classified General Patronage are for all ages. These films shall not, whether in theme and language, depict nudity, contain sex or violent scenes, which would be offensive to parents whose minor children are to view the film.

Film prints classified "General Patronage" shall be guided under the following criteria:

- 1. THEME** — The theme shall be wholesome, reinforcing positive values.
- 2. LANGUAGE** — Obscene, profane or blasphemous language and cuss words shall not be allowed.
- 3. NUDITY AND SEX** — Scenes of nudity and sex shall not be allowed.
- 4. VIOLENCE** — Depiction of violence and the use of threatening language, weapons and special effects shall not tend to cause alarm, distress or stress and/or anxiety to children. Suicide or euthanasia scenes shall not be allowed.
- 5. DRUGS** — No drug and/or alcohol use shall be allowed.

**B. PARENTAL GUIDANCE 7** — For ages 7 and above, provided that the child between the ages of 7 and 12 shall be accompanied by a responsible adult. Films classified "PG-7" shall be guided under the following criteria:

- 1. LANGUAGE** — Obscene and profane language shall not be allowed. Language beyond polite conversation may be allowed provided they are common everyday expressions.
- 2. NUDITY AND SEX** — Discreet indications or references to sensuality in the context of a normal and healthy family life may be allowed.
- 3. VIOLENCE** — Inexplicit forms of violence may be allowed if appropriate to the storyline. Only discreet reference to suicide or euthanasia may be allowed.
- 4. DRUGS** — No depiction of actual intake or use of prohibited drugs or other illegal substance or alcohol nor the pleasurable effects thereof shall be allowed.

**C. "PARENTAL GUIDANCE 13" (PG-13)** — For ages 13 and above. Films classified PARENTAL GUIDANCE 13 "PG-13" shall be guided under the following criteria: