

CABINET SECRETARY
MINISTRY FOR SPORTS, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
PRESS STATEMENT ON THE RICHARD LEAKEY AND WESTGATE FILM

Reference is made to the article that appeared on the Nation Media website and various other websites and assorted mediums, on the 2nd of February 2016 by Julliet Mutegi titled, “*Westgate Siege Inspired Movie to be Shot in SA*”, as well as the article which appeared on the 4th of February 2016 in the Standard Media website written by George Orido on the same.

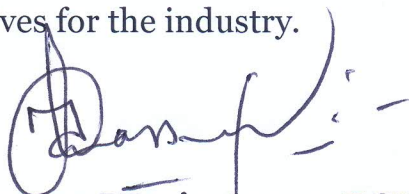
We wish to clarify that the Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts, in liaison with the Kenya Film Commission, have been in continuous talks with the various players including the producers and directors of the Richard Leakey film since the initial discussions in the US in 2014. We confirm that we have been monitoring the progress and assuring the agents of full Government support in the many meetings that have been held.

Most recently, I and my two Principal Secretaries Amb. Richard Ekai and Mr. Joe Okudo, and CEO at KFC Mrs. Lizzie Chongoti, convened two meetings this week in my office, with stakeholders and agents on the matter. In the meetings we were informed by the relevant players that there were no indications that the movie *Africa* and that on the Westgate Mall will be shot outside Kenya.

We assure the Film Industry that the Ministry through its agency, Kenya Film Commission, is fully committed to a development of the film industry and the promotion of Kenya as a premiere filming location as evidenced by the incentives offered in the Finance Act of 2015, as well as the provisions for rebate for films that will be produced in Kenya as contained in the budget statement.

As confirmed by Dr. Richard Leakey himself in his press statement yesterday, preliminary negotiations are still ongoing and the storyline and financing are still being finalized and we are working closely with all the key players to ensure that the film will be shot in Kenya. The Ministry is cognizant of the enormous economic benefits that the shooting of the Leakey film will bring to the Country as well as the international impact in terms of image and tourism. We therefore would like to assure Kenyans and the industry that no efforts shall be spared to ensure the film *Africa* is produced in Kenya.

Lastly, we wish to assure the Industry that with completion of the parastatal reform process, the National Film Policy has been completed, incorporating fully the incentives for the industry.



Dr. Hassan Wario Arero, EGH
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