

Media Statement

NCA seizes Olympus Cinema Hall, disrupting Premiere of Dheydharu Ruin Film

The National Center for the Arts (NCA) has unexpectedly seized control of the Olympus Cinema Hall, which was scheduled to host the premiere of Dheydharu Ruin on November 20, 2024. This decision represents a grave injustice to the Maldivian film industry.

All preparations for the premiere of Dheydharu Ruin were completed, with the Olympus Cinema Hall reserved well in advance. A significant portion of the venue had already been booked for the event. However, on Sunday, November 10, a government holiday, NCA sent an email at noon informing us that the previously confirmed date—November 20—had been revoked.

The booking for the screening was made a year ago, and payment was completed four months prior to the event. NCA's decision was made without any consultation or prior notice. They cited the need to allocate the date for government use, in order to reschedule the Olympians Show from November 17, 18, and 19 to November 18, 19, and 20.

This sudden change has come after extensive preparations—advertisements, posters, billboards, invitations, and ticket sales—had already been made. We had hoped that the NCA, as the custodian of the arts, would understand the impact of such a disruption on the filmmakers and would make a reasonable effort to mitigate the damage. Unfortunately, this action has proven those hopes to be unfounded.

We visited the NCA in person on the same day to discuss the matter, but no staff were available due to the holiday. When we contacted the Minister of Youth Empowerment, Information, and Arts, Ibrahim Waheed (Asward), he advised us to reach out to the Deputy Minister. Despite following his recommendation and making several calls, no one took responsibility for the situation.

This decision is a direct violation of the rights of Maldivian filmmakers. We strongly condemn this action and call on the relevant authorities to take immediate steps to safeguard the rights of those working to develop the Maldivian film industry, ensuring that such incidents do not happen again.

In response to the NCA's decision, the production team of Dheydharu Ruin would like to assure our audience that we will do everything in our power to hold the premiere as scheduled on November 20, 2024. Despite these challenges, we are committed to delivering the film to our beloved viewers.

We urge the government to swiftly resolve this issue and implement measures to prevent similar situations in the future, in order to protect the future of the Maldivian film industry.

November 13, 2024







ورود مع مع مورس

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13 سيوره پر 2024



