



ELECTRONIC SPORTS KENYA FEDERATION

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WEB: www.esportskenyafederation.com

9th February 2024.

To
SmartVR - Gaming Arcade + Studio
events@smartvr.co.ke
Thika Road Mall.

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: CANCELLATION OF ESPORTS TOURNAMENT - GAMING IMPACT GRAND SERIES

The above matter refers.

It has come to our attention that you are planning to host an esports tournament named Gaming Impact Grand Series on 11th February 2024.

According to our records, you are not registered as an esports tournament organizer. Furthermore, you have not contacted the federation in regards to the hosting of the said competition.

We are therefore unable to guarantee the safety of the esports players, spectators and you as a company should the said tournament continue. We are also unable to verify the integrity of the competition.

We regret to inform you that the tournament cannot proceed as planned as our competitions committee has taken the decision to cancel it.

You are hereby advised to communicate the cancellation of this tournament publicly, and refund the registration fees collected from the players with immediate effect.

The federation is open to discussing modalities of hosting this competition in the future should due process be followed.

Please note that you shall be held legally liable should you disregard the instruction in this letter.

Thanks.

Sidney Maoga. Competition Director

ESPORTS KENYA FEDERATION

09 FEB 2024

P.O. BOX 51977-00200,

NAIROBI, KENYA

Dear Friends and **Members of the Kenyan Esports Community,**

It is with a heavy heart that I must address a deeply concerning issue that has arisen concerning **my safety** and **what's at stake for the esports sector in Kenya**. Over the past few months, our association, the **Kenya Professional Esports Federation (KPEF)**, has been engaged in **legal proceedings** at the Sports Tribunal against the **Registrar of Sports** and the **Esports Kenya Federation** as a **second respondent**, regarding the delayed **issuance of our certificate**.

Regrettably, on account of this case, some of our KPEF officials have faced threats and intimidation, including **death threats**, indicating the **severity of the situation**.

On February 6th, my mother received a distressing call from an unknown contact, threatening **harm** (death) **if I did not withdraw this case**. Following this, on February 7th, she received further threats via text messages, stating "Kifo hakina huruma" (death has no mercy).

These threats are not only deeply alarming but also completely unacceptable. As a **gamer, esports enthusiast, tournament organizer, and Team Owner** dedicated to promoting and advancing esports in Kenya, I refuse to be intimidated into silence or inaction.

I want to assure everyone including the gaming community that I am taking these threats seriously and am working closely with the appropriate authorities to ensure the safety and security of all involved.

In an isolated and different scenario, over the weekend of hosting the **Gaming Impact Series**, my business partners, **SmartVR** received a **letter** from the **Esports Kenya Federation** citing that they were "**not registered as an esports tournament organizer**".

They also cited that they were "**unable to guarantee the safety of the esports players, spectators**, and us as a company should the tournament continue". They also cited that they **could not verify the integrity of the competition**.

The letter continued "We regret to inform you that the **tournament cannot proceed** as planned as our **competition committee** has **taken the decision to cancel it**. The letter advised SmartVR to **communicate the cancellation of the tournament publicly** and **refund the registration fees** collected from the players with **immediate effect**.

In ending the letter, they claimed that the Organizers "**shall be held legally liable should we disregard the instruction in the letter**"

In my response, what security concerns were posed to the players, spectators and the company that they did not inform the relevant authorities and the Mall Management. Secondly, what competitions did we hold prior, or evidence of complaints received from the athletes that they would have presented to us to confirm that they could not verify the integrity of our competition?

Third, as far as I am concerned, the tournament was well within game publisher guidelines, and the relevant laws of our country.

Lastly, I call upon the **Esports Kenya Federation** to present **to the public** and the Kenyan esports community at large, the **relevant laws passed in Parliament regarding the practice of esports, how they drew up the regulations, and whether or not there was sufficient stakeholder consultation** without the exclusion of others to validate their actions.

While no other tournament organizer received the same, My business partners were the only ones served with a **letter to prevent us from organizing a tournament**. The question that lies herein is **Why us? Why Me?**

Finally, I am disheartened by this action that is an obstacle **to tournament organizers** that might serve as a strain to the growth of the **Kenyan esports ecosystem when it ought to be beneficial to gamers**. I am committed to ensuring that gamers benefit and support an ecosystem that is sustainable and for all.

Yours truly
Nick Kanungi,

CEO, Alpha Clan Esports