

Submission Procedures

Film Rebate Scheme

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Introduction

Government's vision of a cinematographic industry was enunciated in the budget speech 2012 where provision was made for the development of Mauritius as a Film Making Destination fully geared towards film-shooting, dubbing, post-production and animation.

In this context, the Ministry of Finance and the then Board of Investment launched the Film Rebate Scheme.

The Film Rebate Scheme, implemented in 2013, was a first step towards the development of a cinematographic industry in Mauritius, under which film makers benefit of 30% rebate on all the qualifying expenditures incurred in Mauritius. A new band of 40% rebate has been introduced in the National Budget 2016-2017 on all qualifying expenditures incurred by a feature film in Mauritius (Minimum QPE of USD 1,000,000). This new band has been extended, through the National Budget 2018-2019, to high-end Television Series (Minimum QPE of USD 150,000).

The Regulation is cited as the Economic Development Board (Film Rebate Scheme) Regulation 2013 and the Economic Development Board (Film Rebate Scheme) (Amendment) Regulation 2013.

Film Rebate Committee

The purpose of the Film Rebate Committee will be to assess projects in terms of its economic benefits, visibly submitted for the rebate and provide recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer who shall approve projects. The Committee will comprise of representatives from the following ministries and institutions:

- Prime Minister's Office;
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Development;
- Ministry of Arts and Culture;
- Mauritius Film Development Corporation (MFDC);
- Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority;
- Economic Development Board.

Staffs from the EDB will manage the secretariat of the Committee.

The Film Rebate Scheme

- 30% rebate will be applicable on Qualifying Production Expenditures (QPE) incurred locally and as described further below;
- Up to 40% rebate will be applicable on Qualifying Production Expenditures (QPE) incurred locally, and as described further below, by a feature film production company, subject to a minimum QPE of USD 1,000,000 for feature film; and a minimum QPE of USD 150,000 per episode of a drama series.
- The Film Rebate Scheme will be available to both local and foreign film producers;
- The QPE quantum should not include any forms of sponsorships or financial assistance obtained for the Mauritian schedule of the project.

Eligibility Criteria

- The Film Rebate Scheme will be available to production companies incorporated or registered in Mauritius, including those with 100% foreign ownership;
- In order to ensure that the scheme is a successful learning experience for the development of the film industry in Mauritius, only applications from producers with a successful track record of at least 5 years in film production will be entertained;
- Where relevant, applications should include a defined distribution plan, any pre-sales agreement already entered into and the expected target audience;
- Applications from local parastatals bodies and other Government agencies will not be considered in this scheme which aims to promote private-sector commercial projects.

List of Qualifying Production Expenditures (QPE) for Motion Pictures

Qualifying Production Expenditures (QPE) refer to the expenses incurred locally by the company with respect to the list of qualifying production categories defined as follows:

- Accommodation in Mauritius
- Animal services
- Audio rentals
- Catering
- Construction
- Craft services
- Diving services
- Electricity and utilities
- Generators
- Ground transport and facility vehicle services
- Labour costs (including non-nationals)
- Laundry and cleaning services
- Location fees
- Per diems
- Post production services (picture and sound)
- Production service company fees
- Professional services (such as insurance and accounting services)
- Remuneration for cast and crew
- Rental of camera and lighting equipment
- Rental of marine vehicles
- Rental of mobile toilets
- Rental of offices, office furniture and equipment
- Rental of helicopters and airplanes
- Rental of studio facilities, warehouse and storage facilities and workshops
- Rental or purchase of props
- Rental of water tanks and related marine services
- Repairs and restorations
- Security services
- Set dressing
- Special effects services
- Shipping
- Stunt services
- Telecommunications
- Travel to Mauritius (flight and marine travel)
- Visual effects services
- Wardrobe rentals.

List of Qualifying Production Expenditures (QPE) for Digital Film Animation Projects

The QPE eligible for rebate shall be project based and includes the following categories of expenditures:

- Story/Script
- Simulation
- Colour science
- Virtual camera
- Special Effects
- Pattern
- Animation
- Character and environment modelling
- Set & Staging
- Air travel for specific cast and crew for the specific project
- Remuneration for cast and crew (to be apportioned on a project-based approach)

The following expenditures are excluded and not considered as QPE for Digital Animation Projects

- Purchase of depreciating asset
- Purchase of hardware and software from overseas suppliers
- Investment
- Fixed cost
- Overhead expenses such as rental of office space, utilities bill and telecommunication cost
- Administrative salaries
- Marketing and distribution cost.

Types of films

The following categories of production will be accepted for evaluation under the Film Rebate Scheme:

- Creative documentary
- Digital animated film
- Feature film
- Television serial
- Television single dramas
- Factual television programmes
- Natural history programmes
- Lifestyle and magazine programmes for television
- Advertising programmes or commercials
- Music video
- Dubbing project

However, productions containing any scene or dialogue which may be offensive or perceived to be offensive, whether in moral, cultural, religious or in any other material manner, to the general public will not be considered.

Minimum QPE per Project

The following minimum expenditure has to be incurred in Mauritius by local (Mauritian Citizens) and foreign film producers to have access to the Film Rebate Scheme. The figures relate to minimum Qualifying Production Expenditure per project that has to be met by the local or foreign productions.

Category of Production	Minimum QPE (USD)	
<i>Eligible for up to 40% rebate</i>	<i>Foreign and Local Production</i>	
Feature film (including animation)	1,000,000	
Television drama series or single drama	150,000 (per episode)	
Category of Production	Minimum QPE (USD)	
<i>Eligible for 30% rebate</i>	<i>Foreign Production</i>	<i>Local Production</i>
Feature film (including animation)	100,000	50,000
Television drama series or single drama	20,000 (per episode)	20,000
Television documentary programme	20,000	20,000
High-end international television commercial	30,000	30,000
Music video	30,000	15,000
Dubbing project	30,000	30,000

Application and Claim Procedures

- 1) It is in the interest of the applicant who wishes to obtain a reimbursement to submit his/her project at the earliest to the EDB. Applications shall be submitted online **not later than 4 weeks** before the project starts in Mauritius. The online application shall be submitted on <https://business.edbmauritius.org/>.

Supporting documents include:

- A synopsis of the project including the beneficial exposure to Mauritius, target audience to be reached, pre-sales agreements and distribution plan, as appropriate;
- Filmography of Producer showing a track record of at least 5 years;
- Other documents to enable assessment of track records;
- Viable financial plan and details of any third-party financiers including any letters of interest/commitment from those parties, where applicable;
- Detailed budget in Mauritian Rupees; including proposed claim submission dates; the budget presentation should be summarised by main QPE category;
- Certificate of incorporation of the local domestic company or Registration Certificate of the Foreign company;
- Shooting schedule and shooting detailed location plans;
- List of cast and crew members;

- 1) Upon receipt of the application, the **EDB** checks for completeness and schedules a meeting with members of the **Film Rebate Committee** to assess and recommend the project to the Chief Executive Officer.
- 2) The Chief Executive Officer approves or rejects the project based on recommendation of the Film Rebate Committee.
- 3) In case the application is declined, the applicant is informed accordingly and the underlying reason(s) explained.
- 4) Upon approval, the EDB issues an approval letter to the applicant under prescribed terms and conditions within **3 working days** of such approval.
- 5) For approved projects, the EDB will facilitate for clearances and authorisations for shooting locations.
- 6) Following completion of production in Mauritius, the applicant is requested to submit the Claim online (<https://business.edbmauritius.org/>) together with the following supporting documents at the earliest:
 - a. A certified report by the local auditors of the company providing details of the amount of expenditures, and the amount of the qualified production expenditures, incurred in Mauritius by the film producer; and a statement of the company specifying the date on

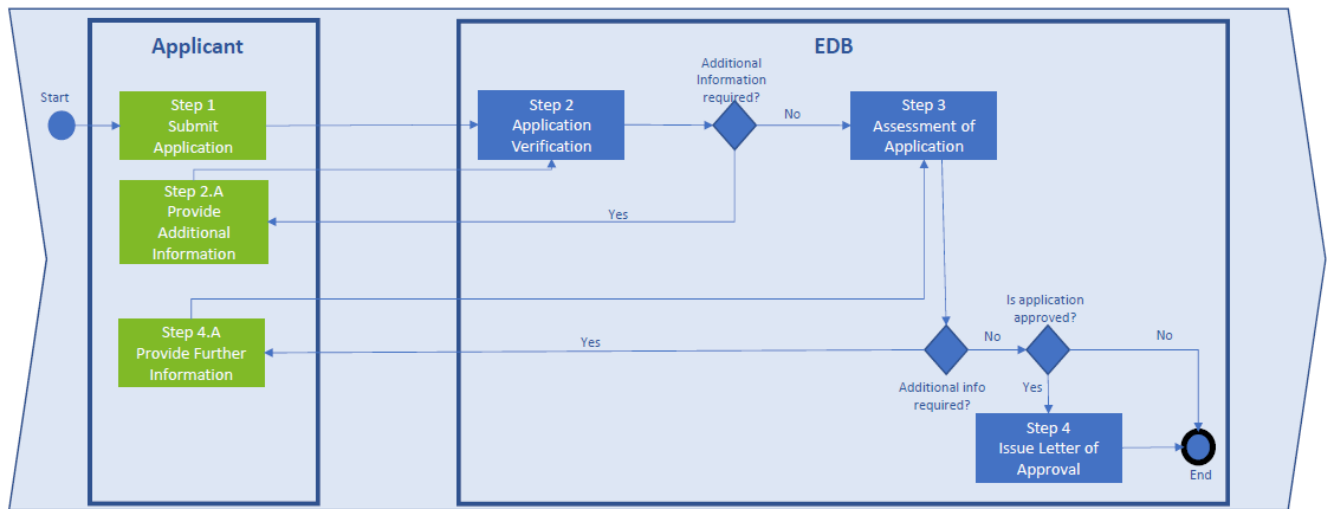
which the completed film will be delivered to any financier or distributor of the film, if appropriate

It is recommended that the claims be submitted ***within 60 days*** after film shooting in Mauritius. Late submissions may be penalized.

- 7) EDB will manage the process for disbursement of funds.
- 8) Successful applicants will receive their reimbursement by order of cheques or bank transfers payable to them.
- 9) In case of any change in the information provided in the Application or Claim after its submission, the applicant should promptly notify the Economic Development Board. Failure to do so may result in the project's approval being cancelled. The Film Rebate Committee retains the right to cancel the project approval or change the attached terms and conditions should the proposed changes differ substantially from the original submission.
- 10) Annex 1 describes the process flow of the application procedure.
- 11) Annex 2 establishes the checklist of supporting documents for the application procedure.

Annexes

ANNEX 1: PROCESS FLOW CHART



ANNEX 2: CHECKLIST

CHECKLIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Item	Yes/ No
<p>A synopsis of the project including the beneficial exposure to Mauritius, target audience to be reached, pre-sales agreements and distribution plan, as appropriate</p> <p>Filmography of producer with minimum track records of 5yrs</p> <p>CVs of key team members</p> <p>Proposed start date (including pre-production dates)</p> <p>Expected date of termination in Mauritius</p> <p>Pre-sales agreements if any;</p> <p>Distribution Plan, as appropriate;</p> <p>Detailed locally incurred budget in Mauritian Rupees; including proposed claim submission dates (the budget presentation should be summarised by main QPE category);</p> <p>List of crew members;</p> <p>Certificate of incorporation of the local domestic company or registration Certificate of Foreign Company in Mauritius</p>	