

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

INSTRUCTIONS OF THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT N° 001 OF 01<sup>st</sup> March 2024  
ON NOISE POLLUTION

Pursuant to Law N° 48/2018 of 13/08/2018 on the Environment, especially Art. 43 and Art. 53; Law N° 68/2018 of 30/08/2018 Determining Offenses and Penalties, as amended to date, especially Art. 267; and Law N° 12ter/2014 of 19/05/2014 regulating the Tourism Industry in Rwanda, especially Articles 12, 20 25, 27, and 48; and with reference to the Cabinet Resolutions of 1 August 2023 on the regulation of night-time entertainment and noise pollution;

The Minister of Environment issues the following Instructions to prevent noise pollution.

**MEASUREMENT**

Noise levels are measured in A-weighted decibels (dBA) using a properly calibrated sound meter by Rwanda Standards Board.

For purposes of these Instructions, measurements shall be the average sound level measured continuously over a 10-minute.

From the inside of the premises, the point of measurement will be 1.5 m from the source of emission (e.g. Loudspeakers).

From the outside of the premises, the point of measurement will be from any point of the perimeter of the premises and the nearest residential area.

**MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE NOISE LEVELS**

Soundproof venue: 95 dBA (Beyond this level, there is a risk of damage to hearing)

Non-soundproof venue, before 10PM (e.g., tent, garden, terrasse, house/building without soundproofing): 85 dBA

Non-soundproof venue, after 10PM: 80 dBA

For purpose of these instructions, the above allowable noise levels shall be from 5AM to 10PM (excluded), while "after 10PM" means from 10PM to 5AM (excluded).



REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

These Instructions apply equally to public and private venues, and to activities of any type, except daytime construction activities. The owner or user of the venues are responsible for self-monitoring their noise emissions to ensure compliance.

For reasons of public interest, competent authorities may designate specific areas as quiet zones, where the maximum allowance noise level shall not exceed 45 dBA.

**BORDERLINE CASES**

Due to Rwanda's hilly topography, noise respecting the maximum levels above may nevertheless cause persistent public complaint or discomfort. In such cases, competent authorities may mandate a lower maximum noise level for specific venues, or require the installation of equipment to muffle or redirect the noise. Pending resolution of the complaints, venues respecting the maximum noise levels shall not be penalized.

**SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION**

Permission for nighttime construction activities shall be granted by the City of Kigali or, outside Kigali, by Districts.

**ENFORCEMENT**

Rwanda National Police, in coordination with Local Government and the Rwanda Development Board, will ensure the proper implementation of these Instructions, including administrative penalties and fines provided for by law.

These instructions come into force on the date they are signed.

Done in Kigali, on *March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024*

**Dr Jeanne d'Arc MUJAWAMARIYA**  
**Minister of Environment**