



MEDIA RELEASE

PRISM FALSELY REPRESENTS AUTHORITY TO GRANT LICENCES

17 October 2013, Kuala Lumpur - The Recording Industry Association of Malaysia (RIM) and Public Performance Malaysia Sdn Bhd (PPM) have issued a joint statement to make clear that PRISM Berhad (Performers Rights & Interest Society of Malaysia) (“PRISM”) does not have authority to negotiate and/or grant licences for the public performance of the sound, music video and karaoke recordings (“recordings”) of RIM members.

Encik Norman Abdul Halim, the Chairman of RIM and a director of PPM, said that PRISM’s statement in its licensing documents that it is authorized to negotiate and grant licences for the public performance of the recordings of RIM members is untrue. He said, “PRISM does not have the power or authority to grant and is not capable of granting any public performance licences for the recordings of RIM members. In paying royalties to PRISM, users of music recordings should not be deceived into thinking that they will also be getting public performance licences for RIM’s members’ recordings. Only PPM may grant such licences. Those who are not licensed by PPM may not publicly perform RIM’s members’ recordings.”

He added, “The false representation by PRISM has caused the public to be confused. We have received many calls from users of music recordings demanding explanation and demanding to know how many times and how many licensing bodies they need to pay for the public performance licences. Some have accused us of trying to collect licence fees twice by also authorizing PRISM to act as a licensing body. On our part, we are very concerned because RIM’s name is used by PRISM without permission and it is used to make the false representation which is deceiving and confusing the public.”

Norman said that due to the confusing and deceptive nature of PRISM’s statement to the public, RIM and PPM have been left with little choice but to take various actions including lodging a police report against PRISM for investigations into the commission of offences under the Penal Code and filing a complaint with the Malaysian Intellectual Property Office (MyIPO) which is the regulatory authority for copyright licensing bodies. He hopes that the true position is now clear to the public and that the authorities will take prompt actions to put an immediate end to the false statement by PRISM and the confusion which it has caused.

RIM and PPM are also looking into pursuing the matter directly against PRISM based on their rights in civil law including for copyright infringement. “PRISM’s licensing documents are a copy or a substantial copy of PPM’s documents. PPM owns the copyright in its documents and PRISM does not have a licence to use them. A copyright licensing body should not itself be infringing copyright. We are looking at several causes of action against PRISM and we’ll be guided by our legal advisers on this” said Norman.

For more information, please log on to www.rim.org.my and www.ppm.org.my or contact:

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