



PRESS RELEASE

AUTHORITIES RAID KARAOKE OUTLET IN JOHOR BAHRU



27 May 2015, Johor Bahru - An enforcement team comprising of 8 officers from the Ministry of Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism (MDTCC) raided a karaoke outlet yesterday in Johor Bahru for the illegal use of sound, music video and /or karaoke recordings belonging to members of the Recording Industry Association of Malaysia (“RIM”). The officers from the MDTCC were accompanied by officers from RIM, a member of the Special Anti-Piracy Task Force established under the Ministry.

During the raid, which started at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, officers seized various electronic equipment valued at RM50,000 including 2 servers, 5 CPU’s, 3 TV sets, 3 touch screen monitors, 3 microphones, 3 amplifiers, 2 computer monitors, 6 speakers, 4 cables sets and 2 computers. The outlet was also found with 176,000 unlicensed recordings used by the outlet mainly for entertainment purposes comprising of local and international top hits belonging to/or controlled by RIM’s members.

According to Mr. Ramani Ramalingam, Chief Executive Officer of RIM, “RIM sees its cooperation in the enforcement of raid as a strong support to the Government's efforts to combat copyright piracy by commercial users who use infringing copies/material in their businesses”.

“To safeguard and protect against such blatant infringement of RIM members' rights, RIM has in the past taken and will continue to lodge complaints against entertainment outlets which use such infringing music for their businesses,” adds Ramani.

If it is proven that the recordings used by the outlet are infringing, the outlet owner would have committed an offence under Section 41(1) of the Copyright Act, 1987 (“The Act”), for possessing copies of copyrighted works which has been made and /or reproduced without the authorization, consent or permission of the copyright owner other than for private and domestic use. The minimum penalty under Section 41(1) of The Act is a fine of RM2,000 for each infringing copy and/or imprisonment for a term not less than 5 years or both.

Ramani estimated the loss to the industry from this outlet alone at more than RM0.5 million.

In Malaysia, the Recordings of RIM members may be licensed for commercial use via Public Performance Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. (“PPM”) a licensing body which is a wholly owned subsidiary of RIM. PPM was established in 1988 and recognized as a licensing body under the Copyright Act 1987. PPM’s duties are to issue licences and collect royalties for amongst others, public performance, reproduction, broadcast and commercial rental on behalf of RIM members.

~ The End ~

Issued on behalf of Recording Industry Association of Malaysia (RIM). For more information, please contact:

Shahlini T.Arasu

- shahlini@gmail.com (e)
- 012-334 3042 (m)