

# Resolve music royalty payments, govt urged

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Key players in the local music industry yesterday urged the government to resolve royalty payment licensing issues as soon as possible due to severe loss of revenue.

Recording Industry Association Malaysia (RIM) chief executive officer R. Ramani Ramalingan said the music industry now has two bodies with licences to collect royalty

payments for all musical properties, whereas previously, there were two in charge of different sections.

"We now have overlapping agencies for royalty collection and because of that, royalty payment has increased substantially and commercial users have to pay royalty twice.

"Because of the double payment,

businesses such as restaurants, shopping malls, broadcasters, and many more, have decided not to pay until the issue has been resolved," Ramani told a press conference at a leading hotel yesterday.

Ramani called on the Domestic Trade, Cooperatives, and Consumerism Ministry to set up a one-stop centre where all royalty payments can be collected in a consolidated

manner before being distributed to copyrights owners.

He also questioned why Malaysia Intellectual Property Corporation is meeting with Performers Rights and Interest Society Berhad to discuss royalty collection rates when its minister Datuk Hassan Malek said on Sept 10 the company's services have been terminated. - By **Lee Choon Fai**