

19/07/2002

Be patient, PM tells music industry

PUTRAJAYA, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad urged the music industry including artistes, composers and recording companies to be patient while the Government took steps to crack down on piracy.

Dr Mahathir gave an assurance to a group representing the Recording Industry Association of Malaysia (RIM) and the Malaysian Music Heritage Conservation Association (GEMA) that the Government would leave no stones unturned in fighting piracy.

RIM represents the majority of local and international music recording companies in the country, while GEMA was established in November last year by recording artistes, managers, album producers, composers and lyricists to help fight the problem.

Recording artistes present at the hour-long discussion with the Prime Minister were GEMA chairman Tan Sri S.M. Salim, M. Nasir and Siti Nurhaliza.

Also present were Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsuddin Osman and representatives from recording companies.

Siti Nurhaliza told reporters that the artistes also took the opportunity to express their feelings on the issue and presented a memorandum to the Prime Minister.

"Dr Mahathir gave us a positive response and urged all parties to be patient and not to be hasty in dealing with the problem of piracy."