

ROYALTIES ROW!

By MASHOTO LEKGAU

THE country's top musicians and record companies want what is due to them – and are taking action!

The board of the Performers Organisation of South Africa Trust (POSA), led by Sibongile Khumalo, presented a petition to the office of the Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr Rob Davies, last week.

The petition was accepted by the chief of staff in the minister's office, Moosa Ebrahim.

It asks for a change in copyright law,

Artists sign petition

to allow about R100-million in unpaid needletime royalties to be released to the country's recording artists and record companies.

Needletime rights royalties are due to musicians and record companies whose recordings are identified on broadcasts by computer.

The board consists of artists such as Ernie Smith, Judith Sephuma, Sibongile Khumalo, Tina Schouw and Concord Nkabinde.

Speaking in his capacity as a board member, Ernie Smith, said: "The key word is urgency. It has been a long wait to resolve the needletime issue.


"For us, as musicians, there is potential money for ourselves and our families.

"There has been a lot of going back and forth, and this is something that must be resolved soon," Smith said.

The petition was presented along with an analysis of the laws and regulations

governing needletime, which points out all the loopholes.

The recommendations will be forwarded to the chairperson of the parliamentary portfolio committee on trade and industry.



LEADING THE
MOVEMENT:
Sibongile
Khumalo.



Jazzman
Concord
Nkabinde.

Judith Sephuma is
one of the board
members of POSA.

Photo by
Muntu Vilakazi