

SAMA FUMING MAD OVER PAYOLA

But they hope to win in the long-run.

SOL MORATHI writes...

Payola, the under-the-table payment given to radio deejays by record companies as a bribe to play their records, is a universal problem and would need all sectors of the music industry to work together in an endeavour to eradicate it.

This is one of the agreements the South African Musicians Alliance (SAMA) and the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) have reached at an extra-ordinary meeting at Auckland Park, Johannesburg late last month.

The meeting, between SAMA and the SABC was convened to discuss a number of issues including payola, censorship and the promotion of local music in the face of competition from international music.

The payola issue, has been a disturbing factor among many South African musicians, who claimed they were not given enough mileage by most SABC deejays and producers. The musicians claimed the SABC condoned this malpractice and subsequently engaged SAMA to hold discussions with the giant broadcast company.

The SAMA delegation also met the SABC officials on a number of issues, including censorship and promotion of local music in the face of competition from international music.

The SABC officials contended at the meeting that payola was a universal problem and it would need the co-operation of all involved in the music industry to eradicate it. The SABC Director General promised SAMA that it would write to all SA record companies to notify them of his determination to stamp out payola and bribery.

These factors were accepted by the SAMA delegation that agreed to a further meeting on this subject, to which the Association of South African Music Industry would also be invited.

In respect of censorship the SABC outlined various changes which it proposed to make to the existing procedures for clearing lyrics and song. That included the restructuring of the existing selection committee, the implementation of a policy whereby reasons will be provided for the committee's decisions, the appointment of an appeal committee with different members to the original, and the appointment of one or more non-SABC employees to the appeal committee.

The SABC further provided statistics regarding the relative broadcasting and transmission of locally produced music as opposed to international music. SAMA agreed to study those statistics and to discuss them with its members before meeting the SABC officials again.

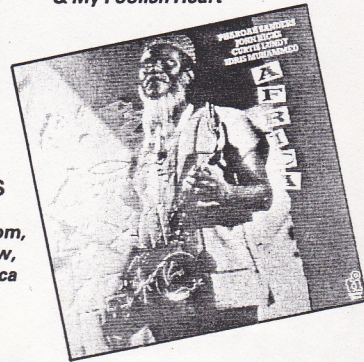
Charles Mabaso, one of the four-man delegation that met a 13-man SABC delegation said after the meeting: "The SAMA delegation was cordially received and can report that very open and frank discussions took place over a period of nearly three hours."

Another SAMA official, Jabu Ngwenya agreed that the meeting was "quite a breakthrough and a step in the right direction" for the musicians organisation. ■

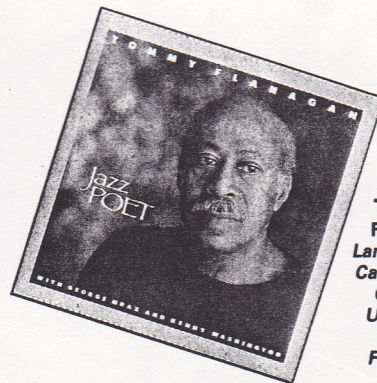
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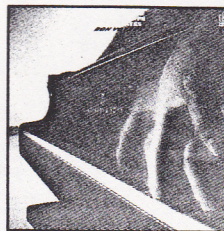
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FEATURING: *Swift Shifting, Round Midnight, Caravelle, For All We Know, Blue Moon & My Foolish Heart*



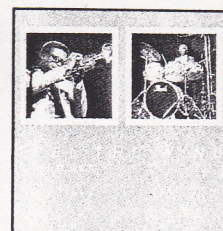
AFRICA
PHAROAH SANDERS
FEATURING:
You've Got To Have Freedom, Naima, Origin, Speak Low, After The Morning & Africa



JAZZ POET
TOMMY FLANAGAN
FEATURING: *Raincheck, Lament, Willow Weep For Me, Caravan, That Tired Routine Called Love, Glad To Be Unhappy, St. Louis Blues, Mean Streets, I'm Old Fashioned & Voce Abuso*



BON VOYAGE
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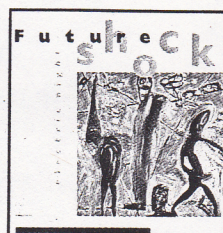
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