



## **Announcing the first Collecting Society for actors in South Africa**

In anticipation of actors securing the right to performance-royalty earnings, the South African Screen Performers Rights Organisation (SASPRO) has been established as a non-profit company, overseen by an independent board with a wealth of expertise in various specialised fields.

With the imminent passing into law of the Copyright and Performers Protection Amendment Bills, it is crucial to cater for the collective management of audio-visual rights for actors. A decades-long parliamentary and public participation process will soon culminate in the anticipated adoption of the Bills by the National Council of Provinces and assent by the President of the Republic of South Africa.

For the first time ever, and in line with international best practice, South African actors are set to enjoy the legal right to earn residual income from the exploitation of their recorded audio-visual performances, while their work generates ongoing profits.

SASPRO has instituted transparent mechanisms to collect and distribute actors' earnings, under the guidance of a board of experts in Intellectual Property law, Tax compliance matters and legislative frameworks, all of whom share a deep understanding of the audio-visual industry and the business of acting in South Africa.

SASPRO has forged global relationships – through the International Federation of Actors (FIA) – with affiliates from Africa to Europe, the Americas, and the Pacific Rim, including SAGA, British Equity, SAG-AFTRA and sister organisations in more than seventy countries. SASPRO now stands poised to serve its members through reciprocal agreements that are in the process of being secured with its counterparts in various global territories.

Membership is free for South African screen performers, and SASPRO can already facilitate the collection and payment of money due to performers where existing contractual terms provide for the claiming of fees.

For media interviews contact: Mr. Jack Devnarain (082 467 8925) and Prof. Malebakeng Forere (078 846 5954).

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