

# Musicians hold forum to address problems

Story: Sally Frimpong

**METRO TV**, in collaboration with the **Business Sector Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC)**, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), on Wednesday organised a seminar for musicians in Accra.

On the theme, "Comparative study of the music industry in Ghana and South Africa", the seminar aimed at finding a solution to the decline in the music industry in Ghana and put in place proper systems and structures in its operations.

In a presentation, a copyright advocate, Mr Carlos Sakyi, said he undertook research into the music industry because of the dire situation which threatened to disintegrate the entire industry.

He said South Africa was used as a case study because of the fact that its music industry was reputed to be among the successful music industries in the world, adding that South Africa had been able to produce solid musicians who were also role models, both locally and internationally.

Mr Sakyi said although Ghana boasted of several music and dance forms, such as 'Adowa,' 'Agbadza' and 'Kete', musicians had not achieved

much.

He stated that most musicians, especially the superstars, had nothing to show for their sweat and tears after contributing immensely to the development of the industry.

He said musicians should be given all royalties due them because they were all governed by the Copyright Society of Ghana, a quasi-governmental body for all copyright owners.

He mentioned some of the factors contributing to the decline as the lack of good corporate governance, accountability, transparency, knowledge, integrity and good leadership, adding that "South Africa never lacks any of these".

The Director of the School of Performing Arts of the University of Ghana, Legon, Dr Willie Anku, expressed his displeasure at the way the industry was being mismanaged after 50 years of independence.

He said it was time to empower musicians, especially the young artistes and students in music schools, to fight for proper systems and structures to be put in place.

That, he said, would help to sustain the industry, which was already collapsing.

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