

MAHATHIR - FILMS

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 2³¹ (BERNAMA) — LOCAL FILM-MAKERS HAVE BEEN URGED TO PRODUCE QUALITY WORKS TO CATER FOR AN INCREASINGLY CRITICAL AUDIENCE. ^(P)

ACTING PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY LOCAL FILM PRODUCERS COULD NOT EXPECT SUPPORT FROM THE PEOPLE UNLESS THEY DID THIS.

AT A TIME WHEN THE LOCAL FILM INDUSTRY WAS MAKING A REVIVAL, FILM COMPANIES COULD ILL AFFORD TO LOSE THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WAS OPENING A THREE-DAY SEMINAR ON THE FILM INDUSTRY ATTENDED BY 200 PEOPLE INCLUDING FILM PRODUCERS, ACTORS AND ACTRESSES AT THE KUALA LUMPUR HILTON. AN EXHIBITION ON THE GROWTH OF THE MALAY FILM INDUSTRY IS BEING HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SEMINAR. —BERNAMA MORE 1803/AH

NO73 (F)

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HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NOW SOME 15 FILM COMPANIES IN THE COUNTRY AT PRESENT, THE OUTPUT OF LOCAL FILMS WAS STILL UNSATISFACTORY.

THE PUBLIC COULD ONLY EXPECT TO SEE NOT MORE THAN 15 LOCAL FILMS A YEAR.

EVEN THE MOST ACTIVE FILM COMPANY COULD ONLY PRODUCE AT THE MOST THREE FILMS A YEAR.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR NOTED THAT ONLY 14 FILMS PRODUCED BY 10 COMPANIES HAD BEEN ENTERED FOR THE SECOND MALAYSIAN FILM FESTIVAL NEXT MONTH WHEN THERE WERE 20 PRIZES TO BE WON.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE 1970'S SAW GREAT ENTHUSIASM AMONG VARIOUS QUARTERS TO FORM FILM PRODUCTION COMPANIES.

IN THE 1960'S THERE WERE ONLY TWO OR THREE LOCAL FILM PRODUCTION COMPANIES. --BERNAMA MORE 1812/AH

NO74 (F)

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HE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THE NEWLY FORMED COMPANIES HAD COME INTO BEING AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AS TO THEIR CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE QUALITY WORKS OR HAD THEY BEEN FORMED MERELY TO JUMP ON THE BANDWAGON FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF SOME LOCAL FILMS.

HE SAID THAT THERE WERE ALSO SOME COMPANIES WHICH GENERATED BIG PUBLICITY OF AN IMPENDING PRODUCTION WHICH ULTIMATELY NEVER SAW THE LIGHT OF DAY.

THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER URGED THE LOCAL FILM INDUSTRY TO UPGRADE THE STANDARD OF PROFESSIONALISM AND NOT DEPEND TOO MUCH ON MATERIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

ASSOCIATIONS LIKE PAPITA (OF SINGERS) AND SENIMAN (ARTISTES) SHOULD FORMULATE THEIR CODES OF ETHICS TO ENFORCE DISCIPLINE AND PROMOTE COOPERATION AMONG THEIR MEMBERS.

A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON THE REAL STATE OF THE LOCAL FILM INDUSTRY SHOULD ALSO BE CARRIED OUT. --BERNAMA MORE 1815/AH

NO75 (F)

MAHATHIR - FILMS 4 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE LEGISLATION DISALLOWING ANY ONE COMPANY FROM ENGAGING IN THE PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION AND SCREENING OF FILMS AT THE SAME TIME, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS WAS TO PROMOTE FAIR COMPETITION IN THE LOCAL FILM INDUSTRY.

HE SAID THAT A COMPANY WHICH ENGAGED IN ALL THREE ACTIVITIES WOULD BE DEFINITELY BE ON A BETTER FOOTING THAN ONE WHICH WAS INVOLVED IN ONLY ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES.

THE NATIONAL FILM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ACT PASSED RECENTLY STIPULATED THAT A COMPANY COULD BE ENGAGED IN ONLY TWO OF THE THREE ACTIVITIES AT THE SAME TIME.

ON THE NATIONAL FILM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO BE SET UP SOON, HE SAID IT WOULD STRIVE TO PROMOTE THE GROWTH OF THE LOCAL FILM INDUSTRY BY PROVIDING VARIOUS FORMS OF ASSISTANCE.

THE SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE NATIONAL FILM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE IS TO REVIEW THE STATE OF THE LOCAL FILM INDUSTRY WITH A VIEW TO FINDING WAYS TO IMPROVE IT. --BERNAMA 1820/AH