

Movie producers welcome PM's call

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Local movie producers welcomed the call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that television stations should screen more family and development-oriented programmes.

They concurred with Dr Mahathir's view that there were too many violent and suggestive scenes on television.

Film director Datuk Jins Shamsudin said there was a need to check these negative scenes because the television stations had a wide audience.

He said foreign movies screened over RTM2 and TV3 lately appeared to be advocating violence "as an accepted part of life" and contained dialogues which were vulgar.

He said television stations should not allow sponsors to dictate the movies

they would like to screen.

"The stations should provide a selection of movies for the sponsors to choose from and not bow to their demands to screen movies of their choice only.

"There should be tighter censorship of movies shown on television," he said, adding that there was a need to check this unhealthy trend to prevent children from being influenced by this yellow culture.

Reminder

Datuk Jins claimed that locally-produced movies and dramas contained fewer negative scenes as they were subject to strict censorship by the authorities.

Another film director, Encik Ahmad Mahmud, said there were many local movies which were family and development-oriented and portrayed the

country's virtues and cultures.

But he said stricter guidelines should be drawn up for the screening of foreign movies on television to ensure high social values are maintained.

Puan Julie Dahlan of JD Production said there was a need to check the negative scenes because studies in Western countries have shown that there was a link between the increasing crime rate and violence on television.

Sistem Televisyen Malaysia (TV3) managing director Ishak Hamid said the movies screened were checked and cleared by the station before they were sent to the Censorship Board.

He said that while it was difficult to determine the type and level of violence and sex acceptable to Malaysians, the Prime Minister's view served as a good reminder.