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Mahathir-studio (Repetition, replacing earlier item)

KUALA LUMPUR, June 1 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today opened the Finas Merdeka Studio Complex in Ulu Klang here and launched the 9th Malaysian Film Festival with the call to improve the quality of Malaysian films.

The occasion also marked the 10th anniversary of the formation of the National Film Development Corporation (Finas).

He said the quality of Malaysian-produced films needed to be enhanced in order to increase gate collections at cinemas which were now being dominated by foreign films.

In spite of government encouragement and incentives, the country's film industry, in particular the film production sector, had yet to attain the progress expected, he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said: +The failure of Malaysian-produced films to win the best film award at the 8th festival in 1989 might give a picture of the situation of our film industry, nine years after the establishment of Finas.+

He said Malaysian producers should be far-sighted to ensure continued development of the country's film industry.

+Cinema goes, as have been proven, will go for high quality films,+ he added. -- Bernama

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