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Mahathir-art.

MAHATHIR ADVISES ARTISTS NOT TO LOSE HEART

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 27⁹⁸ (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised local artists not to despair easily when they have difficulty finding fame and fortune. (8)

"Those who despair easily would have no hope, he said when launching the "Visions" art exhibition at the Putra World Trad Centre, here.

"Only those who are prepared to face all types of challenges will succeed. So, do not lose hope, persevere," he said.

He said local artists should not compare their works with those of European artists, especially those who had died a long time ago.

"The works of renowned artists like van Gogh and Rembrandt are appreciated after their deaths," he said.

The two-week exhibition displaying the works of local artists Mutalib Zakaria and Abdul Ghani Ahmad and international artist Jian Hi-Zou of San Francisco is organised by the Registered Arts Foundation. -- more

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Dr Mahathir, who is patron of the foundation, said it took time for a piece of work to gain recognition because the public was normally interested in items that were rare and difficult to acquire.

"As such, the artists should not despair at not getting high prices for their works and not becoming rich."

"Maybe in one of two centuries, our works will fetch a high price and others will make huge profits," he said.

"So don't be frustrated with this unfairness. This is life, it is normal," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it would suffice if their works could appeal to art lovers because what was appreciated was satisfaction from good pieces. -- more

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However, he said, Malaysian artists could take heart because there were some among them who had gained recognition and commanded a high income during their lifetime.

Dr Mahathir hoped that other bodies would emulate the foundation in awarding special scholarships to help artists.

He said artists had an important role to play in the civilisation and cultural development of a country.

"I am confident that with the emergence of several artists like Ibrahim Hussein, Hoessin Manas and Latiff Mohidin, our country's name will be enhanced," he said.

However, the country should not depend on these artists alone and more serious efforts should be made to introduce new artists, he added. --

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