

Dr M: Ease off on violence, sex in TV programmes

By Manan Osman and Sa'odah Elias

PORT KLANG, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said television stations and cinemas should reduce programmes depicting unnecessary violence and sex.

He said the Government was still trying to reduce programmes which were incompatible with the local culture.

"We should find other sources for the supply of films because if we show too

much of such films, we will become addicted to it. If there is no violence and sex, we will not be satisfied," he said in response to reporters' questions after visiting the West Port in Pulau Indah near here.

He said that as a very influential media, TV stations were responsible in disseminating correct information to the community and they had a social responsibility towards the people and should censor its programmes to suit local needs and culture.

"By doing so, it will not lose anything. Instead, they will be doing something that is healthy for the station and the country."

To a question on whether Tan Sri Sheriff Kassim, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Finance would be appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Government-owned Khazanah Holding, Dr Mahathir said the matter had not yet been confirmed although there were plans to appoint him.

Dr Mahathir also expressed appreciation for the

United Nations Development Programme's report which stated that Malaysia was the most progressive in terms of human development between 1960 and 1992.

The UNDP report was based on its survey of 173 developed and developing nations.

It attributed Malaysia's achievement to its remarkably successful strategy for social integration by increasing human development levels of all classes of society.