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Firms urged to nurture local artists

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Malaysian companies were today urged to promote local creativity and arts by employing Malaysian artists in designing, landscaping and development along with encouraging aesthetically pleasing endeavours such as painting and sculpting.

Kuala Lumpur Sentral Sdn Bhd executive chairman Datuk Khalid Ahmad, who made the call, said although local expertise in arts had been utilised more than ever before, it was still not enough to create appreciation for local creativity the way artists such as Leonardo Da Vinci and Pablo Picasso were appreciated in the West.

"We still look up to the West and think ours is not good enough," Khalid said after handing over prizes to the winners of Sentral's sculpture competition at Plaza Raja Chulan.

He said apart from the cheaper cost compared to the asking price by foreign experts, utilising Malaysian creativity would nurture a society that would be more aware and more appreciative of beauty and arts.

Khalid gave Paris as an example of a city where local arts were manifested in nearly every building, bridge and public park, reflecting a society that valued the finer things in life.

The competition, participated by Institut Teknologi Mara students, was won by Mastura Mustafar, 22, who received RM3,000 with a certificate of appreciation.

Her sculpture, partly shaped like a globe and deemed the best to reflect Kuala Lumpur Sentral station's position as being the heart of the city's development, was presented to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during the station's ground breaking ceremony in April.

Mastura, who did not expect to win, said that her idea for the design was mooted in three days.

Second prize of RM2,000 and third prize of RM1,000 were won by Azman Ismail, 22, and Mat Ali Mat Som, 22, respectively.

Both also received a certificate of appreciation from Sentral.

Seven other students won the consolation prizes of RM200 and a letter of appreciation each.

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