

26 FEB 1997

Mahathir-Hollywood

LINK BETWEEN HOLLYWOOD AND MULTIMEDIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 26 (Bernama) -- It is not the government's intention to import film studios or negative values from Hollywood in its bid to acquire film-making technology from the movie capital, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Film-making technology has advanced so rapidly that movies can now be produced using computers without having actors, he said.

"For example, in the movie on Forest Gump, he was filmed shaking hands with a president who was already dead and the president also spoke to him," he said over RTM's television interview programme, "Bersama Perdana Menteri", which specially focussed on the MSC, today.

Dr Mahathir, who visited Hollywood recently to promote the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), was answering a question on the link between the MSC and Hollywood.

"What we want to bring here is the film-making technology because we can now produce films without using actors," he said.

"Now we can take an old picture of John Wayne or P.Ramlee and by using computers, they can be made to appear as if they are singing if we want to," he said.

"This is the sort of technology that is now being developed that we want to bring to Malaysia, not the film studios or Clint Eastwood movies," he said.

The ability to apply such technology will help the people to defend themselves including to dispel inaccurate reports on Malaysia by the western media.

"So, if they take my picture and show me making a speech condemning or insulting Islam for example, and if we do not have the ability to defend ourselves, we cannot prove that it was an untruth," he said.

Dr Mahathir is confident that the people including the Malays can take on this technology.

Referring to the ability of Malays now working in Hollywood, he said: "... we find many youths who have furthered their studies in information technology and are so advanced that they now work in Hollywood and are capable of doing things that we never think of."

-- BERNAMA

AZZ TS