

Acquire animation skills abroad, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Government is willing to send qualified people overseas to learn more about film animation technology, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"We are ready to help those who want to learn more about this sector. For this purpose, we can make an exception about sending people overseas to study," Dr Mahathir said in his address before the premiere of the first local animated feature film *Silat Legenda* at Putra World Trade Centre.

He said even though the standard of local animated films was not on par with productions of Disney and Warner Brothers, the local industry must

persevere in order to raise the quality.

Dr Mahathir urged Malaysians to see *Silat Legenda* when it hits the screens to support the local film industry.

"Help the sector make some profit so that it can make more similar films," he added.

The animated feature is about five teenagers from the 21st century who become superheroes after learning the secrets of Hang Tuah and his four friends.

Silat Legenda is an all-Malaysian effort which took three years to make using the skills of 100 local animators.

The film will begin general screening in major cinemas around the country on Aug 27.