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Exception for animation courses

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Despite the economic problems, the Government is willing to send those interested in the animation industry to foreign institutions of higher learning to acquire skills relevant to animated film production.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today this was because the industry was not only important but had great potential.

Dr Mahathir said although the Government was no longer sending Malaysian students abroad, it was willing to make exceptions for those wanting to pursue animation courses.

He was speaking at the launching of Silat Legenda, the first Malaysian animated film at the Putra World Trade Centre.

The RM5 million film which took three years to produce, utilised the latest technology in animation and more than 100 local animators comprising graphic designers and artists.

The film was produced by Hisham Harun Hashim, chairman of Hishani Peninsula Group and Peninsula Pictures Sdn Bhd.

Inspiration for the film came from legendary Malacca warriors and is an all-Malaysian production with the script, planning, design, financing and post-production done locally.

Dr Mahathir said although the local animation industry had not reached the standards of Warner Bros and Walt Disney, it had the potential of achieving international standards.

"What it takes is hard work and tireless effort," he said.

Dr Mahathir said those involved in the local animation industry should concentrate on improving their skills and capabilities.

The Prime Minister and wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali later watched the Silat Legenda premiere with a group of underprivileged persons.

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