

28 NOV 1998  
RTM-Airtime  
RTM TOO MAY REDUCE TV AIRTIME

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 28 (Bernama) -- RTM may reduce the airtime of its two television channels to cut operating costs, Deputy Information Minister Datuk Suleiman Mohamed said today.

He said the proposal, likely to be implemented in January at the earliest, would result in RTM saving RM30 million a year.

The private station TV3 had earlier announced shorter airtime from December, with only 12 hours of programmes on Mondays to Thursdays compared to over 20 hours now.

Suleiman said TV1 might revert its starting time on Mondays to Thursdays to 2.30pm as was the case previously. At present the channel starts at 7am.

Speaking to reporters after opening the Information Department's Quality Day, he said with shorter airtime, the station could cut down on slots without sponsors or which brought in low revenue.

Meanwhile, Suleiman confirmed receiving many complaints from dissatisfied viewers over the snipping off of various scenes from P. Ramlee movies screened by TV1 to the extent of affecting the storyline.

He said the ministry would take steps to ensure that RTM did not make inappropriate cuts.

At the ceremony, Suleiman gave away Quality Awards to ministry staff and launched "Koleksi Ucapan Mahathir" -- a collection of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speeches -- on behalf of Information Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat.

-- BERNAMA.

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