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P.Ramlee-Fund

"TABUNG BIN RAMLEE BIN PUTIH" FUND LAUNCHED

KUALA LUMPUR, March 22 (Bernama) -- A fund dedicated to the late Tan Sri P. Ramlee's children was launched here today to coincide with the national actor and director's birth anniversary.

Called the "Tabung Bin Ramlee Bin Putih", the fund is to help his children lead a more comfortable life.

Former Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid who launched the fund said it was a move worthy of praise.

Ahmad Sarji admitted that he was one of Ramlee's fans and had never given up the opportunity of listening to his songs or seeing his films when he was a teenager.

In 1961, he said he read in the then Straits Times which said that the Malayan population at that time only knew two personalities --Tunku Abdul Rahman and P.Ramlee.

The fund was named as such so as to avoid distinction between Ramlee's natural and adopted children, said former National Archive Director-General Datuk Zakiah Hanum, who initiated the move.

It was understood that proceeds for the fund would also be used to acquire all the works of Ramlee kept by individuals in various part of the country.

Ahmad Sarji said in appreciation of Ramlee's contributions towards the national heritage, he had on 1990 while serving as the Chief Secretary to the Government, proposed that Ramlee be conferred the Tan Sri award posthumously.

The proposal was agreed to by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the Yang di-Pertuan Agung, Sultan Azlan Shah then gave his royal consent.

Comedian Aziz Sattar, a close colleague of Ramlee, said the fund could also be used to build a surau named after him, or for other charitable use.

A recording company, Felix Entertainment has in its efforts to enhance public appreciation of Ramlee's works, introduced a homepage.

With the E-mail address <http://www.pramlee.com.my>, the homepage offers all there is to know about Ramlee, his biography and the films and songs created and directed by him.--BERNAMA

MHI AR AAM