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Use more local shows, private TV stations told

THE Government wants private TV stations to telecast more local programmes to help boost TV programme production and film industry in Malaysia.

Information Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat said yesterday the move will help cut outflow of funds because foreign TV programmes were traded in US dollars.

"Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) has started implementing it and directive will be issued to other TV stations soon," he told reporters after receiving a courtesy call by Choi Jin Su, deputy international relations bureau chairman of the North Korean Workers Party at Angkasapuri.

According to the National Broadcasting Policy, he said 80 per cent of TV programmes should comprise local programmes by the year 2000.

TV stations should help the growth of the TV programme production industry by cutting down on their own production and purchasing products by other companies.

On call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that film companies should merge, Mohamed said RTM will give prominence to a film consortium for the time slot.

"The consortium must among others have adequate capital, studio facilities of their own and equipment ... and if they meet the condition, we will give them priority and more time slot.

"I'm willing to accept more good local TV programmes and films for RTM at reasonable price and quality," he said.

He said the market for local programmes was expanding with increase in the number of TV stations in Malaysia.

On his meeting with Choi, Mohamed who is also Barisan Nasional (BN) secretary general said it was part of the BN's efforts to promote closer ties with other ruling parties irrespective of their ideologies.

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