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`E-Village to start making money soon'

MALAYSIA's very own multi-billion film studio and production facilities, better known as Entertainment Village (E-Village), is expected to start generating revenue as early as next year, said Datuk Ibrahim Abdul Ghaffar.

Ibrahim, who is executive vice-chairman of the project's developer Entertainment Village (M) Sdn Bhd, said the company was holding talks with a Canadian film maker, who will most likely be using E-Village facilities after September.

"We would not be able to actually reveal the exact figure (of the revenue), but from the experience of Australia's Fox Studio, which charges A\$6,000 (RM13,200) a day, we would be able to see some revenue as early as next year. Business should pick up after September," he said.

He added that similar talks were also being held with four other interested parties.

Ibrahim said film makers from India and Hong Kong had also shown good response to E-Village.

"In fact, there are plans for us to form a joint venture with Indian producers on the marketing aspect or (movie making) technical knowhow," he told newsmen who went for a site tour of the project in Dengkil, Selangor, recently.

On Sept 8, E-Village's Studio Precinct, which forms Phase 1A of the RM3 billion project, will be officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Studio Precinct, spanning 52.4ha, will include a giant film sound stage and virtual studio.

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