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Government to probe allegations about foreign films on Astro

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Government will investigate allegations by several local community leaders, the literati and culturalists that foreign movies broadcast over Astro had an influence over Malaysian viewers.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government would have to check the foreign movies that local viewers could watch and if these had any negative or other influence on them.

"The Government will have to investigate whether these movies actually influence the people," he said after officiating the Kankeiren Asean Management Seminar here today.

On fears that the broadcasting of numerous foreign movies would bring negative effects on the community, Dr Mahathir said the matter would be investigated.

It was reported in the Utusan Malaysia today that these local community leaders, the literati and culturalists feared that viewing these movies might bring negative effects on community unity which had long been nurtured and on the future direction of the people.

Veteran actor Datuk Jins Shamsuddin had said that such movies could influence the people's mindset and also leave long-term negative effects on their thinking.

Federation of Peninsula Malay Students president Datuk Suhaimi Ibrahim had said that all television stations must recognise their social obligation to the people.

He said they should not merely place importance on profits.

They have urged the Government to control the broadcasting of foreign movies on Astro.

The Astro satellite station has 28 channels, including four Chinese channels which are Astro AEC, TVBS Asia, Phoenix and Astro Wah Lai Toi and one Tamil channel, Astro Vaanavil.

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