

Study on Bollywood movies and crime rate

SHAH ALAM: A study will be conducted to determine if over-exposure to Bollywood movies is linked to the crime rate among Malaysians, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said the findings would help the Government decide whether a partial or total ban on such films was necessary.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked to comment on a proposal from the Malaysian Mufti Council to limit the number of Bollywood movies being screened here on the grounds that some of them depicted scenes unsuitable for local taste.

The Prime Minister said if the study revealed over-exposure to the movies had led to a high crime rate in the country, the Government would not hesitate to enforce a ban.

On Friday, Deputy Information Minister Datuk Khalid Yunus said the Government might consider screening Hindi movies only once a week simultaneously on all television channels in the country.

Khalid said the limiting of airtime for such movies might be necessary as some of them encouraged negative values such as close proximity.

In Kuantan, Information Minister Tan Sri Mohamad Khalil Yaakob said the Censorship Board had the guidelines as well as the experience to deal with the issue concerning Bollywood movies.

"Handled properly, they (the movies) should be good for public consumption," he said after a "meet the people session" at Dewan Lapang Besar here yesterday.

Khalil said that calls to review the airtime for such movies should be carefully examined before any decision was made.

"If the move is made, followers of such movies would instead buy pirated VCDs or magazines. This poses another problem," he said.