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Slow but steady for `Putera`

Suraya Al-Attas

AWARD-WINNING director Mahadi J. Murat's Putera Merdeka is still in pre-production stage. But lest you think the film will suffer the same fate as Datuk Jins Shamsuddin's Pasir Salak - which has yet to see the light of day - rest assured that Mahadi has every intention to complete the movie. But all in good time, he says.

"Time is not an issue here. This is not a money-making venture. I don't want this to be a rushed job. I have to make sure I get the facts right.

"I have 13 students who are doing research for me, and the more we research, the more we find that we don't know about Tunku."

Putera Merdeka traces the life of former Prime Minister Tuanku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj between 1933 and May 14, 1969.

"This is a national film project. It's about us, about the nation," says Mahadi, adding that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the late Tunku's family have given their blessings for the project.

The film, he says, has also caught the attention of several parties, who think they can contribute to the project.

"I have no problems with that. I certainly would welcome ideas and whatever contributions they might have, but I'm a bit wary of certain people using this project for their political gains."