

16 FEB 2003

NAM-Film

FILMS CAN CONVEY PEACE MESSAGE, SAY PRODUCERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 16 (Bernama) -- the Kuala Lumpur World Film Festival, which begins today, is the best venue to voice for peace through films, producers say.

Indonesia's Culture and Film deputy-director in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Dr Bakri, said the theme on peace, harmony, no to violence and discrimination is in-line with the 13th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit to be held from Feb 20 to Feb 25 here.

"The world's tensed situation can be thawed by friendship and film is a medium to get closer to world's humanity," he told reportes.

The three-day film festival will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Dataran Merdeka here tonight.

Lecturer Dr Anuar Nor Arai, from the National Arts Film Academy Department, said the festival would create a forum to understand the real politics affecting the world through the language and visuals presented here.

The films selected for the festival are reflective and thought provoking -- to create an independent future and is also in tandem with NAM, he said.

Meanwhile, producer of "The Bride of Fire" from Iran, Ghasem Ghahfur agreed with the festival's theme -- an important element to promote global peace.

"People always think about war. They need some facilities to talk to each other about peace, harmony and non-discrimination. Cinema is one facility to achieve this target.

"Movie is not just for entertainment but a powerful medium to instill the message among the audiences," he said.

Thirty-six countries would participate in the international festival.

The foreign films would be screened in Tanjung Golden Village Cinema, Kuala Lumpur City Centre and Golden Screen Cinema in Mid-Valley on Feb 17 and 18 here.

-- BERNAMA

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