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NAM-Film

KHALIL BRIEFED ON PREPARATIONS FOR KL WORLD FILM FESTIVAL

By: Kurniawati Kamaruddin

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob was today briefed on preparations for the Kuala Lumpur World Film Festival to be hosted by Malaysia for three days beginning Sunday.

He also gave his views and suggestions to ensure the festival, being staged by Malaysia for the first time in conjunction with the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit next week, was really world-class.

Khalil said performances during the opening and closing ceremonies must suit the theme of the festival -- peace, harmony and friendship.

"The film festival must reflect the awards up for grabs as it is a selection of serious movies which stressed on the theme," he said during the briefing by Malaysian National Film Development Corporation (Finas) Director-General, Datuk Mohd Shariff Ahmad, at Angkasapuri.

A total of 48 entries from 39 countries have been received for the festival which would be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Merdeka Square at 8.30pm on Sunday.

The festival would be closed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail at 9pm on Tuesday at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

Shariff said the opening ceremony, expected to start at 8.30pm, was opened to the public.

Prior to that, spectators would be entertained by well-known local artistes, including Nurul and Ajai, Sarah Raisudin, Kumpulan Rabbani, Kumpulan Exist and Datuk A. Rahman Hassan, a popular singer in the 1960s.

Apart from the delegations from participating countries, Shariff said 2,000 guests, including movie makers, actors, actresses and media representatives have been invited for the ceremony.

Performances at the opening and closing ceremonies would be managed by Pak Ngah Production.

Pak Ngah or his real name Suhaimi Mohd Zain said performances at the opening ceremony would recap the growth of the local film industry, especially during its heydays.

The first segment would feature episodes from films such as "Semerah Padi", "Hang Tuah" and "Bawang Putih, Bawang Merah."

The segment "Tribute To P. Ramlee", to value the contributions of the country's movie legend, would also be screened, highlighting seven characters from movies starred by P. Ramlee.

Pak Ngah said personalities involved in the local film industry would be introduced to Dr Mahathir at the ceremony.

Among them are Datin Sarimah, Aziz Jaafar, Aziz Satar, Mustafa Maarof, Ahmad Mahmud, Wahid Satay, S. Samsudin, Zaiton, Mariani, Datuk L. Krishnan, Ibrahim Pendek and Datuk Michelle Yeoh.

Siti Nurhaliza, Roy, Misha Omar and Syazliana would mesmerise the audience at the closing and award presentation ceremony, he added.

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