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NAM-Film Festival

KL WORLD FESTIVAL 2003 TO STRESS ON PEACE AND HARMONY, SAYS ZAM

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 29 (Bernama) -- The Kuala Lumpur World Film Festival being hosted by Malaysia for the first time in conjunction with the 13th Non-Aligned Movement Summit next month will emphasise on peace, harmony, non-violence and no discrimination, Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainudin Maidin said today.

He said the three-day festival beginning Feb 16 was aimed at showing to the world that Malaysia was still in peace and harmony although the world was in a crisis.

"We will show to the world that Malaysia can still afford to be in a carnival mood at the backdrop of a crisis-filled world.

"The festival to be held will show to the world the way and messages towards peace through films so that the participating countries can understand them," he told a media conference on the festival.

He said the concept of the festival would be different from the normal film festivals which emphasised more on personalities.

"The main concept was to send the peace message to the world and the films sent to us should have the elements towards that," he said.

Zainudin said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to launch the festival at the Merdeka Square on Feb 16 while the closing ceremony would be performed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail on Feb 18 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

He said the government had set a target of 50 countries to participate and 20 countries have agreed so far.

Among them are Italy, France, China, Iran, Japan, the United States and Thailand, he said.

The juris selected to judge the movies would be from the various participating countries, he said.

Three premier awards for the films that depict the theme and four juri appreciation awards based on the movie specifications -- peace, harmony, friendship and non-discrimination -- would be offered to the winners.

"The three premier award winners will also receive cash prizes commensurating the world-class film festival but the quantum has not been decided," he said.

Zainudin said several world-class personalities in the movie industry would be invited for a seminar held in conjunction with the festival estimated to cost between RM2 and RM3 million.

He said the seminar would serve as a forum for local film industry players and invited personalities to interact with one another and to exchange ideas on ways to further improve the country's film industry.

"Within the short period, artistes and movie makers can share ideas, especially the technical aspects, and to learn and analyse movies," he said.

He also said the public could view the contested movies for free at the Tanjung Golden Village Theatre at the Kuala Lumpur City Centre and Golden Screen Cinema in Mid-Valley Megamall.

"We hope the public will gain something by viewing the films starred by artistes from participating countries as well as the technical excellence shown in the movies," he said.

Asked whether the festival would be made an annual affair, he said, it was a pilot project and would not be held every year.

However, it would be the beginning to stage bigger film festivals, he

said.

"This will prompt us to host future film festivals, maybe once in three or five years," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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