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NAM-Film

KL WORLD FILM FEST WILL BE ANNUAL EVENT, SAYS KHALIL

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 18 (Bernama) -- The Kuala Lumpur World Film Festival, which ends today, will be an annual event, stressing on the same theme -- peace and harmony, Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wanted the festival to be continued and not host it only during the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit.

"We've sought the views of many people and almost all of them agreed to the theme not only to suit present situations but also for the future because the message conveyed through the movies for peace is very important," he told reporters after opening a symposium held in conjunction with the three-day festival,

The one-day symposium is themed "non-violence, non-discrimination."

Khalil said his ministry considered Dr Mahathir's wish to host the festival every year as a directive.

He said his ministry would make early preparations to ensure the success of future film festivals.

Khalil said he was confident that the festival would be popular and would receive the support and more participation worldwide.

"We'll find ways to make the final selection of movies and to read the scripts of films sent by participating countries.

"All these are technical matters which will be looked into by the organising committee," he said.

Khalil said from the films he watched during the festival, he noted that they adhered to the theme.

On the symposium, he was satisfied that more than 200 participants from in and outside the country, including students from tertiary learning institutions and local filmmakers attended it.

Andrew Vial of Australia, Iran's Manuchehr Mohammudi and Dr Mahadi J. Murad from Malaysia tabled a working paper titled "Inculcating Peace and Harmony Message In Film" at the symposium.

The session was chaired by Dr Anuar Nor Arai from Malaysia.

A panel discussion on "Peace, Harmony, Non-Violence and Non-Discrimination Through Film" was attended by Assoc Prof Dr Asiah Sarji, a lecturer in Media Communication Study Centre from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Somkait Vithuranich from Thailand.

-- BERNAMA

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