

12 SEP 2003

Budget-Arts

RM80.3 MILLION FOR BRIGHTER LOCAL ART CULTURE

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- The government has allocated RM80.3 million for the training of arts and culture in Budget 2004 to further cultivate the interest of art enthusiasts.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, when tabling the budget in the Dewan Rakyat today, said the lack of quality works of art and culture had resulted in promoters bringing in performances from abroad.

He said arts and culture depicted the identity of a society and in this regard, local works of art and culture must be nurtured to enable them to thrive and flourish and to further cultivate the interest of art enthusiasts.

Dr Mahathir, who is also finance minister, said that to encourage production of arts and cultural shows involving local artistes, the government proposed that deductions on contributions by private sector be increased from RM200,000 to RM300,000.

To encourage the local production of quality films, producers could access loans and venture capital from Malaysian Trade Development Corporation (MTDC).

With this, the government hoped that there would be better quality films produced locally to substitute imported films to be screened in local cinemas and TV channels.

-- BERNAMA

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