

01 JUL 2003

Khalil-RTM

RTM LOOKS AT INDONESIA FOR EXPERIENCE IN QUALITY PROGRAMMES

JAKARTA, July 1 (Bernama) -- Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM), which is to be corporatised, will learn from Indonesia's experience in producing quality programmes, said Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

He acknowledged that commercial television stations in Indonesia produced diversified and high quality programmes to satisfy viewers at all levels.

"We will send officers to carry out follow-up studies and look at the changes to be made by RTM when it is privatised," he told reporters here at the end of a week-long visit to Indonesia.

He said although it would remain as a government channel, RTM should produce quality programmes to ensure that it could attract more advertisements for revenue after its privatisation.

Most of the programmes at the Malaysian TV stations had not reached the level that could satisfy viewers of all age groups, he said.

Khalil hoped that there would be more exchange of information and news between the government agencies of the two countries so that the people could understand the developments taking place in their neighbouring country.

"From the meetings with leaders here, for example, they are very keen to know about the transition of leadership in Malaysia, what will happen after (the era of Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership," he said.

He said that from the news and information they had received, the Indonesians were very impressed with Malaysia's development and Dr Mahathir.

Khalil also hoped that the Malaysian National News Agency, Bernama, would continue to expand cooperation with its Indonesian counterpart, Antara, to face the possibility of its privatisation.

Such cooperation was crucial to avoid these agencies from being swallowed by globalisation particularly with the existence of the internet which had no national boundary, he said.

During the visit, Khalil held meetings with Vice President Hamzah Haz and Speaker of the People's Representative Council (DPR) Akbar Tandjung, besides having discussion with Communications and Information Minister, Syamsul Mu'arif.

He also visited several TV stations here including government station TVRI, which was privatised in April.

Khalil also said Malaysia was prepared to assist Indonesia in the field of information technology and multimedia as the country was lagging behind although it had a large number of talented people.

-- BERNAMA

OPP KHY RON AO