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`Recording firms, TV stations should promote patriotic songs'

PUTRAJAYA, Mon. - Disappointed with the dearth of compilations of patriotic songs in the market, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today said recording companies should not just think of making profits but also contribute to society.

He said television stations should also feature more patriotic songs, including "classic" ones, so that the younger generation could enjoy them and be imbued with a greater sense of patriotism.

"Television stations should also insert more patriotic songs in between programmes for Malaysians of all races to enjoy. Musical scores too should not just be kept in their archives."

Abdullah also urged recording companies to compile the theme songs of past National Day celebrations into an album.

"The songs carry great meaning and are historical records of the country's development.

"Patriotic songs are national treasures. They have an enduring message and can be enjoyed through the ages," Abdullah said after launching Suara Merdeka, a compilation of patriotic songs sung by well-known Malaysian singers.

Abdullah said schools should also encourage students to sing patriotic songs.

"I also call on the new generation of composers to come up with patriotic songs on what's happening now.

"They must also contribute. I am sure their songs will be well accepted," he added.

The compilation launched today is a joint venture between the Association of Former MRSM Students Malaysia (Ansara) and Prime Musik Sdn Bhd.

The executive producers of the album are renowned composer Datuk Wah Idris and Ansara president Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir.

The songs are performed by singers like Aris Ariwatan, Angie Leong, Nora, Rozita Izlyn, Roy, Camelia, Kevin Lau, Ruhil Amani, Hattan, Fauziah Latiff and Adibah Noor. There are also instrumental versions.