

## **'Gov't to study feasibility of regulating online portals'**

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**By Ram Anand**

The government has admitted that it is studying into the possibility of regulating online news portals following Singapore's decision to regulate online portals last week.

The Singaporean government had made it necessary for online portals to obtain a licence from the Media Development Authority (MDA) if their readership reaches 50,000 a month or more.

NONE "We are studying into this possibility, but we must see how it doesn't go against our principles. Now social media has become the mainstream media," said Communications and Multimedia Minister Ahmad Shabery Cheek (right) during a press conference today.

"Now that (Singapore,) a country that people see as more sophisticated, has come up with the regulation, so we will look into its feasibility," he added.

"It will mainly affect the likes of The Straits Times, and Berita Harian (Singapore's version). It would not touch the blogs and others," he said.

Ahmad Shabery was speaking after paying a visit to the Malaysian National Film Development Corporation (Finas) digital studio today in Hulu Kelang.

He was also bullish about Malaysia's ability to match international standards of film productions.

"It's a question of building the confidence in our abilities, because we already have the resources and the right facilities. In the nearest future, this is what I will be asking Finas to look at," he noted at the conclusion of his two-hour visit.

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