

Tanda Putera advisory serves as a reminder, says PKR

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By Ram Anand

The Penang government's 'advisory' for cinemas not to screen Tanda Putera is to "remind" people that the true nature of the movie is that it is propaganda not history, said Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim today.

"The people need to be reminded. This movie is being passed off as a historical document. If it is fiction, say so," he said after delivering his Merdeka address at the PKR headquarters.

"If it was a ban, then I would also oppose it, but this is merely an advisory.

"This is to remind the public that it is a propaganda film," Anwar said.

However, Anwar stressed that Malaysia is a "free country" and as such people can watch movies according to their liking.

"But we also must let the people know (about the nature of the movie)," he said.

The controversial Tanda Putera, which contains a depiction of the May 13, 1969 racial riots in Kuala Lumpur, has been scorned by the opposition ever since the state-funded movie geared up for release last year.

Last year in the run up to the general election cabinet had decided not to allow the film's release over "inappropriate" scenes, but private screenings were however carried out to select groups despite the decision, no less by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak.

Two days ago the DAP-led Penang government issued an "advisory" to the cinemas in the state to not screen the movie.

The movie opened nationwide in cinemas yesterday just two days short of Merdeka Day tomorrow.

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