

Next change: 'Tanda Putera' screenings in villages?

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The film 'Tanda Putera' should be screened in outdoor cinemas (wayang pacak) in rural areas to raise awareness of the nation's history, Ipoh Barat Umno Youth chief Syamsul Bahrin Putra Ahmad Shibi has suggested.

"We need to screen it in every kampung in Malaysia so the rakyat understands the struggles our ancestors went through to build our nation," Utusan Malaysia quoted him as saying.

"We will campaign for this as soon as 'Tanda Putera' ends its run in the cinema."

NONESyamsul had booked a 141-seat cinema hall in Ipoh for members of his division last night, after realising that the film has been receiving poor support from movie-goers in earlier screenings in the city.

"We have to watch the film as it is about our party, Umno and BN. If we don't support it, then who will?" he asked.

Separately, the Umno-owned daily reported that actor Zizan Nin, who plays deputy prime minister Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman in the film, supports screening 'Tanda Putera' in areas which do not have cinemas.

He also said the wayang pacak idea should be extended to all films that touch on Malaysia's history and other nation-building campaigns.

The wayang pacak - a mobile outdoor cinema - was a propaganda tool used by the government in the 1960s and 1970s, before the proliferation of television sets.

Propaganda films and leaflets on various issues like health were shown or distributed prior to a feature film.

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