

'As good as other countries'

Wan Azizah praises local animated film industry

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PETALING JAYA: Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail has praised the local animated film industry for its quality work that she says is comparable to that in other countries.

"I'm proud to see our own animation talents shine so brightly now and take the local animated film industry to greater heights," she told reporters after attending a special screening of *Ejen Ali the Movie* with 50 youngsters with disabilities from Taman Sinar Harapan Cheras yesterday.

The special screening at mmCineplexes, e-Curve Damansara, was Dr Wan Azizah's initiative to reach out to and spend time with residents of the home, which is an institution under the Welfare Department that provides care, protection and rehabilitation for young persons with disabilities.

According to Bernama, Dr Wan Azizah said the animated movie was produced with great quality with an interesting storyline.

"It highlights social issues with crucial messages and life lessons, including to never give up no matter how bad life seems today," she said.

Produced by Primeworks Studios and WAU Animation, *Ejen Ali the Movie* tells a story of 12-year-old Ali, who was recruited as an agent at Meta Advance Tactical Agency.

The film, which was released on Nov 28, has also been screened suc-



Movie date: Dr Wan Azizah, Anwar and the youngsters taking a group photo after the movie in Petaling Jaya.

cessfully in Singapore, Brunei and Indonesia and has made about RM30mil.

Meanwhile, **NG ZHE QUN** reported that the youngsters had a fun time at the special screening.

For many of them, it was probably their first time having the chance to go out with their friends.

"I enjoyed the film so much," said Corrine Izati.

The 23-year-old, who has learning difficulties, said that other times

when she was not out, she enjoyed making envelopes in workshops.

Her joy was shared by her friend Muhammad Aiman, 17, who was thrilled with the teenage agent in the movie.

"I like his character. He is brave and loyal," he said.

Corrine and 49 other special children and young adults from the home were feted to the movie by Media Prima and the ministry.

The boys and girls, aged between

14 and 25, have different levels of disabilities ranging from down syndrome and hearing impairment to learning disability. They were assisted by 10 caretakers from the home.

The other guests were Dr Wan Azizah's husband Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Media Prima Primeworks Studios chief executive officer Ahmad Izhom Omar and Media Prima Group chairman Datuk Syed Hussian Aljunied.