

**Rais Feels Anwar's Reputation May Have Been Tarnished**  
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CYBERJAYA, Jan 16 (Bernama) -- Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said he tends to agree with the opinion of an international magazine that Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's reputation has been tarnished despite his recent acquittal on a sodomy charge.

With such a view, the international worth of Anwar would surely shift from the perceived positive to the negative, he said when commenting on an article in the weekly "The Economist".

In an article following the acquittal and discharge of Anwar on a charge of sodomising his former personal aide by the Kuala Lumpur High Court on Jan 9, The Economist had said that although Anwar "remains a charismatic figure and a forceful speaker, his reputation has been tarnished".

The article had also said that this "won't matter to Anwar acolytes, but at 64 he also seems a distant and untrustworthy figure to many younger Malaysians".

Dr Rais said such a statement was important because economists follow and monitor the movements of Anwar.

Anwar cannot disregard such a negative view easily as it will reflect the determination of his political future, he said.

Earlier, Dr Rais presented the RM9.7 million advance of the RM15 million grant in creative industry development funds to 19 eligible animation companies and local suppliers to produce high quality works of international standing.

He said the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Communication (MCMC), through the funding, has provided opportunities to local companies to upgrade their infrastructure, technology and software as well as the expertise of talented individuals in animation production and content for dramas, cartoon series and documentaries.

Dr Rais called for active participation in the creative industry in view of the sector's contribution of almost RM3.5 billion annually.

Local companies should also produce dramas, cartoons, animation, advertisements and documentaries of a better quality and be geared towards venturing into the international market, he said.

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