

**RTM, TVRI To Jointly Produce TV Programme
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From Mohd Yusof Saari**

MANADO (Indonesia), Feb 8 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Indonesia has reached a verbal agreement to jointly produce a television show involving broadcasting stations of the two countries beginning March.

Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said the agreement reached with Indonesian Information Minister Tifatul Sembiring was aimed at enhancing cultural understanding and ties between the two countries.

He said the programme, which would be produced by RTM and TVRI, would promote understanding and cultures of the two countries just like the 'Titian Budaya' and 'Titian Muhibbah' programmes several years ago.

"The Indonesian information minister has also agreed that RTM-TVRI jointly produce a television programme on Malaysia-Indonesia ties comprising culture, language and education to be aired at least once a month.

"We feel it is time to revive the Titian Budaya and Titian Muhibbah programmes for they can bolster efforts by Yayasan Ikatan Rakyat Malaysia Indonesia (YIRMI) and Ikatan Setiakawan Wartawan Malaysia-Indonesia (Iswami) in enhancing ties between the two countries," Rais told Malaysian journalists after meeting his counterpart here Friday.

He said although the government-to-government relationship between the two countries was strong, relations between the peoples could enter a new era through television broadcast.

Rais said a working group comprising ministry officials, including Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama) special issue editor Mohd Nasir Yusoff, would be sent to Jakarta to discuss the production of the programme.

"We leave it to the professionals to determine the content of the programme and the ministry will give its full support to ensure that the show can go on air in March, but it depend on Jakarta's readiness," he said.

In another development, he said 'Konsert Nusantara', a cultural performance featuring cultural troupes from both countries, would be held in Kuala Lumpur on March 9.

"Indonesian nationals living in Malaysia will also be invited to put up a performance to reflect how both cultures thrive in the two countries," he added.

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