

**No action against cinema operators who screen Tanda Putera in Penang, says Guan Eng**

**Malaysian Insider**

**Aug 30 , 2013**

**BY JENNIFER GOMEZ**

Despite the fact that the movie Tanda Putera is full of lies and it demonises minority groups, no action will be taken against the screening of the movie in the state, said Penang chief minister Lim Guan Eng (pic).

This, he said, was in line with upholding the freedom of expression.

He added, however, that those aligned with the Barisan Nasional government had taken the opposite approach, by threatening to close down cinema operators and taking legal action if the movie is not screened.

Lim explained in a statement that the reason his state government had issued an advisory against the screening of the movie in Penang was because the film has crossed a red line when it used public funds to propagate lies that promote hatred instead of harmony between the various races in Malaysia.

"Freedom of expression does not give the freedom to lie.

"And as a matter of historical record, the state government has a moral duty to adopt a clear and unambiguous stand to oppose any attempt to rewrite history that is grossly inconsistent with actual events and facts," Lim added.

He further noted that following threats from the federal government, cinema operators in Penang will soon be screening Tanda Putera.

"The Penang government assures that no action will be taken when the movie is screened here, but it is hoped that all parties, including both cinemagoers and movie operators can see through the lies and hatred embedded in the film," he cautioned.

Lim reiterated that the sponsorship of the movie's RM4.8 million production cost by the federal government can only be seen as a full official endorsement, including of the fictitious scenes which the director admits are untrue but has explained it as being "creative license".

"Creative license does not give anyone the license to spread lies that may cause racial disharmony and conflicts. Clearly BN is stooping low to brainwash Malaysians into accepting lies and rejecting the truth," Lim said.

He also drew parallel to the recent controversy over an artwork, where Lim said "the police were used to remove artwork in Kuala Lumpur".

The chief minister was referring to a painting by artist Anurendra Jegadeva, which some alleged had insulted Islam.

Yesterday, the police confiscated the artwork being displayed at an exhibition at Publika in Solaris Dutamas, which is part of a nationwide art festival held in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Malaysia Day.

It is organised by Balai Seni Visual Negara under the Tourism and Culture Ministry with more than 40 art galleries nationwide participating.

The purpose of the exhibition is to create awareness about Malaysia Day.

Anurendra has since clarified that the artwork was actually a reference to the beginning of the war waged by The United States against Iraq in 2002 and the horrific repercussions on the Iraqi people since then.

Lim said: "This is the difference between Kuala Lumpur and Penang, where even those in Penang that differ with the state government's stand can still display their presentations undisturbed. It is for this reason that Penang is slowly becoming the art capital of Malaysia because artists enjoy freedom of expression."

The movie, Tanda Putera, directed by Datin Paduka Shuhaimi Baba, has received negative press with scenes and dialogue that are said to be racially sensitive.

Shuhaimi has insisted that the film is an interpretation of historical events derived from multiple opinions and were fictional accounts of events surrounding the racial riots on May 13, 1969.

It opened for screening in cinemas nationwide yesterday. - August 30, 2013.

Hakcipta © 2013 The Malaysian Insider

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/no-action-against-cinema-operators-who-screen-tanda-putera-in-penang-says-g>