

## **Plans Afoot to Boost Entertainment Industry to Offset GST – Deputy Minister**

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 16 (Bernama) -- The Communication and Multimedia Ministry is looking into ways to help boost the entertainment industry to brace for the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) next year, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Its deputy minister, Datuk Jailani Johari said the ministry and the Housing and Local Government Ministry would study the need for local authorities to impose affordable entertainment tax rates to accommodate the GST implementation.

In the entertainment industry, for instance, movie ticket prices may go up a little but good movies will continue to draw big crowd, he said when replying to a question from Dr Siti Mariah Mahmud (PAS-Kota Raja).

The GST will be introduced in April 2015 at the rate of six per cent to replace the Sales and Service Tax at 16 per cent.

On Mariah's question whether the government enforces a policy to ensure that filmmakers adhere to the spirit of Rukun Negara, Jailani said the government emphasised that movie and telemovie producers impart noble and educational values, and civic consciousness to the audience in line with Rukun Negara.

He cited a local Cantonese movie entitled 'The Journey', produced at the cost of RM3 million and netted RM17.28 million, the highest grossed local film to date, as having local values that could be emulated by filmmakers.

On the Film in Malaysia Incentive introduced by the National Film Development Corporation Malaysia (Finas), which provides a 30 per cent rebate on audited in-country spend for both local and foreign productions, he said it had so far this year registered a revenue of RM133 million.

He said last year, Radio dan Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) recorded a revenue of RM46.97 million from television commercials, sale of programmes (RM854,840) and footages (RM46,840).

Jailani said RTM also provided opportunities to 366 local companies to produce creative works valued at RM160.3 million.

"Between 2012 and 2013, local companies and government agencies produced creative works abroad valued at RM547 million and RM564.9 million respectively against the target of RM600 million each this year," he said.

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