

**Ahmad Zahid Wants Artistes' Associations To Take Care Of Artistes' Welfare**  
**Bernama**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 15 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi wants associations, foundations and cooperatives to be responsible for the welfare of artistes.

He said all artistes associations should not practice self-interest and instead strive to help artistes in need.

"I will strive for an aid of RM1 million ringgit to be allocated to Koperasi Seniman Kuala Lumpur Berhad on the condition that it should be used to help artistes in need.

"If I find out there is an artiste whose welfare is not taken care of, I am willing to be a 'buruk siku' and take back the allocation," he said in jest during the 'Malam Gegar Anak Seni' (Gasseni) event, here tonight.

Also present were Ahmad Zahid's wife, Datin Seri Hamida Khamis and Gasseni Project chairman, Datuk Malek Radzuan Saharin.

Ahmad Zahid, who is also the Home Minister, launched the Koperasi Seniman Kuala Lumpur Berhad during the ceremony as well.

In his speech, he reminded these associations not to politicise their movements, particularly for personal motives.

He said that although its members might have differences of opinion it should be done in an orderly manner and in accordance with moral conduct.

"I call upon all artistes to persevere in their field, so that whatever is done is not just for the artistic value but also as a form of worship," he said.

The inaugural event saw the gathering of many local artistes, including acclaimed director Datuk Yusof Haslam and singer, Datuk Khadijah Ibrahim.

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