



OUR STAR, OUR LEGEND ... Taib (left) attaches a star-shaped picture of the late P Ramlee to launch the Ramlee seminar as (from second left) Hadi, Bujang Nor and Dr Ahmad look on.

BP 6/10/03, Saturday PG 1 & 2.

UNIMAS

Works of P Ramlee must be preserved: Taib

By Tiong Sue Yii

KUCHING: Immediate action is necessary to preserve and promote the works of the late P Ramlee among the younger generation.

Chief Minister Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said it was sad to note that the youths today were so influenced by Western songs and culture that the songs and films of P Ramlee were almost forgotten.

"However, efforts by various quarters in organising P Ramlee song singing competitions and seminars should be commended as there is an emerging interest

among young people and children in appreciating his songs," he said when launching a seminar themed 'P Ramlee From a New Perspective'.

It was jointly organised by Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) and Petronas.

Taib said present artistes should let the works of P Ramlee set the standard for them to achieve and surpass.

"We must not be jealous of P Ramlee's achievements because he is no longer with us ... instead he should be a source of inspiration and motivation to them to improve the standard of the local industry.

"P Ramlee has his own identity as seen through his originality in composing songs

and writing his screenplay," he said.

Taib, who is also a P Ramlee fan, said the late artiste should be a source of inspiration for artistes because his works "are easily understood by the rakyat due to his lack of formal training where everything he created was from the heart."

He said the film 'Semerah Padi' was the best illustration of P Ramlee's desire for a new ideology that Malays should embrace where the hero should not only be brave but must also admit the truth and confess his mistakes.

Actor contributed a lot to Malay culture

"The man has given a lot of contributions to the development of the Malay culture and his work attracted even non-Malay audience.

"P Ramlee is a legend that never dies and lives on through his films and songs," he said. Taib later launched the seminar and the Sarawak Ruby Jubilee P Ramlee Songs Compilation Double CD Collection sung by local talents, including two songs by himself.

Also present were Unimas vice chancellor Prof Datuk Yusuf Hadi and Unimas Board of Directors chairman Tan Sri Datuk Amar Bujang Mohd Nor. A total of 260 participants from throughout Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore are attending the seminar.

Earlier, Unimas Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts Dean Associate Prof Dr Ahmad Khiri Mohd Zain said the faculty wished to play a more active role in educating, training and producing knowledgeable graduates who are specialised in film, music, drama and cinematography. He hoped these graduates would produce works that could equal the quality of P Ramlee's or on par with Hollywood and Bollywood films.

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