Standing for community and nation

The film highlights the major events in Sambanthan's life, says Bala.

Most of us KL-ites would be familiar with Jalan Tun Sambanthan in the suburb of Brickfields, just a few kilometres away from the heart of the capital Kuala Lumpur. The monorail station there is called Monorail Tun Sambanthan dedicated his life to the community wholeheartedly.

Tun V.T. Sambanthan was more than a politician. He was also a role model for his people, writes Faisal Asyraf

Standing for community and nation

Sambanthan (third from right) with other prominent figures, including, (from left) General Tun Ibrahim Ismail, DP Datuk Salleh Ismail, Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, Tun Dr. Ismail Abdul Rahman, and Tun Abdul Razak Hussein.

"We spent a lot of time on research including going back to India after their stint as labourers here. "But Sambanthan convinced them to continue contributing their talents and skills to this land."

"Malaysia has always had the spirit of Malaysia even in the old days. The strong bond between the different races is evident in this biopic."

"The challenges in filming this biopic," says Bala, "were not just a politician. He was a volunteer, coaxed into politics because he had spent so much time helping people. He even sold his own land for his people's sake."

"It was fitting having him play Sambanthan. The biopic definitely adds another milestone to his career."

Bala, who has 25 years of experience in stage directing, is optimistic that viewers will learn more about Sambanthan through this biopic. He says: "Sambanthan was not just a politician. He was a volunteer, coaxed into politics because he had spent so much time helping people. He even sold his own land for his people's sake."

Every Malaysian should watch this movie because only then will they learn about Sambanthan."

The film is mainly in Tamil, with English subtitles. It is funded by Finas and produced by Fenomena Seni Produksi.