

“Cahaya Dari Timur: Beta Maluku” – Australian Classification Requirements

Film Title – “Cahaya Dari Timur: Beta Maluku” (*The Light From The East: I Am Maluku*)

Director's Name –Angga Dwimas Sasongko

Producer's Name – Glenn Fredly, Angga Dwimas Sasongko

Duration – 151 minutes

Genre – Drama

Language – Indonesian with English subtitles



Classifiable Elements:

Elements	Examples that could be included:
Themes	Importance of resilience and working towards goals; triumph of those seeking peace over anger and violence
Violence	Low level ie civil unrest, news footage of rioting, squabbles amongst teenagers
Sex	Nil
Language	Ambonese and Indonesian with Indonesian and English sub-titles.
Drug Use	Nil
Nudity	Nil

This film contains classifiable elements approximately corresponding to PG classification.

Adequate synopsis

Cahaya Dari Timur: Beta Maluku is based on real events in the Indonesian province of Maluku during the 2000 conflict between Muslims and Christians. Sani Tawainella a motorbike taxi operator, wants to protect the children of his village from the current religious conflict by involving them in playing soccer. In these difficulties and having to choose between his family and his team, Sani is tasked with taking his team to the national championships representing the province of Maluku.

However, his decision to include boys from different religions in one team leads to dissension. Can Sani get through all this and deliver good news for Maluku?

Sequence of scenes

00:00:25 Scenes of a rainy soccer game are replaced by news reports in Indonesian and English of the civil disturbances in Ambon, capital of Maluku province.

00:03:05 Sani protects a young boy when the two of them are inadvertently caught between rival groups of rioters.

00:06:00 Rescued by the army, Sani and other displaced persons are taken to a safer area outside the city. Sani returns to his village. Further news reports detail the numbers of those killed and injured in the riots, including children.

00:11:30 At home, Sani and his wife discuss food shortages, their debts and the danger in looking for taxi work in the city. A marauding band of Christian rioters approaches the border of the village and men and boys join the defenders. There's lots of shouting and posturing.

00:14:30 In the village, Sani looks for safer work but all business has slowed or stopped because of the conflict. The village boys are impressed by Sani's soccer skills but he is too busy looking for work to play with them.

00:18:15 When the village alarm sounds again, attracting the boys, Sani calls them back with an offer to play soccer with them. As Sani explains to his friend Rafi, his efforts are much better applied to keeping the boys away from the riots than joining the rioting himself. It becomes apparent that Sani has a background as a soccer player.

00:22:40 Sani maintains his taxi job during the day but recruits new players and institutes a training program every afternoon. He is criticised for neglecting his village guard duties but the mother of one of the boys says, "There are those who guard the village and those who guard the children."

00:29:25 Training continues with Rafi enlisted as assistant coach. The song over the montage is titled *Sharing* and lauds the importance of resilience and working together.

00:30:11 Conflicts are starting to show between Sani's job and his soccer coaching. Soccer practice is eating into the time for earning money and the family is going hungry. He sometimes turns down jobs in order to get to practice and has also missed practice in order to finish a job. The family owes traders in the market for food.

00:34:00 Sani's wife prepares sago porridge for Sani and their daughter because the family can no longer afford rice. She worries about their indebtedness to stall owners in the market.

00:35:05 As the boys head to training, Rafi tells Sani that he can't make this afternoon's training session because his mother is ill. Sani will have to take it alone. Sani completes his final job of the day but is asked to make another delivery.

00:37:05 When the alarm sounds, Sani is anxious to ensure that the boys are safe and have been kept away from the rioting. There's no-one at the soccer field. Sani finds all the boys at Kasim's house where Kasim is lying wounded, his leg hit by a Molotov cocktail when they went to see the fighting. Rafi remonstrates with Sani, accusing him of being irresponsible and not valuing what he has in life. Rafi says that Sani's lack of discipline cost him a place in the PSSI Beretti (*Persatuan Sepak Bola Seluruh Indonesia*, the Indonesian National Soccer Team that played in Italy's Campionato Dante Beretti competition for under 19 players in 1995-1996)

00:40:05 In the following days, Sani gives Rafi's words much thought. The unrest is settling, the boys have moved to match practice and Sani gives Salemba a pep talk about working harder in school. Rafi asks why Sani hasn't entered the team in a competition yet and says if Sani doesn't do it, he, Rafi, will.

00:44:42 The boys are also under pressure regarding their dedication to soccer. Parents want them to work or study more rather than play, although there's talk that Salemba may be drafted due to his soccer talent.

00:45:49 Sani's wife Haspa urges him to find different work in order to get more money: the children need vaccinations and the older girl, Sabila, will soon be starting school. Sani's mother agrees that a change in work might be better for the family. Rafi reports that Bapak Raja, a village leader, wants to meet with them.

00:48:43 Salemba is late to practice because he has been working at the market in place of his mother who is ill. Sani gives him the money he needs to pay his school fees tomorrow on the proviso that he stops truanting. When he gets home, he doesn't have any money for the children's immunization. He suggests selling one of their goats but Haspa doesn't agree, saying that he cares more about other people's children than his own.

00:51:07 Jago's dad stops him sneaking out the window to go to soccer practice and wants Jago to help more in the boat-building business. Dad tells him to stop dreaming so much, to be realistic and to work more. Jago wants to be a professional soccer player.

00:52:40 At the meeting with Bapak Raja, Sani learns that the village is to be the host of a soccer competition, the Jon Mailoa Cup (Jonathan Pradana Mailoa, an Indonesian physicist and engineer was named Overall World Champion at the International Physics Olympiad in 2006.) and that Rafi has proposed forming a soccer team to be called Sons of Tulehu. Sani is excited and talks to Rafi about seeking a loan for uniforms and equipment but Rafi says he will finance the team from his fishing.

00:55:34 Song: *Tinggikan*. Montage of training on the beach.

00:57:09 Salembé's mother is called to the school because of his misbehaviour. She laments his lack of discipline, her widowhood and the difficulties of raising her only son.

01:02:12 The formation of the team SSB Tulehu Putra is front-page news in the local paper which lauds Rafi's role as team owner. Safi is angry, saying they both created the team but that Rafi has selfishly seized control. Rafi answers that Safi isn't capable of running a team because he has lots of dreams but never finishes anything.

01:04:21 Despondent, Sani tells Jago that he will no longer coach the team. He gives Jago a captain's armband and tells him to be a role model for the others.

01:09:25 Jago rounds up all the players and they visit Sani to urge him to continue as their coach. They say they can't win the Mailoa Cup without him. He explains that he and Rafi didn't create the team just to win, but to be happy and to have a good life. He needs to use his time to make money for the family.

01:13:00 Yosef, a teacher at the Passo Christian High School asks Sani to coach the school team for the Mailoa Cup. As he explains to his Principal, Yosef has his classroom teaching to focus on and Sani is an expert and passionate coach. The Principal worries that as a Muslim, Sani's presence in the school may upset parents, but Yosef hopes it will break down some barriers.

01:17:22 Sani begins coaching at Passo Christian High School, a paid position.

01:18:42 Song: *Nona Manis*. When the boys of SSB Tulehu Putra find out about SMA Passo's new coach, team cohesion disappears. Salembé and Alvin are so keen to be coached by Sani that they go off to find out how to change schools, even though it's a Christian school. Yosef points out that the competition is between clubs, not schools, so Salembé and Alvin join Passo.

01:24:57 Rafi meets with Sufyan, from Jakarta, who is organising provincial teams to compete in a national competition.

01:26:25 Match day for the Mailoa Cup. The boys of Tulehu Putra feel strange competing against their former teammates, Salembé and Alvin and coach Sani, but they win the cup.

01:29:58 The national competition for 15 year olds is announced. It will be held in Jakarta in three months. A team will be chosen to represent Maluku and Sani is to be the head coach and Rafi his assistant. Rafi protests because he was the coach of the winning team, but Sufyan cites Sani's technical skills and his ability to work with both Muslim and Christian players as reasons for his selection. Rafi declines any part in the new team.

01:32:32 Sani tells his wife about the new competition and the Maluku under-15 team which unfortunately has no money. She supports him to follow his goals and dreams in soccer.

01:34:12 The new team gets together but there is ill will between former adversaries, along religious and political lines. Salembé says his father was killed by the police in the civil unrest and two of the former Passo players are sons of police officers. He angrily quits the team. Sani tells Yosef that they must try even harder to build the team and get rid of the attitudes that caused the unrest.

01:37:28 Despite fund-raising and borrowing, money for the trip to Jakarta is still about 3 million rupiah short with only two days to go. Alvin's mother offers her jewellery to Sani to sell, hoping that success in the competition will bring better fortune to the province. Sani is touched by her selflessness in seeking a brighter future for her son and others.

01:39:30 Financial support for the team comes from all directions: a former teammate of Sani's, the Pastor of the Passo congregation and neighbours. Sani also sells the family's two goats to finance the trip, however he hasn't told his wife. He believes strongly that the trip will change the attitudes of the players.

01:44:45 Haspa is angry that Sani sold the goats. Sani tries to convince her that he's doing everything to make her proud but Haspa still feels that he has "forgotten his priorities". Does he ever ask what his children need, what Haspa needs?

01:46:03 Preparing to depart, the Christian boys receive blessings from the pastor, Salembé's mother gives him a parcel of his favourite foods, Jago receives new boots from his father and Alvin just wants to cuddle with his mother. The departure is rather solemn.

01:52:20 Playing the well-supported Jakarta team in the first game, coach Sani substitutes Saifyul even though he's a key player, because he loudly blamed Salembé for a play that allowed their opponents to score. When Jakarta scores again, Fingky punches one of the Jakarta players, receives a red card and Maluku loses the match. Recriminations, along the religious divide, fill the locker room after the game and escalate to a punch-up. Sani despairs, saying, "We can't hope for anything with a team like this."

01:58:08 Yosef is more optimistic than Sani. With two more games scheduled, he is certain that the team will be able to pull together. He urges Sani not to give up on what he has struggled so long for but Sani can only see that he has damaged his relationship with his family in pursuit of re-building his own self-confidence and feelings of worth. He determines to leave Jakarta and return to Maluku but a pep talk from Sufyan, who first broached the idea of a Maluku team, changes his mind.

02:03:18 Player attitudes in game two have not improved and the result is another loss. In the locker room Sani opens up about his dream to improve their lives and futures through soccer. He denounces rivalries based on war, anger, religion and village allegiances and reminds them that they are all sons of Maluku. The cry of "I am Maluku!" rings out.

02:07:52 Song (hip-hop) : Puritan. With a new purpose, the team and Sani go from strength to strength. The montage shows several games, lots of goal scoring and celebrations and headlines in national and local newspapers and TV. They make it to the finals of the Indonesia Cup.

02:11:17 Back in Tulehu, people gather in restaurants, churches and front yards to watch the final. In the first half the opposition score a goal from a penalty try. As a result, at half time, coach Sani must lift the team again with his words and passion.

02:17:58 Soon the scores are equal but just as time is called, the TV broadcast ends. Everywhere in the village people are making or receiving calls from friends and relatives at the game in Jakarta to follow the progress of the penalty shoot-out relayed to them by phone and loudspeaker systems in mosque, church and village square.

The film ends with updates on the lives and careers in soccer, of central characters.