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Don't settle for just any contestants!

Zainal Alam Kadir

ACCORDING to a participant in TV3's quiz show Nation Race, Perak's Menteri Besar is Tan Sri Rahim Tamby Chik, and not Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib.

Oh, did you know that singer Siti Nurhaliza comes from a district in Pahang? One contestant from Negri Sembilan, however, named the district as Kuala Pilah.

And how about this one? Dondang Sayang is very popular in Johor. Someone must have shifted the Peranakan and Baba to Muar just to make history a little more exciting.

These "revelations" cover different topics about Malaysia, from history, geography to others.

I really don't envy the host Shamsul Ghau Ghau. There are times you can actually catch his look of "dismay", which he usually quickly covers with some candid joke.

I must say that the host (previously one of the presenters on TV3's Muzik Muzik) is doing a good job. He seems confident and full of energy and best of all he is not intimidating. Keep it up!

The only little "grouse" I have is with the show's choice of contestants whom I'm sure had to go through an audition before being selected.

We do understand that no one is perfect.

If you ask me when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad first became the Prime Minister of Malaysia, I might be way off by a couple of years, or if asked when the Pangkor Treaty was signed, I might just give a sheepish smile.

But getting the name of the current Menteri Besar of Perak wrong is quite embarrassing, and instead naming someone from Malacca (who is no longer in office after a "landmark" case) is, well, a little bit unforgiving. Kuala Pilah in Pahang? Hmm...

I have to say though that TV3 did the right thing to produce Nation Race and to screen it at prime time, as the programme aims to introduce the country to us in a fun way.

Each segment would take you to different towns in Malaysia.

As a contestant, your starting point could be a certain town and to gain more marks, all you have to do is choose another "destination".

For instance, if you're in Kuala Lumpur and are quite confident of getting the correct answer, choose Kuching as your "next destination".

If you get it right, the distance between KL and Kuching would be taken as your points.

If not, members of the other team could snatch the marks from you (should they give the correct answer). Teamwork and corroboration is extremely important here.

But really, having not-so-knowledgeable contestants won't help the ratings at all.

So, to those who are involved in the choosing of contestants for this programme, please choose those who are knowledgeable and not those who only look nice in front of the camera.

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