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National Youth Skills Competition to be revamped

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Government wants to revamp the existing structure of the National Youth Skills Competition to make it a premier event which will be a showcase of the country's skilled talent.

Deputy Works Minister Mohamed Khaled Nordin said the ministry would do a comprehensive study on past competitions to find ways to increase private sector participation and make it more relevant to Malaysians on the whole.

"We want this competition to serve as a benchmark of quality of Malaysia's service and industrial sector, but this will not be possible without the involvement of all parties concerned, especially the private sector," he added.

He was speaking at a Press conference yesterday to announce the details of this year's competition, which will be held at the Sungai Buloh Complex of the Ex-Servicemen Association of Malaysia (Perhebat) from Aug 17 to 22.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will attend the closing ceremony on Aug 22, while Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu will open the competition on Aug 17.

This year's event will see the participation of 114 contestants in 22 different categories.

Khaled said at present participation by private institutions of skilled learning was rather dismal, with the majority of participants coming from government vocational training centres.

Khaled said to encourage a greater level of involvement by all parties concerned and to increase the overall quality of the competition, the ministry would propose that participating institutions hold preliminary level competitions and send only their finest talents to the national contest.

First held in 1989, the competition's objective is to upgrade the quality of skilled workers.

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