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150 entries received for Icom's patriotic songwriting competition

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The International College of Music has received a very good response from budding songwriters and talented youngsters who have submitted their entries for the Icom Millennium Patriotic Songwriting and Performance Competition 2001.

Icom vice-president (institutional development) Hanafie Imam said today the college had received 150 complete entries for the competition so far. The closing date to submit entries is June 15.

"A complete entry here means having a composed song (with lyrics) with singers. We have received entries containing only lyrics or melodies, but what we want here is a complete set; song and singers together."

The competition is aimed at instilling patriotism among the young ones. To participate, one must be between the ages of 15 and 25.

"We want to listen to fresh sounds. Something unique. We feel the young people have the talent and ability to deliver them," Hanafie said, adding that the songs could be of various musical genres.

Three hundred best entries will be given a chance to audition and the judges, comprising staff of Icom faculties, will then choose 12 to compete for the top three spots.

The finals of the competition will be held on Aug 25, tentatively at Istana Budaya and will be graced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We welcome more participation especially from schools. Should they win, the money could be channelled back to the school," said Hanafie.

Icom will award cash prizes totalling RM100,000 to the winners. The grand prize is RM50,000, the second prize RM20,000 and the third prize RM7,500. There will be nine consolation prizes of RM2,500 each.

"We urge those who are interested to submit their entries as soon as possible. Don't wait till the last minute," Hanafie said.

Those who want to participate can get the entry forms from Icom, or visit its website at www.icom.edu.my or call 03-40236000.

Each entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form, a photocopy of an identity card, a demo cassette or CD of the composition and music/lyrics sheet.

The competition encourages entries in any genre such as pop, reggae, hip-hop, nasyid and rock with lyrics in either Bahasa Malaysia or English.

However, the lyrics must contain the essence of each of the four basic tenets of Patriotisme Alaf Baru, which are: resilient and permanent love for Malaysia; spirit of togetherness (unity); pride in being a Malaysian; and, spirit of loyalty to the country.

The competition is fully supported by the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry, the Youth and Sports Ministry and the Education Ministry.

The New Straits Times is the official newspaper for the event.

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