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Songwriting contest entry forms must be complete

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Those sending entries for the International College of Music millennium patriotic songwriting and performance competition should ensure they are complete.

ICOM president and chief executive officer Irene Savaree said some of the entries received had to be rejected as they were incomplete.

"Some just sent the lyrics only while others forgot to sign it. How are we to judge them?" she said.

The competition, which ends on May 15, offers RM100,000 in cash awards to the winners, including a grand prize of RM50,000.

Savaree said entries must be filled in full and signed. A photocopy of the identity card, a demo audio cassette or compact disc containing one song only and a music sheet or typewritten lyric sheet should also be included.

She said contestants may enter as many songs as they want but each entry must be in a separate envelope complete with entry form and the required materials.

The lyrics, Irene said, should also not contain any political, religious or racial slants. "An entry with any of these will be disqualified, even if it sounds good," she added.

She said the music composition must be of medium to fast tempo and reflect a Malaysian identity.

"Singers and songwriters are encouraged to use or portray their ethnic background in the songs. This will add life to it."

Savaree said the lyrics must also contain the essence of each of the four basic tenets of the Patriotisme Alaf Baru campaign recently launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The tenets are resilient and permanent love for Malaysia, spirit of togetherness, pride in being a Malaysian and spirit of loyalty to the country.

She said songwriters should also choose the right singer for their songs.

"We can have two artistes singing the same song but the outcome could be very different. The singer gives the song emotions that makes a world of difference to the judges."

She urged songwriters to make the songs simple because too complex a song would be difficult to follow or sing along to.

Further details and entry forms are available at ICOM's website [www.icom.edu.my](http://www.icom.edu.my)

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