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26 to take part in Quran recital competition

BUTTERWORTH, Sat. - A total of 26 qari and qariah will take part in the 45th national-level Majlis Tilawah Al-Quran at the Dewan Millenium in Kepala Batas beginning Thursday.

The five-day competition to be held from Sept 19, will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at 8.45pm.

Penang Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas will officially close the ceremony on Sept 23.

A seminar will also be held at the Dewan Bertam Golf Resort in conjunction with the event.

Event committee chairman Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya said all 13 States had confirmed their participation except for Kelantan and Terengganu, which would only be represented by their qari.

He said last year's champion for the qari category would be taking part to defend his title.

Speaking at a Press conference at Sunway Hotel here last night, Dr Hilmi said attractive prizes awaits winners of the annual competition.

Dr Hilmi said winners for this year's qari and qariah category would receive RM10,000 each compared to RM6,000 in previous years.

Besides cash prizes, the winners will also receive a haj package, challenge trophy, a trophy, souvenir and certificate of participation. The second runners-up will each receive RM7,000, followed by RM5,000 for third placing and RM2,000 for consolation prizes.