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Puan Sri Dr Rohana Zubir receiving a souvenir from Universal Music South-East Asia vice-president Sandy Monteiro. With her is her daughter Yohanna Abdul Hamid.

Imagine singing *Pertame* instead of *Negaraku*

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KUALA LUMPUR: If things had gone differently, Malaysia's national anthem might have been *Kesatuan Melayu* or *Pertame* instead of *Negaraku*.

These were two of the three compositions that legendary composer Zuber Said submitted for the selection of the country's national anthem.

"He had been invited by the then director of the Information Service, Yaacob Latif to submit his compositions for

the national anthem of Malaya," said Zuber's daughter Puan Sri Dr Rohana Zubir.

"Naturally, my father felt honoured and he submitted three songs with some clear conditions — that he did not wish to be part of the competition, that he did not want any prize money should his song be selected and that no part of his songs' melody, style or lyrics could be changed without his permission," she said.