

THE STAR

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Great leaders make good speeches

PETALING JAYA: One of the qualities of a great leader is his skill in delivering speeches, said Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

"Napoleon Bonaparte could move his tired and injured army to keep fighting regardless of the pain," she said in her speech at the Malaysian Children's Speech Competition 2010 yesterday.

She said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak hoped that the competition would produce Malaysians who were highly capable in leadership as well as public speaking.

"He understands the importance of public speaking in spreading effective messages or gathering the support of the community to shift society's paradigm towards a dynamic

way of thinking," said Rosmah in her speech which was read by Yayasan Harapan Kanak-Kanak Malaysia (YHKM) media advisory board member Datuk Atiqah Adom.

Rosmah said multimedia presentations could be incorporated into traditional speech-giving methods for effectiveness.

Entering its sixth year, the competition was hosted by Universiti Putra Malaysia and organised by YHKM.

The winner of the Bahasa Malaysia category was Nurul Anis Amral, 12, who gave a speech about embracing independence in Malaysia.

Arathi Jeyaratnam, 12, from SK Marian Convent, Ipoh, was first in the English language category with her speech, "Our diversity, our strength".