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# Beauties of Sabah

By Anna Vivienne



**T**HE people of Sabah are beautiful. Now I am not only saying that because I am a native but because it is true.

Walk in any traditional market (tamu) and you will see beautiful girls from villages carrying bamboo made containers selling their wares.

There is however a beauty contest will be held soon. In fact the call for participants is already on. This beauty contest is officially dubbed 'Miss Sabah Tourism' and it is jointly organised by several bodies including the National Stroke Association of Malaysia (NASAM). The New Sabah Times is the Media partner.

Being Miss Tourism Sabah, we are hoping that the participants and inevitably the winner will be knowledgeable about Sabah and what tourism attractions there are in Sabah. She should not only be pretty, but knowledgeable especially about the cultural and traditional heritage of the people of Sabah. This is because the winner of the State level contest will represent Sabah nationally. One can't very well represent Sabah if one doesn't know much about the State.

This reminds me about an incident that occurred a few years ago. At that time I was fortunate enough to interview an individual who was going to represent Malaysia in an international

beauty pageant. When I asked her how she hopes to promote Sabah internationally, I was shocked and amused when she answered 'no comment.'

Anyway, a Miss Sabah/Malaysia/World beauty pageant is also being organised in aid of the SOS Heart fund and flood victims in Sabah.

The closing date for participation will be on March 30, where only 30 participants will be short listed. Of the 30, 15 will be selected to participate in the finals. The top three winners stands to win RM20,000 among them with the crowned queen getting RM10,000 with a return air ticket to Kuala Lumpur. The first and second winner will get RM6,500 and RM3,500 respectively. That's a lot of money. Subsidiary titles will also be given out which include Miss Talent, Miss Congeniality, Miss Photogenic, Best Sports Wear, Best Evening Gown and State Costumes.

The participants however should not validate the saying that beauty is skin deep.

They should proof that beneath the pretty veneer, is beauty which include compassion, empathy, caring, tolerance and understanding, among others.

So ladies out there join in the beauty pageant and have a go at the crown. Let's hope that such pageants will increase awareness among the international community on the beauty of Sabah, not only on the flora and fauna but also its people as well.



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