

30 local beauties to compete in Miss and Mrs Tourism of the Universe pageant

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KOTA KINABALU: Thirty of our local beauties will be facing off for a chance to represent the country in Myanmar for the Miss and Mrs Tourism Queen of the Universe (MMTQ) beauty pageant happening this December.

Last year, Sabah was gracefully put on the map by the pageant's first queen and ambassador, Ida Natasha, who is now seeking a successor.

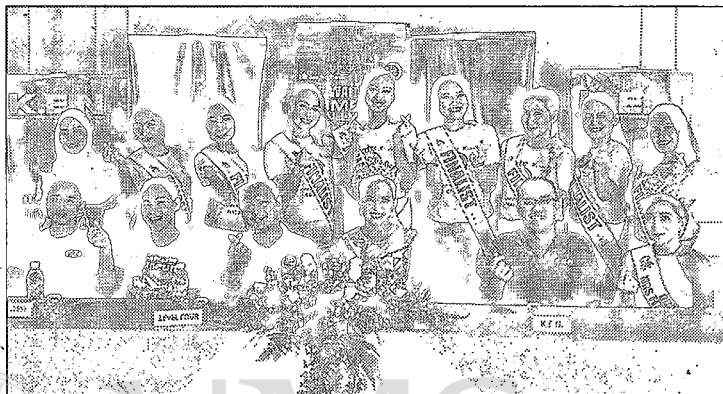
Her triumph over stunners like herself from all over Southeast Asia allowed the state to host the competition this year.

The objective according to Manager of Ida Natasha Entertainment Network, Saiful Maun, was to give a platform for the talents aged between 18 to 45 years a taste of the world of pageantry.

"They are only being charged an entry fee of RM150 but the opportunity and experience they would learn is priceless.

Crucial elements in any beauty pageant he said is how you present yourself in front of an audience, choosing the appropriate make-up (light or heavy), and the correct strut for the catwalk.

"Practical and technical aspects of these criteria will be taught in classes at the Kimora Entertainment Network (KEN) studio in Inanam which is a distinguished name in the local pageantry



Ida (seated middle) with fellow organisers and contestants standing behind them while doing the Korean heart gesture.

scene," he told a press conference.

The national level of the MMTQ finals will be held at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) on 20th October. The rules were made so that contestants will be donning national and ethnic costumes only.

The learning facility through its subsidiary UiNVEST is an organiser for the event and the talents would be partaking in two-day study tours around the campus next month.

This is to ensure the beauties would not be lacking in brains when met with nerve-racking questions pertaining nature on the international stage.

"UMS is one of the most beautiful campuses out here in South-east Asia architecturally and land-

scape wise.

"And because the main theme is tourism, it is only fitting that we collaborate with UiNVEST given their eco-campus tourism activities," Saiful added.

The talents would be thought on how to promote Sabah as a tourism destination through videos and photoshoots.

Ida Natasha meanwhile said they would be looking for four ladies, two from each of the categories of Miss and Mrs.

"In order to win, you must be ready to sacrifice your time to pursue your goals, all the while believing in yourself.

"Confidence is key and so is mental resilience," she said when asked for tips on how she had attained victory during the pageant's inaugural event.