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Big and beautiful

Home tutor takes Jumbo Queen 2013 crown

Dateline: Kuala Lumpur

HAZRA Ghazali may be 94kg but that didn't stop the 28-year-old home tutor from proving herself by beating nine other plus-sized women to be crowned Jumbo Queen 2013 recently.

The pageant was divided into three categories, starting with the self-introduction round where the contestants modelled casual wear, followed by a showcase of talent and finally, the evening wear round.

The women were judged on their stage personality, confidence, overall impression and crowd response by five judges — Sungei Wang Plaza marketing communications senior manager KK Lim, Magnum 4D Bhd marketing senior manager Suzanne Soo, Mrs Globe Malaysia 2013 Somaya Ong, Broadway Academy Asia managing director, music director and choreographer Casey Koh and MIX FM radio announcer Adila Shakir, who is also known as Dilly.

First held in 2010, the pageant was inspired by Thailand's Jumbo Queen Pageant.

Sungei Wang Plaza is the only shopping mall in Malaysia that organises such a pageant, which is open to single or married women who weigh no less than 80kg.

During the final, family, friends and acquaintances of the contestants packed the concourse area to lend support.

The atmosphere was lively as supporters displayed banners bearing the names and pictures of their favourite contestant while cheering them on.

To spice up the event, contestants of the Jumbo Queen pageants in 2011 and 2012 performed a dance with Karina Abdullah (Jumbo

Queen 2010), Moon Yong (Jumbo Queen 2011) and Honey Aisha, (Jumbo Queen 2012) making special appearances.

Hazra, who was among the crowd favourite, astounded the audience with her energetic dance performance to the Beyonce hit *All the Single Ladies*.

She was accompanied by two male dancers.

Hazra, who is a student of the National Art Culture and Heritage Academy (Aswara), also won the subsidiary title of 'Most Popular'.

"This pageant truly boosts my self-confidence," she said.

Hazra received RM5,500 and prizes worth RM5,600.

The first runner-up was Sabrina Jane Anthony, 35, a senior quality analyst who weighed 86kg.

Sabrina, who won the 'Most Talented' award, received RM3,500 and prizes worth RM2,300.

The second runner-up was account manager Rachel Tan, 27.

Weighing 85kg, she took home RM2,000 and prizes worth RM900.

"The contest provides a platform for plus-size women to be in the limelight and express their individuality while battling it out on equal grounds for the crown.

"This year's Jumbo Queen received overwhelming response from contestants nationwide, especially Sabah, Perak, Johor, Kedah, Penang and Malacca.

"I hope that the pageant will continue to inspire other plus-size women out there to be confident," said Lim.

Jumbo Queen 2013 is presented by Magnum and sponsored by A-Look Eyewear.

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Energetic performance:
Sabrina wowing the crowd with a dance performance.