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Hazra tops for plus-size

Jumbo Queen 2013 winner says pageant teaches her to be herself

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BEING 94kg did not stop home tutor Hazra Ghazali from proving herself as she was crowned "Jumbo Queen 2013", beating nine other plus-sized ladies at Sungei Wang Plaza last Sunday.

Newly-crowned Hazra, 28, walked away with RM5,500 cash and prizes worth RM5,600. Her energetic dance performance to the tune of *All the Single Ladies* by Beyonce astounded the crowd. She also won "Most Popular".

Hazra, a student of the National Art Culture and Heritage Academy (Aswara), described her achievement as a gift from God.

"I am the only one who has this 'limited edition size' in the family as I love savouring my mother's home-cooked food all the time," she said.

"This pageant truly boosts my self-confidence and has taught me to be myself. I am no longer feeling down as I now have the crown."

Runner-up went to 35-year-old Sabrina Jane Anthony, a senior quality analyst who weighed 86kg. She also won the "Most Talented" award and received RM3,500 cash and prizes worth RM2,300. Third place went to 27-year-old Rachel Tan, an account manager who weighed 85kg. She received RM2,000 Cash and prizes worth RM900.

Throng of supporters comprising family, friends and acquaintances of the contestants packed the concourse area with huge banners that bore their names and pictures.

The Jumbo Queen 2013 pageant was divided into three rounds. It started with the ladies modelling casual wear as well as a self-introductory session to the crowd, followed by a talent-showcase and

finally the finale with their evening wear.

Previous Jumbo Queen contestants of 2011 and 2012 — Moon Yong and Honey Aisha — did a special dance performance alongside with the special appearance of Karina Abdullah (Jumbo Queen 2010).

The 10 contestants were judged based on their stage personality, confidence, overall impression and crowd response. The judges were Sungai Wang Plaza senior marketing communications manager Lim Kok Kheng, Magnum 4D senior marketing manager Suzanne Soo, Mrs Globe Malaysia 2013 Somaya Ong, Broadway Academy Asia managing director and choreographer Casey Koh and

MIX FM radio announcer Adila Shakir.

Since 2010, the pageant — which was initially inspired by Thailand's Jumbo Queen Pageant — is opened to all single and married ladies who weigh not less than 80kg.

"Jumbo Queen 2013 provides a platform for plus-size women to express their individuality, and be in the limelight to battle it on equal grounds for the crown," Lim said.

"This year's pageant received overwhelming entries from contestants nationwide such as Sabah, Perak, Johor, Kedah, Penang and Malacca. I hope this pageant will continue to inspire other plus-sized ladies out there to be confident."



PLUS-SIZED BEAUTIES:
(From left) Tan, Hazra and Anthony