

DPM: Discard 'jaguh kampung' thinking and go far

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysians must break out of their *jaguh kampung* (village champion) mindset and become world beaters to forge ahead, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

He said Malaysians, including athletes, have proven to be world contenders and leaders in their chosen fields.

"The *jaguh kampung* mindset is outdated," he said before launching the World Skills Competition (WSC) Abu Dhabi 2017.

"We must now think global in whatever we undertake. Being trapped in a cocoon is digression rather than progression and if we continue to do that, we'll be left behind," he added.

WSC, held every two years and coordinated by the Human Resources and Works ministries, is a competition where participants compete with their peers worldwide in mechatronics, aircraft maintenance and information net-



work cabling categories.

The competition is open to those age 25 and below.

In the 2016 Asian Skills

Competition, Malaysia clinched 24 gold, four silver, five bronze and an additional six medallions for excellence.

If you have it, flaunt it:

Dr Ahmad Zahid encouraging the show of skills with Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri Richard Riot (second from left) at the launch of the World Skills Competition at PWTC. Looking on are Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof (second from right) and Deputy Works Minister Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin (right).

Dr Ahmad Zahid said he was confident Malaysia would at least win five medals in Abu Dhabi.

The competition will be held

from Oct 14 to 19.

As an incentive, Dr Ahmad Zahid said the Government would give RM100,000 on top of the RM40,000 offered to gold medal winners.

"In this way, Malaysian participants will increase their efforts on the world stage."

Malaysia is sending 21 participants, comprising students from private and public skills training institutes and also from public and private institutions of higher learning.

Besides the reward for gold medal winners, the Government will give away RM20,000 for silver medallists, RM10,000 (bronze), RM4,000 (medallion for excellence) and RM4,000 (Best Nation) categories.

The WSC 2017 is the 13th edition since it was mooted in 1993.

In the championship at Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 2015, Malaysia clinched 15 medallions for excellence and a bronze in the hairdressing category.