

'NONG NAMTAN' WINS GOVERNMENT'S HEART



SPARKLING BEAUTY: Miss Thailand Universe Chalita Suansane shows off the Jewel of Thailand national costume at the 65th Miss Universe pageant in the Philippines.

» A deputy government spokesman has urged Thai people to vote for Chalita "Nong Namtan" Suansane as a way to support her being crowned Miss Universe 2016.

Deputy government spokesman Wera-chon Sukhondhapatipak posted his comments on Facebook, calling on the public to support and vote for Ms Chalita, who is representing Thailand at the 65th Miss Universe pageant.

Lt Gen Werachon said voting is open until today. The announcement of the winner of the final round will be at 7am tomorrow (Thai time). This year's competition is being held in Manila.

"Thai people, please help vote for her. She is very beautiful. We are one of the superpowers of social media," he wrote.

People can vote via four channels: Vodi and Miss U applications, Miss Universe's website, vote.missuniverse.com, and Twitter using hashtags #MissUniverse and #Thailand.

Ms Chalita has gained huge popularity on social media, with many people believing she could become the country's third Miss Universe winner after Apasra Hongsakula in 1965 and Pomtip Nakhirunkanok in 1988.

A clip featuring Ms Chalita introducing herself, released on the social network by the organiser of the contest earlier, had also received one million views as of yesterday.

Of the 86 candidates representing countries across the world, 12 will be selected to enter the second round. After that, nine

of the 12 candidates in the swimsuit category will be chosen to enter the third round, which requires them to walk in evening gowns.

Of the nine candidates, six will be selected for the fourth round. The judging panel's decision and votes from audiences worldwide will be considered in the judgement of all four rounds.

Of the six candidates who will be required to answer questions posed by the contest organiser, three will be selected to enter the final walk. The winner will be announced by the judging panel.

On Thursday, Ms Chalita entered the preliminary round. Her walk on the stage was admired by several beauty pageant gurus, who said her deportment was excellent despite the fact she had no experience in international beauty pageants.

Earlier, Ms Chalita was also crowned Miss Universe Thailand 2016. She is now studying at Mahasarakham University's faculty of science.

Meanwhile, Natalie Glebova, who won Miss Universe 2005 in Thailand, also posted a message on her Facebook page expressing her excitement about the international pageant.

"Watched the prelims and here is my gown and swimsuit from 2005! The winners of my heart were Thailand, Indonesia and Venezuela. I previously overlooked China, Dominican Rep, Ukraine and Jamaica who also grabbed my attention. So excited to see who wins," she wrote.