



Embargoed Release

9.30pm, Saturday, 4 September 2021

BULAN BAHASA 2021 RETURNS ON-AIR AND ONLINE TO CELEBRATE THE MALAY LANGUAGE

4 September 2021 – Bulan Bahasa (Malay Language Month) 2021 was officially launched via a special programme telecast on Mediacorp Suria this evening. ‘Pelancaran Bulan Bahasa 2021’ featured Minister for Education Chan Chun Sing as Guest-of-Honour and a variety of studio presentations and performances by Duta Bahasa (Language Ambassadors) including Ramli Sarip, Hyrul Anuar, Marina Yusoff, Rakan Bahasa (Friends of the Language), community partners, and more.

The Bulan Bahasa launch programme was first presented as a television programme in 2020 to ensure that the community remained safe while being involved in the annual Bulan Bahasa celebration and festivities. This year, the televised launch programme assembled different segments with partners such as Elements Pictures and Tampines West Community Centre’s Malay Activity Executive Committee (MAEC). ‘Pelancaran Bulan Bahasa 2021’ also featured select members of the public, and more faces and voices from the community. The virtual choir, presented at the end of the programme, also highlighted the community’s excitement and support for the 2021 rendition of the Bulan Bahasa song, *Bahasa Menjunjung Budaya*.

A Night to Celebrate ‘Cita, Citra, Cinta’

During the programme, Minister for Education Mr Chan Chun Sing spoke to A/P Dr Faishal Ibrahim, Chairman of the Malay Language Council, Singapore, and Mdm Rahayu Mahzam, Chairman of the Bulan Bahasa Committee, on the importance of a whole-of-community effort in promoting the learning of our mother tongue languages. He encouraged new learners of the Malay language to embrace learning and continue practising.

For the full transcript of Mr Chan’s remarks, please refer to **Annex A**.

Mdm Rahayu thanked all partners, sponsors and donors for their continued support of Bulan Bahasa 2021. Mdm Rahayu says, “Although 2020 and 2021 are unusual years, we can still sense a lot of excitement from our partners. They have persevered and embraced the steep



learning curve and have adapted well to using online platforms to present Malay language programmes.”

Dr Faishal Ibrahim and Mdm Rahayu also addressed the latest findings of the Census 2020, released in June 2021. “In our current situation, we acknowledge that families may be using more English at home. However, this does not mean that the use of the Malay language is languishing. Many Malay families are effectively bilingual and do continue to use the Malay language at home, and we hope to strengthen this in future. With the help of our community partners, we will continue to work towards a community that continues to see the value of the Malay language as part of their daily lives,” said Mdm Rahayu.

Bulan Bahasa 2021 - Malay Language Month Returns Online

To safeguard the wellbeing of the community and partners, Bulan Bahasa returns as an online festival in 2021. Partners will present a variety of virtual events, and digital programmes and activities for all in the community to enjoy. The calendar of events will highlight the theme ‘Cita. Citra. Cinta. Bahasa Kita’, and will run from 14 August to 10 October 2021.

For the latest calendar of Bulan Bahasa 2021 programmes, please refer to **Annex B**. For updates, please visit the Majlis Bahasa Melayu Singapura website at: <https://mbms.sg>, or follow MBMS social media platforms at [facebook.com/majlisbahasa](https://www.facebook.com/majlisbahasa) or @BulanBahasa on Instagram.

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About Bulan Bahasa by Majlis Bahasa Melayu Singapura

Bulan Bahasa (Malay Language Month) was first launched as a biennial event in 1988 by Majlis Bahasa Melayu Singapura (MBMS or the Malay Language Council, Singapore). Since 2011, it has become an annual celebration that continues to attract community interest, participation and support.

As a signature initiative of the MBMS, Bulan Bahasa is focused on encouraging the community to embrace and use the Malay language in their daily lives. It also aims to instil a deeper appreciation for the Malay culture, and promote the preservation of the community's rich heritage.

For more information about MBMS and Bulan Bahasa, please visit mbms.sg, [@bulanbahasa](https://www.instagram.com/bulanbahasa) on Instagram and [facebook.com/majlisbahasa](https://www.facebook.com/majlisbahasa).

Theme of Bulan Bahasa

'Cita. Citra. Cinta. Bahasa Kita.' reflects the dynamism of the Malay language as we move towards a new era. 'Cita' encapsulates the aspiration of the community to maintain the relevance of the Malay language. 'Citra' underscores the diversity in the usage and adaptation of the language. It also represents the potential of the Malay language as a window to knowledge and a means of communication. 'Cinta' emphasises the need to cultivate the love and appreciation towards the Malay language.



ANNEX A

**TRANSCRIPT OF REMARKS BY MR CHAN CHUN SING, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION,
FOR THE LAUNCH OF BULAN BAHASA ON MEDIACORP SURIA
ON SATURDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Sebenarnya saya cuba belajar bahasa Melayu dua kali di Singapura dulu. Ketika itu, saya bersama SAF dan saya perlu berinteraksi dengan pegawai tentera Indonesia atau TNI AD. Tetapi saya dapati sukar sekali kerana tidak ada suasana untuk saya berlatih dengan teman-teman saya. Akhirnya, saya terpaksa belajar bahasa Indonesia bila saya ditugaskan sebagai Atase Tentera. Saya minta maaf jika bahasa Melayu saya bunyinya seperti bahasa Indonesia.

Saya tidak begitu berbakat belajar bahasa. Jadi, untuk saya, susah sekali. Jadi, saya menggalakkan anda supaya jangan takut untuk mencuba. Jika kita ingin belajar sesuatu bahasa yang baru, kita mesti banyak berlatih menggunakan. Mungkin susah pada mulanya, tetapi akan menjadi mudah jika sering berlatih, seperti peribahasa, alah bisa tegal biasa.

Saya ucapkan terima kasih kepada Faishal dan Rahayu, Majlis Bahasa Melayu Singapura, dan rakan kerjasama termasuk MLLPC, LKYFB dan NTC kerana mengundang saya ke pelancaran Bulan Bahasa 2021. Untuk menggalakkan penggunaan bahasa ibunda, kita perlukan usaha sama seluruh masyarakat, dan saya harap kita akan terus bersemangat menghidupkan pembelajaran bahasa-bahasa ini.

Indah budi kerana bahasa,

Eloknya pekerti menjunjung budaya,

Selesai sudah saya berbicara,

Kini saya rasmikan Bulan Bahasa.



ANNEX B

DETAILS OF PARTNER PROGRAMMES

For immediate information only.

List of partners and programmes for Bulan Bahasa are correct at time of compilation. Please refer to www.facebook.com/majlisbahasa or @bulanbahasa on Instagram for latest updates.

Programmes may be subject to change.

Partners Listing:

1. A'Arts Repertoire Theatre (Awal'iyah Ja'far)
2. ACE The Place CC MAEC
3. Angkatan Sasterawan '50
4. Ayer Rajah CC MAEC
5. Bayang Troupe
6. Ci Yuan CC MAEC
7. Clementi CC MAEC
8. Elements Pictures
9. Eunost CC MAEC
10. Funplay Workshop
11. Ilham Child Care
12. Jurong Spring CC MAEC
13. Keat Hong CC MAEC
14. Malay Heritage Foundation (MHF)
15. Marsiling CC MAEC
16. National Library Board (NLB)
17. Nee Soon Link CC MAEC
18. NTU Perbayu
19. Nusantara World Music
20. Panggung Digital
21. Perguruan Seni Silat Gayong Singapura (PSSGS)
22. Perkumpulan Seni
23. PPIS Child Development Centre
24. Tampines West CC MAEC
25. Wisma Geylang Serai



A'art

Pentas Radio

Pentas Radio, also known as radio drama, is a storytelling technique that is dramatized and produced entirely in audio format. Without a visual accompaniment, radio drama relies on dialogue, music and sound effects to engage the listener in the performance. Participants of the *Pentas Radio* workshop will learn more about the production of radio dramas, and how to execute and perform a radio play.

For more details, please contact admin@aartsg.com or visit @Aart_sg on Instagram.

AWAL'LIYAH ARTS REPERTOIRE THEATRE (A'ARTSG)

Awal'iyah Arts Repertoire Theatre (A'artsg) was set up in 2019 by Awal'iyah Ja'afar to produce shows for children that challenge, motivate and inspire. A visit to the theatre can have a long-lasting impact, stimulating exciting and meaningful experiences. In addition, the group seeks to incorporate interactive audience engagement to immerse children in the theatre scene and spark their interests in the field of theatrical arts.



Wacana Sastera 2021

Wacana Sastera 2021 is a forum discussion organised by Angkatan Sasterawan '50, or better known as Asas '50. The programme, held in conjunction with Bulan Bahasa 2021, aims to nurture the love for Malay language Literature and to guide participants on how to begin writing a novel.

For more information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/asas50>.

ANGKATAN SASTERAWAN '50

Better known as Asas `50, Angkatan Sasterawan '50 was instrumental in introducing modern Malay literature in the region. Its name is synonymous with the struggle of independence and awakening of the people from the clutches of poverty. After the separation of Singapore from Malaysia, Asas `50 was very determined to prove that Malay language and literature could stand the test of trying times. It has been active in organising talks, workshops, seminars and writing competitions, and actively participates in the Malay Literary Awards and the Malay Language Month. Asas`50 is also recognized as the first Malay literary body in the region to hold the Regional Malay Literati Conference (Pertemuan Sasterawan Nusantara) in 1977. The last conference was held in 2003.



Contemporary Shadow Puppetry Workshop: An Online Workshop

Participate in this shadow puppetry workshop as a family and learn to create stories in Malay, using contemporary shadow puppets. Participants would be given the opportunity to stage their shadow puppet performances which would have to incorporate the theme, “Cita, Citra, Cinta.”

Language and Story in Shadow: Shadow Performance

Catch special performances by Bayang Troupe online, featuring two local folk tales: Singapura Dilanggar Todak, and Sang Nila Utama. This interactive performance will require audiences to participate through questions and activities led by the storyteller!

For more details, please visit www.facebook.com/bayangtroupe.

BAYANG TROUPE

Bayang Troupe is a team of passionate arts practitioners with more than 10 years of experience. Their collective talents create an atmosphere for collaboration and progressive training for our youths.

Bayang Troupe is a professional drama workshop and performing group/company that is founded with a mission to train, guide and entertain the youths and the general public with the use and creation of puppetry and its arts form.

It also the first shadow puppetry group in Singapore to focus on shadow, puppetry and other art forms.



Kreatif Peribahasa

Kreatif Peribahasa is a workshop that challenges participants to present their understanding of common Malay idioms through painting, writing and acting. Before they begin to create their various pieces, the participants will go through basic speech and drama exercises.

Kreatif Bahasa Bersama...

Participants will be taken on a “food shopping trip to a supermarket to prepare for a birthday party” which will require them to “shop” for ingredients that they need to make for an occasion. This experience will provide a refreshing approach by utilizing participants’ senses of visualization, listening skills and expressions (speech and painting) through activities that are related to food.

It will be a fun activity for parents and children to share their “food experience” together as they communicate their understanding through different platforms of expressions.

For more details, please visit www.facebook.com/elementspictures.sg.

ELEMENTS PICTURES

Elements Pictures has produced a body of work that embraces numerous art forms: paintings, music, film and more. In the arts and lifestyle form, Elements Pictures conducts art jamming and therapy workshops, which utilize drama techniques. They also specialize in conceptualizing and tailoring workshops to specific needs



Finding Culture and Language: An Online Scavenger Hunt Activity

This online scavenger hunt activity creates opportunities for participants to learn and appreciate the Malay language and culture through a series of fun activities. This includes *peribahasa*, *pantun*, traditional music and more. A winner will be selected at the end of the session.

For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/funplayworkshop.

FUNPLAY WORKSHOP

Funplay Workshop is a professional workshop, theatre and events company that is founded with a mission to educate and entertain everyone no matter what age you are. It provides many kinds of programmes and services from live performances, various training, and workshops, online programmes, design services, event planning and management.

They are currently developing various online/digital programmes like workshops, games, activities and seminars.



**MALAY ACTIVITY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Geylang Serai MAEC



People's Association

Peraduan Pesta Syair/Puisi 2021: Gurindam Jiwa

Geylang Serai CC MAEC will be organising a poetry-writing competition with the theme, Gurindam Jiwa. The competition, conducted over Zoom, aims to students and adults to embrace Malay poetry through creative use of the Malay language.

For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/YourGeylangSerai.

GEYLANG SERAI CC MAEC

Geylang Serai Community Club Malay Activity Executive Committee (MAEC) works closely with the CC Management Committee and other local grassroots organisations to encourage the Malay community to participate in community centre/club courses, community activities and national affairs; and to foster inter-ethnic understanding and cross-cultural appreciation.



Cendekiawan Lestari Series

Under the Cendekiawan Lestari series, the Malay Heritage Foundation will present a programme with Dr Aidil Subhan titled “Revering the Malay Language in an English-knowing Environment – Malay Language Planning in Singapore towards 2065”.

Sembang Ilmu Series

The Malay Heritage Foundation will be organising a forum with undergraduates titled “Forum Siswa: Kita Dengan Bahasa, Tumbuh Sampai Ke Mana?”.

Wacana Warisan Series

Featuring Dr Azhar Ibrahim, the Malay Heritage Foundation will present a lecture under the Wacana Warisan Series, titled “Malay Intellectuals: Beauty and the “Beast” in History”.

For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/MalayHeritageFoundation.

THE MALAY HERITAGE FOUNDATION (MHF)

The Malay Heritage Foundation is a non-profit organisation that aims to safeguard and promote Malay heritage for all. Amongst other objectives, the programmes and initiatives by MHF are aimed at building thought leadership and enhancing social capital by strengthening content on heritage of Malay community in Singapore through documentation and research.



Gig Puisi@Serambi

Gig Puisi is a quarterly platform for poets and poetry enthusiasts to come together to perform various original and published works. This platform also serves to celebrate our local authors' talents, as well as provide a valuable opportunity for literary enthusiasts and members of the public to come together to develop knowledge and appreciation towards Malay literature.

Ilham Pustaka

Ilham Pustaka features authors and literary activists discussing various topics pertaining to local and regional literature and languages. Videos are uploaded on the Malay Library Services' Facebook page at 2.30pm every 4th Saturday of the month.

Masa Bercecerita/ Storytime

The National Library Board will be conducting digital storytelling sessions in Malay. It is showcased every first and third Saturday of the month by librarians, volunteers and Singaporean authors for a duration between 5 to 15 minutes.

These storytelling sessions are pre-recorded and available on Malay Library Services Facebook: <https://go.gov.sg/malay-library-services/>

NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

Established on 1 September 1995 as a statutory board, the National Library Board (NLB) is an agency under the Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI). NLB manages the National Library, 26 Public Libraries and the National Archives.



NLB promotes reading, learning and information literacy by providing a trusted, accessible and globally-connected library and information service through the National Library and a comprehensive network of Public Libraries. By forging strategic partnerships to cultivate knowledge sharing, the libraries also encourage appreciation and awareness of Singapore's history through their wide range of programmes.



SAYEMBARA SOLOISTARI (SOLO DANCE COMPETITION)

In pairs, participants are tasked to express the meaning of a given song in a 2-minute dance movement which brings in elements of the Malay culture and etiquette. Submissions are to be made via Instagram.

For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/perkumpulanseni.org.

PERKUMPULAN SENI

Perkumpulan Seni was formed on 8 July 1956 when various arts activists came together. Its main objective is to expand and preserve the originality and artistic values of various Malay art forms. With its motto, 'Arts for the Community', it aims to guide and build artistic understanding towards the community.

Apart from staging productions and publishing its own books, Perkumpulan Seni is also actively involved in various Malay arts activities such as drama, dance and literature, both locally and internationally. Its pioneers include Usman Awang, A. Ghani Hamid, Bani Buang and Zubir Said.

Now run by the younger generation, PS remains active by keeping relevant with time but still upholding its initial cause.



Semarak Bahasa dan Budaya

This programme creates awareness on the importance of the use of Mother Tongue language. It also focuses on the use of the Malay language in children's activities. Additionally, it increases interest in the history and culture of the Malay language in children.

PPIS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

PPIS Child Development Centre comprises 7 centres that work together to host this event for Bulan Bahasa. They take pride in their students and place importance in teaching them the Malay language and educating them on the Malay culture. They also believe in the importance of character development and aims to equip children not just for school, but for life.



Silat Berseni Dalam Pantun

This showcase will involve children presenting the basics of silat including the structural movement (movement without weapon), handling the keris and parang, and the welcoming gesture used in silat. Each showcase will be illustrated through a pantun delivered by the organisers, and viewers can submit their responses to the pantun.

For more information, please visit www.facebook.com/groups/369657151085119.

PERGURUAN SILAT SENI GAYONG SINGAPURA (PSSGS)

Perguruan Silat Seni Gayong Singapura (PSSGS), headed by senior practitioners and with more than 100 members, aims to preserve the traditional arts of Silat Seni Gayong that was first introduced in Singapore in 1942. The objective of PSSGS is to ensure silat remains as a part of the culture and heritage of the Malay community.



Muzika Skrin...Senandung Bahasa

Muzika Skrin...Senandung Bahasa is a musical that features the different eras of opera such as bangsawan and purbawara. The storylines and scenes are taken from excerpts of Cathay Keris Film Production and Malay Film Productions of Shaw brothers.

To view the programme, please visit www.facebook.com/SRIWANA.SG.

SRIWANA

Since its inception in the 1950s, SRIWANA remains as one of the oldest surviving Malay performing arts group in the local arts scene. SRIWANA was first formed in 1950 as a Keroncong Party (a traditional Malay Orchestra). It then developed further to having the objective of promoting, upholding and upgrading the Malay arts and culture till today.



Alunan Nusantara

Alunan Nusantara is a concert that aims to celebrate the Malay culture and arts in harmony. Various arts groups such as Okestra Sri Temasek, Ethnic Shadows, SG Oudist will feature singers, silat, and dance performances in the programme.

Bangsawan Workshop for Families (September School Holidays Programme)

Wisma Geylang Serai partners again with Anggerik Temasek Bangsawan to organise this Bangsawan workshop series. The workshop will introduce participants to six different elements of Bangsawan, including 'Nada', 'Lenggok', 'Adab', 'Gerak', and 'Deria'. These sessions will be conducted physically.

Book Launch @ Geylang Serai

'GEYLANG SERAI IN A TIME TUNNEL – DOWN MEMORY LANE', a series of 5 books documenting Geylang Serai from an immense plantation in the 19th century to the developments in the 21st century, will be launched in conjunction with Bulan Bahasa. The content includes the historical footprints of Geylang Serai, its distinctiveness as well as stories and experiences that has shaped Geylang Serai into a unique embodiment of the Malay community in Singapore.

Let's Learn @ WGS – Malay Culture

Wisma Geylang Serai (WGS) will be organising a monthly sharing session via Zoom titled "Let's Learn @ WGS – Malay Culture". The programme, covering topics such as Malay food, wedding celebrations, and festivals celebrated by the Malay community, aims to deepen understanding and appreciation of Malay heritage and culture. It also aims to support continuous learning and facilitate acquisition of new skills and knowledge in a community setting.



Samudera Seni/ An Ocean of Arts

Conceptualised and written by Nadiputra, Samudera Seni is a potpourri of performing arts performances that showcases the Malay fine arts and literature through music, poems, quatrains, dance and visual arts. The performance will intricately weave in elements such as Keris, Flute, Violin and Rebana.

The performance will feature poet Khaziah Yem, recipient of the Golden Point Award 2019 and traditional Malay singer Shahirah Jamaludin, as well as a special appearance by Associate Professor Dr Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs & Ministry of National Development and Chairman of the Malay Language Council, Singapore.

WISMA GEYLANG SERAI

Wisma Geylang Serai (WGS) is envisioned to be the community civic and cultural centre in the heart of Geylang Serai precinct. It is a multi-agency development that celebrates the heritage of Geylang Serai communities and encourages social interactions and community bonding among different communities of all ages and races.