



Embargoed Release

6.00pm, Saturday, 9 September 2017

BULAN BAHASA CELEBRATES TIMELESS TRADITIONS AT THE MALAY HERITAGE CENTRE

9 September 2017 – *Bulan Bahasa* 2017 (Malay Language Month 2017) was officially launched at the Malay Heritage Centre in Kampong Gelam, on Saturday 9 September.

From 15 August to 15 October, *Bulan Bahasa* will offer a variety of **more than 100 programmes**, events and activities that will showcase the vibrancy of the Malay language, while preserving treasured aspects of *Bahasa Ilmu* (Knowledge), *Bahasa Budaya* (Culture) and *Bahasa Mesra* (Relationships).

A Day of Festivities at the Malay Heritage Centre

Once known as the Istana Kampong Gelam, the Malay Heritage Centre is home to artefacts and displays symbolic to the Malay community. Its gallery narrative also charts significant moments in history that has influenced and shaped the Malay community in Singapore.

Today, visitors were treated to a sampling of Malay language and culture activities within the museum, out on its compound, and outdoors on the streets of Bussorah Mall. Some programmes were also presented in both Malay and English, to cater to multi-racial visitors and to engage them in an appreciation of Malay language, culture and heritage.

At the launch ceremony, Ms Rahayu Mahzam, Chairman of the Bulan Bahasa Committee, expressed her thanks to partners, donors and sponsors for their continued support of this annual event. She also took the opportunity to stress the importance of preserving the Malay language and culture, to ensure the community's legacy, stories and values survive the test of time. "The beauty of the Malay language and culture needs to be shared, especially with our younger ones, to ensure its continuity and timelessness," says Ms Rahayu Mahzam.

***Bulan Bahasa* in the Heartlands**

Bulan Bahasa launch ceremonies will also be held in the heartlands of Tampines and Nee Soon, and also organised by Keat Hong for Chua Chu Kang, Bukit Batok East for Jurong, and Woodlands for Sembawang. Dates and venues for their celebrations are as follows:

- 10 September – Our Tampines Hub
- 16 September – Woodlands Community Club
- 16 September – Northpoint Shopping Centre
- 17 September – Bukit Batok East Community Club
- 23 September – Keat Hong Community Club



For *Bulan Bahasa*'s full programme listings, please visit the website for the Malay Language Council, Singapore at: <https://mbms.sg> and download the calendar of events for Bulan Bahasa 2017, or follow its Facebook Page for updates at fb.com/majlisbahasa.

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### **About *Bulan Bahasa* by the Malay Language Council, Singapore**

The Malay Language Month (*Bulan Bahasa*) was first launched in 1988 by the Malay Language Council, Singapore, as an initiative and biennial event to encourage the Malay community to embrace the Malay language and culture in their daily lives. Since 2011, it has become an annual signature celebration that continues to attract community participation and support, at national as well as grassroots level. *Bulan Bahasa* remains focused on cultivating greater confidence in the use and mastery of the Malay language, instilling a deeper appreciation for and promoting the preservation of the rich Malay culture and heritage.

For more information about the Malay Language Council, Singapore, and *Bulan Bahasa*, please visit [mbms.sg](https://mbms.sg) and [facebook.com/majlisbahasa](https://facebook.com/majlisbahasa).



## For Immediate Use

### Programme Highlights for Bulan Bahasa 2017 Launch Day, Saturday 9 September

*All programmes are free unless otherwise indicated.*

#### **Legends and Fables by *Nek Selampit* with Live Gamelan Accompaniment by The National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS), featuring BronzAge Gamelan**

Listen to storyteller and newly appointed *Duta Bahasa*, Jumaini Ariff, as she regales visitors with legends and fables in her unique, lively and interactive style accompanied by music from BronzAge Gamelan. Audiences could also get up close and personal with the gamelan musicians after the performance.

**Time:** 11.00am

**Venue:** Permanent Galleries at the Malay Heritage Centre

#### **Drama Staging of *Hikayat Malim Dewa* by Teatro**

Join Teatro for a theatre performance of *Hikayat Malim Dewa*, a traditional folklore based on the story of Malim Dewa, son to Tuan Puteri Lindungan Bulan an impressive and intelligent young man, who once ruled Bandar Muar.

**Time:** 3.00pm

**Venue:** Auditorium at the Malay Heritage Centre

#### ***Juara Si Cilik* by Nusantara World Music**

Be enthralled by the creative presentations of traditional Malay folk songs by children in *Juara Si Cilik*, a children's singing competition.

**Time:** 3.00pm

**Venue:** Auditorium at the Malay Heritage Centre

#### **Heritage Trail Through Food, Knowledge And Language at Mamanda by Mamanda Restaurant**

Calling all food lovers who are interested to explore ingredients, dishes, tools and methods used in food preparation, and understand the significance and meanings behind communal eating and dining in the Malay culture.

**Time:** Programme is conducted twice, at 11.00am and 5.00pm

**Venue:** Mamanda Restaurant. Registration required, nominal participation fee of \$10 pp applies.

#### ***Diariku* - Dance Trail by Sriwana**

Join *Pak Man*, an elderly villager, who will bring participants back in time as he introduces the streets of Kampong Gelam, shares about the different jobs done by his friends and explains how clothing reflects the various communities living in Kampong Gelam.

**Time:** 2.00pm

**Venue:** Bussorah Street, Kampong Gelam



### ***Tarian Piring – Malay Dance by Era Dance***

Watch a traditional Malay dance, *Tarian Piring* or literally “Plate Dance”, performed by Era Dance on Bussorah Street. Learn about the dance form and pick some dance moves at the same time!

**Time:** 3.00pm

**Venue:** Bussorah Street, Kampong Gelam.

### **Activity Booths by Community Partners**

Explore the activity booths presented by the various community partners. Join in the communal batik painting with HazWorkz Design, create crafts inspired by artefacts featured in the museum with the Malay Heritage Centre, challenge your friends to board games with Nadim Games LLP and learn more about *silat* from the Perguruan Silat Seni Gayong Singapura.

**Time:** Programme is conducted throughout the day from 11.00am to 5.00pm

**Venue:** Courtyard 1, Malay Heritage Centre

### **Activity Booths by Schools**

Test your knowledge on the Malay language, culture and heritage through interactive activities at the various booths presented by the students from Orchid Park Secondary School, Admiralty Primary School and Yusof Ishak Secondary School.

**Time:** Programme starts at 11.00am and is conducted throughout the day

**Venue:** Courtyard 1, Malay Heritage Centre

### ***Jelajah Muzium Bersama Rakan Bahasa – Museum Tour with Friends of the Language***

Go on a journey with students who were appointed as friends of the language or *Rakan Bahasa* who will share the stories and significance behind the many artefacts in the museum. All *Rakan Bahasa* will be conducting their tours in Malay, with versions available in English for other visitors.

**Time:** Programme starts 11.00am and is conducted throughout the day

**Venue:** Permanent Galleries at the Malay Heritage Centre