

Media Release

Embargoed till 5.00pm, Friday, 18 July 2025



**UNITED IN CELEBRATION
OF THE MALAY LANGUAGE IN SINGAPORE**

As Singapore marks SG60, the Malay Language Council, Singapore (MLCS) rallies the community to come together to celebrate Bulan Bahasa 2025 which will take place from 16 August to 12 October, to promote the Malay language as a resilient language of culture, heritage and identity. The MLCS continues to strengthen its commitment and endeavour to focus on youths, to encourage them to strengthen their love and pride for the Malay language and culture, to make the language a living language and to preserve and perpetuate it for future generations.

This year, the MLCS will also be hosting the Majlis Sastera Asia Tenggara (Mastera, or the Southeast Asian Literature Council) Seminar and Conference. Up to 50 delegates and representatives from Mastera member countries of Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam are expected to be in Singapore to attend Mastera programmes in September 2025.

Bulan Bahasa 2025

With **Bulan Bahasa 2025** taking place from 16 August to 12 October, community and programmes partners will come together to present a calendar of activities that will cultivate an appreciation for the Malay language, culture and heritage.

“The Malay language is not static; it continuously evolves and transforms over time. To safeguard it for our future generations, our efforts to promote the Malay language must strengthen each year. We thank our community partners for constantly innovating new programmes to capture the interest of the youths amidst the ever-changing language landscape. This year, as we commemorate SG60, we also celebrate the Malay language as Singapore’s national language used by generations of Singaporeans from all races since our early nation building years. I encourage our youths and all Singaporeans to take part in the

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upcoming Bulan Bahasa programmes in celebration of SG60 and to fully embrace the richness of our Malay language, culture, and heritage,” says Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim, Chairman of the Malay Language Council, Singapore and the Bulan Bahasa Committee 2025.

Pelancaran Bulan Bahasa 2025 will be recorded for a scheduled telecast at **Mediacorp Campus on Friday 25 July 2025**. The MLCS invites members of the public, especially the youths, to attend the launch recording session. Limited number of tickets are available on Peatix. To book a ticket, visit bb25launchgen.peatix.com.

Please refer to **Annex A** for an illustration and information on Bulan Bahasa 2025’s creative identity, and collateral produced for this year.

Exciting Programmes for Bulan Bahasa 2025

Bulan Bahasa 2025 programmes continue to be driven by various community and constituency partners, interest groups, arts and culture enthusiasts, and schools. This year’s calendar of events will offer something for everyone across all ages. These programmes will mostly be conducted in-person and some virtually, from 16 August to 12 October.

Discover the art of comic drawing and writing in **Nusantara World Music’s** workshop, **Bengkel Melukis Komik Melayu**, where participants will learn how to draw and write engaging comics featuring characters from Malay folklore with famous Malaysian comic artist, Dato’ Imuda. **Nusantara World Music** also offers a platform for young voices to shine. Primary school students will have the opportunity to unleash their musical talent in the annual singing competition, **Juara Si Cilik 2025**.

Dive into the world of *dikir barat* with the **Singapore Dikir Barat Federation** through their docuseries, **Perjuangan Gabungan** — featuring prominent figures of those in the *dikir barat* scene. Join **Stunt Spontan**, a programme where participants will learn the art of lyric writing

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and *ragam* (movements in *dikir barat* performances) and then vie for the top prize in a finale performance.

Explore the Malay language through batik painting with **Kamal Arts' Batik Bersama**. In this workshop, participants will learn how to paint plants and flowers native to the Malay world. Participants will learn Malay terms related to colours and tones as they incorporate the details into their paintings.

Learn the nuances behind popular Malay songs with **Hidayat Nordin**, through the weekly video series **Bedah Lirik**. Each episode will feature one song that has shaped the culture and identity of the Singapore Malay language and pop culture. Aligned with SG60, the song choices will be a journey through time, featuring the hits of each era.

Enjoy a captivating theatre performance titled **Gelanggang Langkah Berseni** directed by **Perkumpulan Seni Singapura**. Watch the breathtaking theatre and dance production showcasing the work of three young choreographers along with a special piece by the group's established choreographer. This production highlights elements of the Malay language through dramatic scenes and literary elements such as poetry.

For the latest extended calendar of events for Bulan Bahasa 2025, please visit mbms.sg, [@bulanbahasa](https://www.instagram.com/bulanbahasa) on Instagram or [facebook.com/majlisbahasa](https://www.facebook.com/majlisbahasa) for updates.

Telecast of the Official Launch Ceremony and Programme on Mediacorp Suria

Pelancaran Bulan Bahasa 2025 will showcase the richness of the Malay language, culture and heritage. Tune in to Mediacorp Suria, at 8.30pm, on Friday, 29 August 2025 to enjoy performances by Cultural Medallion recipient, Mr Almahdi Al-Haj Ibrahim – better known by his stage name Nadiputra, Anis Qurratu'aini, Aqmal Noor, Nurjannah, Ardwindi, Sri Warisan, Sri Setia Pulau Singa, Temasek Polytechnic's Fusion Percussion, and more. The music arrangements will be helmed by Duta Bahasa, Megat Firdaus.

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Rakan Bahasa (Friends of the Language) from Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges, and Institute of Higher Learning, as well as budding youth writers and *bangsawan* practitioners, will be featured during the televised programme.

Duta Bahasa (Language Ambassador) 2025

Duta Bahasa are appointed by the MLCS as life-long champions and avid users of the Malay language. As an initiative that began in 2010, these language ambassadors are identified based on their expertise in, passion for and affinity to the Malay language and culture, as well as their involvement with the community.

As of 2024, a total of 50 Duta Bahasa have been appointed. The following will be appointed and recognised as Duta Bahasa of 2025.

1. Izyan Mellyna – Actress, Host, Producer, and Entrepreneur
2. Hidayat Nordin – Arts and Theatre Activist, and Content Creator
3. Fatih Hamdani – *Rakan Bahasa* 2024

“I would like to welcome all newly appointed Duta Bahasa to our family. The promotion of the Malay language can only be strengthened by our dedication and all our combined efforts. We must continue to nurture the love for the language in our community and especially amongst our youths. This is why I am especially delighted to recognise the first-ever appointment of a former *Rakan Bahasa*, Fatih Hamdani, as Duta Bahasa. Together with Hidayat and Izyan, I hope they will proudly carry out their Duta duties and fulfil the responsibility as language ambassadors. I am confident that our community will benefit from their passion and advocacy for the Malay language,” says Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim.

For profiles of the newly appointed Duta Bahasa, and for information on all Duta Bahasa categorised based on their expertise, interests, and professions, please refer to **Annex B**.

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Mastera 2025 - hosted by Mastera Singapore

From 9 to 12 September, the MLCS will be hosting the **Majlis Sastera Asia Tenggara (Mastera¹, or the Southeast Asian Literature Council) Seminar and Conference 2025**.

Taking on its role as Mastera Singapore, the MLCS will welcome approximately 50 delegates and representatives from Mastera member countries, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei Darussalam. They are expected to attend various Mastera programmes in Singapore.

The **Seminar Antarabangsa Kesusasteraan Asia Tenggara (SAKAT)**, will be held at The POD at the National Library Building, on Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 to 10 September 2025. Four panel discussions are scheduled across the two days of seminar, where content experts and representatives from each member country will be sharing their papers guided by the theme “Global South Literature”.

During the Opening Ceremony for Mastera, MLCS will also be presenting prizes for the Hadiah Terjemahan Mastera (Mastera Translation Prize). A winner from each member country—Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Singapore—will receive a cash prize of S\$3,000 and a trophy.

The week-long Mastera programmes will conclude with the closed-door **Sidang Mastera Ke-29** (Mastera 29th Conference) attended by national literary agency representatives from the member countries only.

¹ Mastera was formed in 1995 with member countries Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei, and Singapore became an official member in 2012. Mastera aims to promote Malay literature on a regional level through various annual programmes such as seminars and workshops. Member countries rotate to host the annual seminar and conference, and Singapore was previously host country in 2015 and 2019.

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“Mastera develops and enriches Singapore’s Malay literary culture. The Malay Language Council, Singapore is pleased to be hosting Mastera in Singapore, in conjunction with SG60,” says Dr Azhar Ibrahim, Deputy Chairman of MLCS and Chairman of the MLCS’ Literary Committee.

Hari Mastera² (Mastera Day)

Ahead of the conference and seminar, and to mark Singapore’s membership in Mastera, the MLCS will also be organising **Hari Mastera** on Saturday 16 August 2025. At the programme, Dr Farizan Md Amin will share a keynote presentation followed by a *puisi* recital by Sahabat Sastera. Hari Mastera would also coincide with the start of Bulan Bahasa 2025, also presented by the MLCS.

For details on Hari Mastera on 16 August 2025, and Mastera programmes from 9 to 12 September 2025, please visit mbms.sg and follow [Facebook.com/majlisbahasa](https://www.facebook.com/majlisbahasa) for updates.

² Mastera member countries jointly recognise 12 August annually as Hari Mastera, to commemorate the regional efforts in the promotion of Malay literature.

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Annex A

Bulan Bahasa 2025 Creative Identity and Collateral

This year's Bulan Bahasa creative identity refines the 'Cita. Citra. Cinta.' typography while incorporating key visual elements of silhouettes and a play with letters. The design juxtaposes iconic Singapore landmarks (Changi Airport, Merlion, Supertrees) with Malay cultural elements that have been recognised by UNESCO as intangible cultural heritage such as *silat*, and *angklung*.

The inclusion of the orchid as a national symbol further enriches this narrative and aligns with SG60's theme of "A Refreshed Spirit", celebrating the harmonious blend of tradition and modernity in Singapore's development.

This year, the creative identity will be featured on L-file folders specially produced for Bulan Bahasa 2025. These L-file folders will be available for Bulan Bahasa partners to distribute to programme participants. To obtain the Bulan Bahasa 2025 L-file folders and other available collateral, please submit a request via **FormSG** (<https://go.gov.sg/bb25coe>).



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Annex B: Duta Bahasa 2025



Izyan Mellyna is an actress, host, producer, and designer known for her versatility and authenticity, both on and off screen.

With a career that spans theatre, film, and television, she received the *Best Actress in a Comedy Role* at Pesta Perdana 2019 and captivated audiences with her powerful performance in the local film *Banting*.

Beyond acting, she is the founder of a modest fashion brand and the host of the mental health podcast *This Iz*, where she engages in raw, thought-provoking conversations that inspire healing and resilience.

A former nurse and mother of three boys, she brings deep empathy and strength into every role she plays, whether on screen or in life.

Her work continues to empower women, celebrate diversity, and foster honest dialogue.

Izyan believes that language holds power — it connects one to their heritage, bridges communities, and carries the stories of who we are. Her appointment as Duta Bahasa is deeply meaningful to her because the Malay language had shaped so much of her upbringing and artistic journey. It is the language she dreams in, laughs in, and feels in.

In a fast-changing world, it is more important than ever to preserve the beauty, relevance, and rhythm of her mother tongue. This role as Duta Bahasa, will allow her to celebrate the language that has always been at the heart of her identity.

As Duta Bahasa, Izyan aims to inspire pride in the Malay language through creative storytelling and community outreach. Whether it's through acting, podcasting, or social media, she will use her voice to elevate the Malay language in ways that are accessible and alive. She also

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hopes to collaborate with educators, artists, and youths to ensure that the language remains relevant and empowering to the new generation.

Language should never be a barrier but a bridge that connects and Izyan is honoured to be part of the efforts in building it.

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Annex B: Duta Bahasa 2025



Nur Muhammad Hidayat Bin Nordin is a prolific multi-disciplinary artist whose practice spans theatre, literature, music, and media. He has also helmed award-winning works across stage and screen for more than a decade.

A strong advocate for Malay arts and youth development, Hidayat is the founder of numerous collectives, including Aras Theatre and Meja Conteng (a youth writers' collective). His portfolio includes media productions, stage productions, audio podcasts, poetry collections, and musical compositions in both Malay and English.

His debut poetry book, *Optimis*, was published with the support of the National Arts Council in 2020. He is also a regular feature at the Singapore Writers Festival and international events such as the Festival Syair Internasional

in Jakarta and Hari Puisi Sedunia in Malaysia.

Hidayat was also given the opportunity to compose and perform a special tribute to literary pioneer, Mr Suratman Markasan, at the Singapore Literature Prize 2024. He is also a seasoned educator and mentor, nurturing new generations through drama, *dikir barat*, and literary workshops in schools.

For his work, he has received multiple accolades, including Best Director (*Sayembara Teater*), and 1st Place at the Poetry Festival Singapore in 2018.

The role of Duta Bahasa resonates deeply with Hidayat's lifelong mission to champion and revitalise the Malay language through the arts. As an artist and educator, he believes that

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language is not only a tool of communication, but a vessel of identity, memory, and culture. His journey has consistently involved creating platforms for expression in the Malay language — be it through theatre, poetry, or *dikir barat* — and engaging youths to take ownership of their linguistic heritage.

Hidayat intends to leverage his interdisciplinary practice to make the Malay language engaging, accessible, and relevant — especially for younger audiences. Through curated programmes like cross-genre performances, creative writing workshops, and digital storytelling, he aims to bridge tradition and modernity in how we use and perceive the Malay language.

Hidayat will continue to mentor emerging talents, collaborate with schools and community groups, and develop inclusive platforms that celebrate linguistic diversity. Most importantly, he hopes to inspire confidence and joy in using the Malay language across all forms of artistic and everyday expression.

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Annex B: Duta Bahasa 2025



Fatih Hamdani bin Muhammad Effendy has been an active advocate for the Malay language throughout his student life. In 2024, he served as President of the Raffles Institution Malay Cultural Society, where he organised bonding and exposure activities for students through traditional games and dance. He has also promoted the Malay language by engaging students with short-form content and posts on Instagram.

Fatih has also chaired *Projek Permata*, a school-endorsed community engagement project in collaboration with Era Dance Theatre. This initiative introduced Malay dance to primary school students in the S7 cluster and to his peers through workshops, practice sessions, and digital storytelling to nurture appreciation for Malay performing arts.

Formerly a *Rakan Bahasa* appointed in 2024, Fatih has participated in various programmes such as the TeeVers Podcast Competition 2024, where he emerged in first place. He also participated in *Fiesta Kesantunan @ OnePunggol*, appeared in trailers for the Bulan Bahasa launch programme, and hosted the Bulan Bahasa 2024 Appreciation Event.

For his dedication and efforts, he was awarded the Ministry of Education's Malay Language Elective Scholarship.

Fatih continues to hone his artistry as a student dancer with Sri Warisan's TUNAS Academy of Performing Arts, involving himself in productions such as *Melodious Angklung: Kampung Arumba* and *Tunas Berseni: Transisi dan Astatika*. He also participated in language competitions, such as *Bisikan Pena*, a traditional poetry recital competition where his group won 3rd place, as well as the National Junior College's 3T Translation Competition, where his team clinched 4th place amongst 59 participating schools.

Fatih has always been an active ambassador in encouraging the use of the Malay language amongst his family members, friends and schoolmates. He connects well with people of

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different ages and backgrounds, and encourages all, especially his peers, to use the Malay language, regardless of their fluency, without feeling uncomfortable or embarrassed.

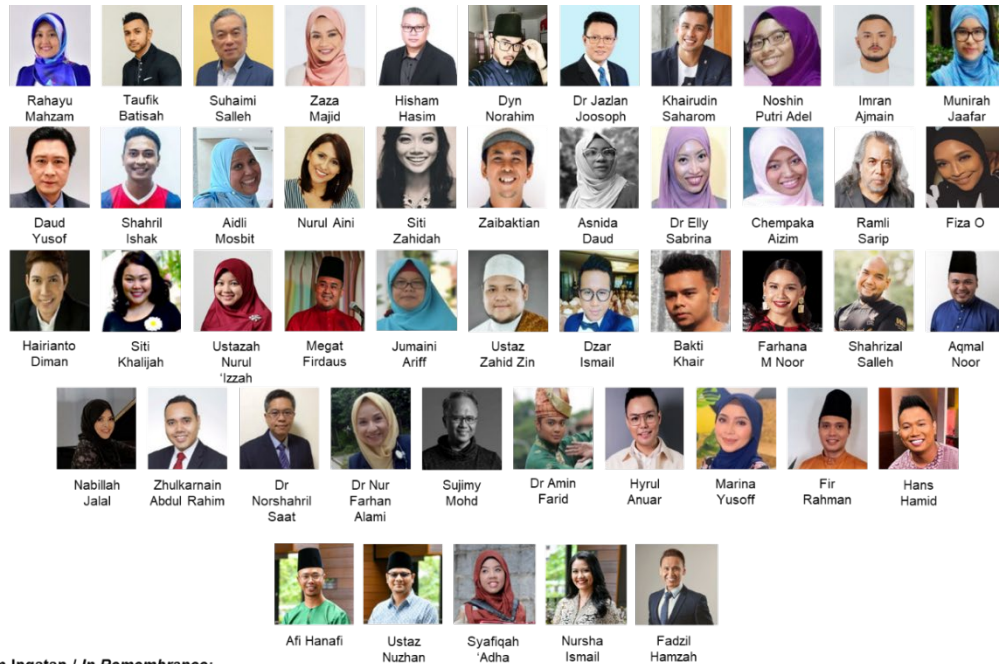
As *Duta Bahasa*, Fatih would like to champion Malay language promotion through his talents and skills, such as singing, songwriting, dancing and content creation, to change the perspective of how the community uses and engages with the Malay language and culture. He would like to make use of his youthful energy to work together with other *Duta Bahasa* to create fun, innovative, creative and engaging ways for people to interact with the Malay language and culture.



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






















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Annex B: Duta Bahasa appointed since 2010



Sentiasa dalam Ingatan / In Remembrance:
Asmah Laili & Riz Sunawan

Annex B: Duta Bahasa Represented Sectorially:

Karyawan (Perundangan, Perubatan & Perniagaan)		Sastera & Seni	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Rahayu Mahzam Suhaimi Salleh Dr Jazlan Joosoph Dr Elly Sabrina Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim Dr Nur Farhan Alami Dr Fadzil Hamzah 	      	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jumaini Ariff Aqmal Noor Nabilah Jalal Marina Yusoff Afi Hanafi Syafiqah 'Adha 	     
Media & Personaliti		Ahli Akademik & Asatizah	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Taufik Batisah Zaza Majid Hisham Hasim Khairudin Saharom Imran Ajmain Daud Yusof Nurul Aini Zaibaktian Ramli Sarip Fiza O 	         	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hairianto Diman Siti Khalijah Dzar Ismail Bakti Khair Farhana M Noor Shahrizal Salleh Sujimy Mohd Hyrul Anuar Fir Rahman Hans Hamid Nursha Ismail 	          
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ustazah Nurul 'Izzah Ustaz Zahid Zin Dr Norshahril Saat Dr Noramin Farid Ustaz Nuzhan Halim 	

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About Bulan Bahasa by the Malay Language Council, Singapore

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 (MLCS), Bulan Bahasa is focused on encouraging the community to embrace and use the Malay language in their daily lives. It also aims to instill a deeper appreciation for the Malay culture and promote the preservation of the community's rich heritage.

For more information about MBMS (MLCS) and Bulan Bahasa, please visit:

Web: mbms.sg

Instagram: [@bulanbahasa](https://www.instagram.com/bulanbahasa) on Instagram

Facebook: [fb.com/majlisbahasa](https://www.facebook.com/majlisbahasa)

Tiktok: [@bulanbahasasg](https://www.tiktok.com/@bulanbahasasg)