



Embargoed Release

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CELEBRATING SG50 WITH A SHOWCASE OF THE MALAY LANGUAGE AND CULTURE AT GARDENS BY THE BAY

5 September 2015 - *Bulan Bahasa* 2015 (Malay Language Month), an annual initiative by the Malay Language Council, Singapore, was launched today at Gardens by the Bay by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong who spoke at the event. The month long celebration promises exciting programmes, events and activities that showcase the versatility of the Malay language, culture and heritage.

An Exciting *Bulan Bahasa* Launch Weekend at the Gardens by the Bay

The launch weekend at Gardens by the Bay will feature many fun and engaging opportunities to appreciate the Malay language at various indoor and outdoor locations throughout the sprawling gardens' lush greenery. The weekend of festivities will also demonstrate to visitors the beauty, vibrancy and essence of *Bahasa Ilmu* (knowledge), *Bahasa Budaya* (culture) and *Bahasa Mesra* (relationships).

Chairman of *Bulan Bahasa* Committee, Mr Zaqy Mohamad, paid tribute to the country's literary pioneer generation and educationists, and all writers and language ambassadors present at the launch today. He also paid special tribute to award-winning writer and editor, the late Cikgu Mohamed Naim Daipi, in recognition of his passion for the language and his far reaching work with schools, writers, partners and media, in Singapore and within the region.

"*Bulan Bahasa* has grown from strength to strength over the years and its success would not be possible if not for the many language champions, activists, teachers, community partners and the nation's leaders, supporting, promoting and preserving Singapore's national language," said Mr Zaqy Mohamad. "Together with all our partners, we have put together a month of more than 100 programmes, so that everyone will get to enjoy the beauty and essence of our Malay language."

Programme Highlights

The weekend's wide range of programmes and activities offer something for everyone. Some programme highlights include:

- *Puisi itu Indah* by The Kaizen M.D
Be mesmerized by this showcase of poetic expression of interpretative dance movements by The Kazen M.D. The performance will also encompass NADA, a visual arts and sound project that explores the myth and synthetic history of a fabricated group of the same name, that focuses on bringing to life traditional and popular music of Southeast Asia from the 1960s to 1980s.



- **Persembahan Silat (Silat Performance) by PERSISI**
Join in and learn the unique self-defence moves of *Pencak Silat* from the *silat* warriors of PERSISI at the Supertree Grove. Visitors will also get to view an exhibition that covers the history and evolution of *Pencak Silat* in Singapore, particularly focusing on the role of women and how they learned the skill despite largely not being allowed to do so.
- **Persembahan Dikir Barat & Tarian (Dikir Barat & Dance Performance) by The Rising Star Project**
Be entertained by a specially selected group of students from The Rising Star Project who will be showcasing their talents through a rousing *dikir barat* and dance performance after months of training by well-known celebrities and personalities from Singapore's performing arts industry.
- **Singa Maksima Live Edisi Nusantara (Night Concert) by Ria 89.7FM, Nusantara World Music and Ramli Sarip**
Spend an exciting evening under the Supertrees and experience the Malay language through music, *puisi* and song. The concert will feature popular names including Audionauts, Ryan Sufiyan, Rafaat Hamzahm, Nuradee and many more, including Singapore's very own legendary "Papa Rock" Datuk Ramli Sarip.
- **Rakan-rakan Taman - Singapore Stories Tour with Friends of the Gardens**
Go on the exclusive Singapore Stories Tour within the Flower Dome, as the student garden guides or *Rakan-rakan Taman* take you through a beautiful display of flora and fauna that bring to life the tales and legends of Singapore as told through the language of plants.
- **School Presentations of Malay Games & Activities**
Try your hand at family-friendly traditional games including snakes and ladders, *congkak* and jigsaw puzzles while learning more about the Malay language and culture at the booths run by various schools. Families can also enjoy performances of *sepak takraw*, drama and song, as well as a range of arts and craft activities.
- **Bulan Bahasa in the Heartlands**
Bulan Bahasa will also be celebrated in the heartlands as Tampines, Nee Soon, Jurong and Chua Chu Kang GRCs join in this year's efforts to mark SG50 with their residents. Dates and venues for their celebrations are as follows:
 - 6 September – Tampines Community Plaza
 - 12 September – Chong Pang Community Centre
 - 19 September – Bukit Batok East Community Centre
 - 26 September – Hard Court in front of Choa Chu Kang MRT



For full programme listings for the weekend festival as well as the Malay Language Month, please visit the website for the Malay Language Council, Singapore, at: <https://mbms.sg>.

Commemorating 50 years of Malay Language Development in Singapore

As part of the Malay community's contributions to the SG50 celebrations, the Malay Language Council, Singapore has put together *Yang Terukir – Bahasa dan Persuratan Melayu Sempena 50 tahun Kemerdekaan Singapura* (Inscribed – Malay Language and Literature in conjunction with 50 years of Singapore's Independence), a book that captures the spirit and contribution of Malay writings in Singapore, and acts as a historical record of Singapore's Malay literary heritage. The book documents the historical development of Malay language in Singapore since the early years till 2015, and the writings cover a variety of topics, including language, literature, history, geography, education, religion, music, theatre and film.

The book in itself is a testimony to the survival, dynamism and flexibility of Malay language, literature and culture, and it comes to live in a commemorative exhibition to be premiered at the official launch of *Bulan Bahasa* before travelling to the GRCs, literary seminars and selected libraries.

The commemorative book will also be made available for borrowing in the public libraries from October 2015.

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For more information and interview arrangements, please contact:

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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 2012, 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 and facebook.com/majlisbahasa.