



Embargoed Release

4.00pm, Saturday, 3 September 2016

CELEBRATING THE DYNAMISM OF THE MALAY LANGUAGE AND CULTURE AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE

3 September 2016 – *Bulan Bahasa* 2016 (Malay Language Month 2016) was launched at the National Museum of Singapore this afternoon.

Bulan Bahasa, which will span over two months, from 15 August to 15 October, boasts a variety of programmes, events and activities that will showcase the dynamism of the Malay language, and its relevance as *Bahasa Ilmu* (Knowledge), *Bahasa Budaya* (Culture) and *Bahasa Mesra* (Relationships).

Taking Pride and Joy in *Bahasa Melayu*

At the launch ceremony, Guest of Honour Mr Ng Chee Meng, Acting Minister for Education (Schools) and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport, stressed the importance of preserving our Mother Tongue Language. He also spoke of how the community should take pride and joy in living and discovering the Malay language, values and culture, as this embodiment will serve well for Singapore's future generation.

Festive Weekend at the National Museum of Singapore

The National Museum of Singapore formed the perfect setting for *Bulan Bahasa*'s launch weekend, as it is also home to many artefacts and displays on Malay pioneers that contributed to significant moments in Singapore's history. Visitors were treated to a myriad of Malay language and culture activities throughout the museum, with some items also presented in both Malay and English.

Amidst the festivities, Ms Rahayu Mahzam, Chairman of *Bulan Bahasa* Committee, reflected on the Malay community's loss of literary giants and language experts over the past year. She spoke of the need to build on the foundation and good efforts of those before us, and taking personal responsibility of ensuring that the Malay language and culture is kept alive. She also expressed her optimism for the future as youths and new partners have stepped forward this year, to organise programmes for the community.

"I am pleased to acknowledge the more than 50 partners who have come together to produce over 100 programmes for our community, so everyone can continue to enjoy *Bahasa Melayu* as a relevant and dynamic language," said Ms Rahayu Mahzam. "It is also encouraging to see youths and new partners like Haz Workz Design, Big Tree Pictures and Nusantara Arts, just to name a few, step forward to present their interesting programmes for the community."



Programme Highlights

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

- *Singa Maksima* by Ria 89.7FM and Koprata & Rausyanfikir Concert by Nusantara World Music
Spend the evening outdoors on the lawn at the National Museum, with talented local artistes Isnina, Klutz and The Chapters during the *Singa Maksima* Concert. As the stars continue to shine brightly in the night, experience a wave of nostalgia with performances by Koprata and Rausyanfikir. Programme starts 5.30pm on Saturday, 3 September 2016. Venue: Lawn at the National Museum of Singapore.
- *Rentak Kita!* by Orkestra Sri Temasek
Organised by newly appointed Duta Bahasa 2016, Megat Muhammad Firdaus from Orkestra Sri Temasek, the Malay Orchestra performance shares the history of Malay music and gives audiences the opportunity to join in by singing, dancing or playing the *rebana* and *kompang*. The session will be conducted in both English and Malay. Programme starts 12.00pm on Sunday, 4 September 2016. Venue: The Salon, National Museum of Singapore.
- *Bahasa Kita, Indahnya Bahasa* and *Bahasaku* by Jurong Green Community Club
The three performances will feature original lyrics composed by secondary school participants who took part in the lyric writing competition held last year. The students, who worked closely with Nusantara World Music to create the songs, will be sharing insights on their lyric writing journey. Programme takes place at 11.00am, 1.00pm and 3.00pm respectively on Sunday, 4 September 2016. Venue: The Concourse, National Museum of Singapore.
- *Bilik* by Teatro, Temasek Polytechnic
Trained by Duta Bahasa Aidli Alin Mosbit and performed by Temasek Polytechnic students, Noor Effendy Ibrahim's iconic play titled *Bilik* (Room), brings the Malay language and its different nuances to life. Programme is conducted twice, at 12.00pm and 4.30pm on Saturday, 3 September 2016. Venue: Explore Room, National Museum of Singapore.
- *Rakan-rakan Muzium & Jejak Interaktif* - Tour with Friends of the Museum
Go on a journey with student museum guides or *Rakan-rakan Muzium* who will take you back in time and share with you the significant moments in Singapore history. The *Rakan-rakan Muzium* will be conducting their tours in Malay, with versions available in English for other visitors. Programme starts 11.00am and is conducted throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday, 3 and 4 September 2016. Venue: Singapore History Gallery at the National Museum of Singapore.



- *Bulan Bahasa* in the Heartlands

Bulan Bahasa launch ceremonies will also be held in the heartlands at Tampines, Choa Chu Kang, Nee Soon, Jurong, and for the first time, Sembawang. Dates and venues for their celebrations are as follows:

- 10 September – Tampines West Community Club
- 17 September – Lot 1 Shoppers' Mall
- 18 September – Woodlands Community Club
- 24 September – Nee Soon East Community Club
- 1 October – IMM Mall

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> and download the calendar of events for *Bulan Bahasa* 2016.

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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.