



**NEW INITIATIVES ANNOUNCED AT THE  
RAKAN BAHASA APPOINTMENT CEREMONY 2018**

Saturday, 5 May 2018 – A total of 298 Malay Language students from 152 schools were appointed as Rakan Bahasa (Friends of the Language) at this morning's appointment ceremony, which took place at MDIS Auditorium. The occasion was graced by the presence of Guest of Honour, Mdm Rahayu Mahzam, Chairman of the Bulan Bahasa Committee, Member of the Malay Language Council, Singapore, and Member of Parliament for Jurong GRC.

In her speech, Mdm Rahayu congratulated the students and encouraged them to continue spreading the love of the language and championing Malay language activities in their schools.

In conjunction with the 2018 milestone marking 30 years since the Malay Language Council, Singapore organised the first edition of Bulan Bahasa (Malay Language Month) in 1988, some new programmes and initiatives have also been announced for all Rakan Bahasa this year. These initiatives are designed to provide the students with opportunities to deepen their appreciation and encourage usage of the Malay language.

**1. Malay NewsMaker Competition**

All Rakan Bahasa are encouraged to share creative expressions of the language, and share ideas and information with the community at large. One way to do so is through the use of the NewsMaker application, sponsored by TeeVers. With this application, students are able to create content, and present news reports or video snippets on school activities and programmes.

This year, all Rakan Bahasa will get to participate in the **first ever Malay NewsMaker Competition**, jointly organised by TeeVers, Malay Language Council, Singapore and the Bulan Bahasa Committee. The competition will be held on 23 and 24 May 2018 at the Malay Heritage Centre, for registered school teams only, and winners will be announced in June. Winning teams will receive trophies, medals and certificates.

**2. Kembara Rakan Bahasa (Rakan Bahasa Activity Cards)**

This year, all Rakan Bahasa will be presented with **Kembara Rakan Bahasa, a new language activity card** that challenges them to achieve different tasks, as they hone their language skills. These activity cards are customised for different levels (primary, secondary and tertiary) and the tasks revolve around reading, writing, speaking and other activities that support language learning.

## Media Release

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Rakan Bahasa who complete the stipulated tasks will receive an exclusive collar pin at the end of the exercise, to mark their learning achievements.

### 3. Presentation by Duta Bahasa

A sharing session on presentation skills was also conducted by Duta Bahasa (Language Ambassador), Mr Megat Muhammad Firdaus, and he provided all Rakan Bahasa with useful tips on effective presentation skills. He also shared with them, the importance and relevance of the Malay language for professional development.

In addition to the above, all Rakan Bahasa have been encouraged to participate in or attend, the different programmes and activities that will take place during Bulan Bahasa from 18 August to 14 October 2018.

The launch of Bulan Bahasa will take place on Saturday 1 September 2018 at Wisma Geylang Serai.

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### For more information, please contact:

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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 the Malay Language Council, Singapore (MLCS). Since 2011, it has become an annual celebration that continues to attract community interest, participation and support.

As a signature initiative of the MLCS, 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 the Malay Language Council, Singapore, and Bulan Bahasa, please visit [mbms.sg](http://mbms.sg) and [facebook.com/majlisbahasa](https://facebook.com/majlisbahasa).