

Media Release
Embargoed till 4.00pm, Friday, 17 April 2020



TEACHERS AND PARENTS REMAIN DEDICATED TO NURTURING STUDENTS AS RAKAN BAHASA

Friday, 17 April 2020 – 311 Malay Language students from 155 schools are appointed as Rakan Bahasa (Friends of the Language) this year. This includes, for the first time, two undergraduates from the Department of Malay Studies in the National University of Singapore (NUS).

To celebrate these appointments, all Rakan Bahasa will be presented e-certificates and their teachers will share a pre-recorded congratulatory video message from Mdm Rahayu Mahzam, Chairman of the Bulan Bahasa Committee, Member of the Malay Language Council, Singapore (MLCS), and Member of Parliament for Jurong GRC.

“It is encouraging to see teachers so dedicated to nurturing our students, especially when the situation today is made even more challenging because of COVID-19. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for their commitment as educators. It is also very heartening to witness the students’ personal interest in growing their learning and appreciation of the Malay language. We welcome several reappointments of some students as Rakan Bahasa, and we are also delighted to now welcome the siblings and cousins of previously-appointed students, as Rakan Bahasa. This is a positive sign as the growth of our Rakan Bahasa student community signals the confidence parents and teachers have in the MLCS’ efforts and initiatives,” said Mdm Rahayu.

Mdm Rahayu also encouraged all parents to continue to support their children’s Malay language learning journey, and to play a part in cultivating their appreciation of culture through the continued use of the language.

In her congratulatory message to the students, Mdm Rahayu encouraged them to make full use of the opportunities presented to them, through programmes planned by the Bulan Bahasa Committee. These programmes are designed to help students deepen their appreciation of the Malay language, and build their confidence when using it.

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1. Kembara Rakan Bahasa (Rakan Bahasa Activity Cards)

Kembara Rakan Bahasa is an **activity card** designed to challenge Rakan Bahasa to complete different tasks, related to the Malay language. Customised for different levels (primary, secondary and tertiary), the 2020 activity card features a fresh set of tasks to enhance all Rakan Bahasa's skills and interest in reading, writing, speaking and other activities that support language learning. Rakan Bahasa who complete the stipulated tasks will receive an exclusive collar pin and file at the end of the exercise, to celebrate their learning achievements.

2. NewsMaker Video Creation

All Rakan Bahasa will enjoy complimentary use of the **NewsMaker** application, sponsored by TeeVers. Rakan Bahasa are encouraged to use this application to create their videos based on themes that will be set by the Bulan Bahasa Committee. These videos would then be shared and featured on MLCS' social media platforms.

To watch Mdm Rahayu Mazham's recorded speech to all Rakan Bahasa, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/RB20RMS>.

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**For more information, please contact:**

Ms Liyana Nasyita  
Assistant Manager (Secretariat, Malay Language Council, Singapore)  
Language Division  
National Heritage Board  
Email: [liyana\\_nasyita\\_shukarman@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:liyana_nasyita_shukarman@nhb.gov.sg)

**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, 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, and Bulan Bahasa, please visit [mbms.sg](http://mbms.sg) and [facebook.com/majlisbahasa](https://facebook.com/majlisbahasa).