

## Media Release

Embargoed till 5.00pm, Friday, 19 April 2024



### **361 MALAY LANGUAGE STUDENTS APPOINTED AS RAKAN BAHASA**

Friday, 19 April 2024 – 361 Malay Language students from 182 schools gathered at the Singapore Discovery Centre to commence their appointment as Rakan Bahasa. Tasked to promote the use of the Malay language amongst their peers and family, these students took their Rakan Bahasa pledge in the form of a *poetry* to formalise their role. The pledge was written by Rakan Bahasa sub-committee members within the Bulan Bahasa Committee, and their appointments were officiated by Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim, Chairman of the Bulan Bahasa Committee, and member of the Majlis Bahasa Melayu Singapura (MBMS).

“These students are the future of our society. They represent our hope that our mother tongue will continue to be used and cherished as it continues to evolve. Some of them could be the ones who will lead language promotion activities in future. We should continue encouraging and nurturing their interest and potential, and for this we thank our teachers and parents for identifying and nominating them as Rakan Bahasa,” says Mr Zhulkarnain.

The event was hosted by two Rakan Bahasa appointed in 2018, Reyna Sofyan and Dyan Nurqaisara, when they were formerly with Cedar Girls’ Secondary School. Now aged 21, both Reyna and Dyan are undergraduates at the National University of Singapore majoring in Biomedical Engineering and Communications & New Media, respectively.

“We are excited to come back and meet the young Rakan Bahasa. We hope that these students will have as much fun as we did when we were appointed back in Secondary Three. Being appointed as Rakan Bahasa gave us many opportunities to explore our love for the Malay language. It also allowed us to build our confidence in using the language. At the university, we continue to be involved in various Malay language, literature and cultural activities,” said Reyna and Dyan.

During the Rakan Bahasa Appointment Ceremony, a training session on script writing was conducted by Duta Bahasa (Language Ambassador), Ms Aidli Mosbit. As an award-winning playwright, actress, theatre director and former recipient of the Young Artist Award, she provided guidance on how to write enticing scripts. This would benefit the Rakan Bahasa as they next prepare for the upcoming Pertandingan TeeVers (see the next section for more

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information on the competition). She also shared some relevant tips on voice modulation and intonation as all Rakan Bahasa would be recording their scripts for the competition.

The venue for this year's Rakan Bahasa Appointment Ceremony was sponsored by the Defence Collective Singapore.

### **Upcoming Programmes for Rakan Bahasa**

Several programmes have been planned for all Rakan Bahasa this year. These are designed to help students deepen their appreciation of the Malay language and build their confidence when using it.

#### **1. Penterjemah Pintar 2024**

Supported by the National Translation Committee (NTC), the **Penterjemah Pintar translation competition** will take place once again, this year. Organised since 2019, this competition aims to promote the relevance and importance of effective bilingualism in daily context amongst Rakan Bahasa. This year, the competition will be jointly organised by 4PM (Persatuan Persuratan Pemuda Pemudi Melayu or the Malay Youth Literary Association), the Bulan Bahasa Committee and MBMS. This competition will be held on 10 May 2024, at Wisma Geylang Serai for registered primary school Rakan Bahasa teams only.

#### **2. Pertandingan TeeVers 2024**

**Pertandingan TeeVers** is a competition co-organised with TeeVers Pte Ltd since 2018. The competition adopts a new format this year, as Pertandingan TeeVers changes its focus from video-making to audio-drama this year. In this competition, Rakan Bahasa will be required to write a 3-min script and bring it to life through vocalisation. The top three teams from each category (primary school category and secondary school and Institutes of Higher Learning category) will be awarded a team trophy, individual medals and certificates.



### **3. Kembara Rakan Bahasa (Rakan Bahasa Activity Cards)**

**Kembara Rakan Bahasa** is a **digital activity card** designed to challenge Rakan Bahasa to complete different tasks related to the learning and use of the Malay language. Customised for different levels (primary, secondary and tertiary), the 2024 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 at the end of the exercise, to celebrate their learning achievements.

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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, 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 MBMS and Bulan Bahasa, please visit [mbms.sg](http://mbms.sg), [@bulanbahasa](https://www.instagram.com/bulanbahasa) on Instagram and [facebook.com/majlisbahasa](https://www.facebook.com/majlisbahasa).