

Media Release

Embargoed till 10am, Saturday, 13 April 2019



'BUDAYA DIWARISI, BAHASA DILESTARI, IDENTITI SEJATI', ASPIRING TOWARDS A RAKAN BAHASA'S VISION

Saturday, 13 April 2019 – At the *Rakan Bahasa* Appointment Ceremony this morning, a total of 302 Malay Language students from 150 schools were appointed as *Rakan Bahasa* (Friends of the Language). Held at the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre (SCCC), Mdm Rahayu Mahzam, Chairman of the *Bulan Bahasa* Committee, Member of the Malay Language Council, Singapore, and Member of Parliament for Jurong GRC graced the event as Guest-of-Honour.

"I encourage all parents to continuously use the Malay language when communicating with your children, so as to support them in putting our language into practice and use. Thank you teachers, for nominating your students and for being a part of their learning journey. Your efforts and hard work will not go to waste, because you are cultivating in these students, the love and appreciation towards the Malay language and culture," said Mdm Rahayu in her speech.

Mdm Rahayu congratulated the students and encouraged them to aspire towards the *Rakan Bahasa* vision – '*Budaya Diwarisi, Bahasa Dilestari, Identiti Sejati*' as they assume their roles as Friends of the Language. All *Rakan Bahasa* are encouraged to embrace and express the Malay identity, through the appreciation of culture and continued use of the Malay language.

The *Bulan Bahasa* Committee Chairman also emphasised the importance of bilingualism as she announced the inaugural translation competition for *Rakan Bahasa*. Several other programmes are also planned for participation by all *Rakan Bahasa* this year. These initiatives are designed to help students deepen their appreciation of the Malay language, and build their confidence when using it.

1. *Penterjemah Pintar* (Translation Competition) [NEW]

Supported by the National Translation Committee (NTC), the first ever ***Penterjemah Pintar*, a translation competition**, aims to promote the relevance and importance of effective bilingualism in daily context amongst *Rakan Bahasa*. This competition will be held on 17 May 2019, at Oasis Primary School, for registered primary school teams only.

2. *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. These activity cards are customised for different levels (primary, secondary and tertiary) and the tasks revolve around skills such as reading, writing, speaking and other activities that support language learning. First launched in 2018, the 2019 activity card features a fresh set of tasks to engage all *Rakan Bahasa*.

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

3. ***Pertandingan NewsMaker 2019 (Malay NewsMaker Competition)***

Jointly organised by TeeVers, the Malay Language Council, Singapore and the *Bulan Bahasa* Committee, ***Pertandingan NewsMaker*** returns for its second edition this year. In conjunction with the Singapore bicentennial, students will be challenged to create content, and present news reports with '*Singapuraku*' (My Singapore) as a theme.

The *Pertandingan NewsMaker* competition will be held on 22 and 23 May 2019 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.

4. **Roles as Guides at the Launch of *Bulan Bahasa***

Rakan Bahasa will have the opportunity to sharpen and display their language and presentation abilities during the Launch of *Bulan Bahasa* on 7 September 2019 at the Asian Civilisations Museum. They will take on the role of greeters or museum guides as they bring the Malay language and culture to life for all guests and visitors.

In addition to the above, all *Rakan Bahasa* will be encouraged to participate in, or attend, the different programmes and activities that will take place during *Bulan Bahasa* from 17 August to 13 October 2019.

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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 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).