

SPEECH BY MR MASAGOS ZULKIFLI MASAGOS MOHAMAD, CHAIRMAN OF MALAY LITERARY AWARD 2011 COMMITTEE, MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AT THE 10TH MALAY LITERARY AWARD 2011, ON SATURDAY 30 JULY 2011, 3.00 PM, AT SHANGRI-LA HOTEL.

Mr Hawazi Daipi,

Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Manpower,
and Chairman of the Malay Language Council, Singapore.

Mr Yatiman Yusof

Singapore Ambassador to the Republic of Kenya
and member of Malay Language Council Singapore Board of Advisors

Mr Sidek Saniff

Former Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment,
and former Chairman of Malay Language Council, Singapore

Respected guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

A good evening to all

Introduction

1. Thank you for being with us this evening at the Malay Literary Award presentation ceremony.

Malay Literary Award 2011

2. The Malay Literary Award is a continued effort by the Malay Language Council, Singapore (MLCS) to support and encourage the development of Malay literary scene in Singapore.

3. MLCS acknowledges that the contributions of local writers must be given recognition. Although the award may not be worth much, it will motivate our local writers to continue to produce works and contribute to the nation's language and literary development. And this objective of MLCS was fulfilled with the 10th Malay Literary Award.

Role of Literary Figures

4. The literary scene is very important in the language development because the literary scene is a critical platform to promote more actively the language usage through the beauty of the words in literary works, which are more than just words.

5. Not only that, through the literary works, the thoughts and values of the language users community can also be expressed through creative and interesting story-telling. Through literature, readers are called upon to think, assess and discuss the issue raised.

6. Now, with the development of technology, literary writers can also produced work not only in print media, but also electronically through the various media available now. We can, thus, through new media now, enrich and widely promote the Malay language and literary heritage.

Closing

7. In conclusion, I would like to congratulate all Malay Literary Award 2011 recipients. May the awards received motivate you to continue to write and produce high quality works.

8. And my deepest appreciation to Mr Mohd Naim Daipi, Deputy Chairman of the Malay Literary Award Committee 2011 and the members of the organising committee who have worked very hard to ensure the success of the Malay Literary Award 2011.

9. Thank you.
