



## **BULAN BAHASA 2015: FACT SHEET**

### **1. About Bulan Bahasa**

Bulan Bahasa was first launched in 1988 by the Malay Language Council, Singapore, as an initiative to encourage the Malay community to embrace the Malay language and culture in their daily lives. From being a biennial event, Bulan Bahasa, since 2012, has become an annual event. The various activities of Bulan Bahasa have been created to promote and instill greater confidence in and mastery of the Malay language.

### **2. Themes of Bulan Bahasa 2015**

The Malay Language Month 2015 invites us to use the Malay Language as a means of obtaining and sharing knowledge (*Ilmu*), of communicating and preserving culture (*Budaya*), and of strengthening our social ties and relationships (*Mesra*).

The Malay language as “*Ilmu, Budaya, Mesra*” reflects its importance throughout all layers of society. When we use the Malay language, we are able to preserve knowledge and culture, as well as foster ties that matter. The Malay language will also be conserved through its continued use, allowing us to pass it on to the future generations.

### **3. Where and when will Bulan Bahasa 2015 be launched? What are some of the highlights?**

Bulan Bahasa 2015 will be launched on Saturday 5 September at the Gardens by the Bay, by Guest of Honour Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

The launch weekend will feature many programmes and performances by partners within the Flower Dome, guided tours by Rakan Bahasa (students and Friends of the Language), activities presented by participating schools, as well as *silat* and *sepak takraw* demonstrations throughout the day. In the evening and under the majestic Supertrees, the concert “*Singa Maksima Live Edisi Nusantara*” will feature poets and popular bands from Singapore and the region, and our very own “Papa Rock”, Datuk Ramli Sarip.

Bulan Bahasa 2015 will also see the launch of a new series of notebooks, containing language tips and *pantun* that the public can collect during selected Bulan Bahasa events throughout the month.

The series of Semarak activities for Bulan Bahasa 2015 will end on 17 October 2015.

### **4. What are the SG50 initiatives of Bulan Bahasa 2015?**

To mark SG50, Tampines, Nee Soon, Jurong and Choa Chu Kang GRCs will also host major Bulan Bahasa festivities to include even more residents in celebration of the Malay language, culture and heritage this year.



*Yang Terukir: Bahasa dan Persuratan Melayu Sempena 50 Tahun Kemerdekaan Singapura* (Inscribed: Malay Language and Literature in Conjunction with 50 years of Singapore's Independence) is a commemorative book produced by the Malay Language Council, Singapore to celebrate Singapore's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This commemorative book documents the historical development of the Malay language in Singapore in numerous fields since the early years till 2015. This book will be launched on 5 September.

The Malay Language Council of Singapore (MLCS) has also commissioned a travelling exhibition based on the history and evolution of the Malay language. This exhibition will premiere at the launch weekend at Gardens by the Bay, and will then travel to other Bulan Bahasa launch locations in the GRCs, pop-up at literary seminars and reside as exhibitions in selected libraries throughout Singapore.

#### **5. How can the public get involved?**

The public is welcome to join in the fun and celebration during the Bulan Bahasa 2015 launch weekend at the Gardens by the Bay on 5 & 6 September 2015, where there will be lots of games, performances and activities all about the Malay language and culture.

The Malay Language Month will feature many programmes that will cater to a variety of age and interest groups that have been organized by partners. These include Berita Harian's Literary Night, storytelling sessions by the National Library Board, a lyric-writing workshop by the Malay Heritage Centre, as well as competitions and exhibitions by various MAECs (Malay Activity Executive Committees) across the island.