

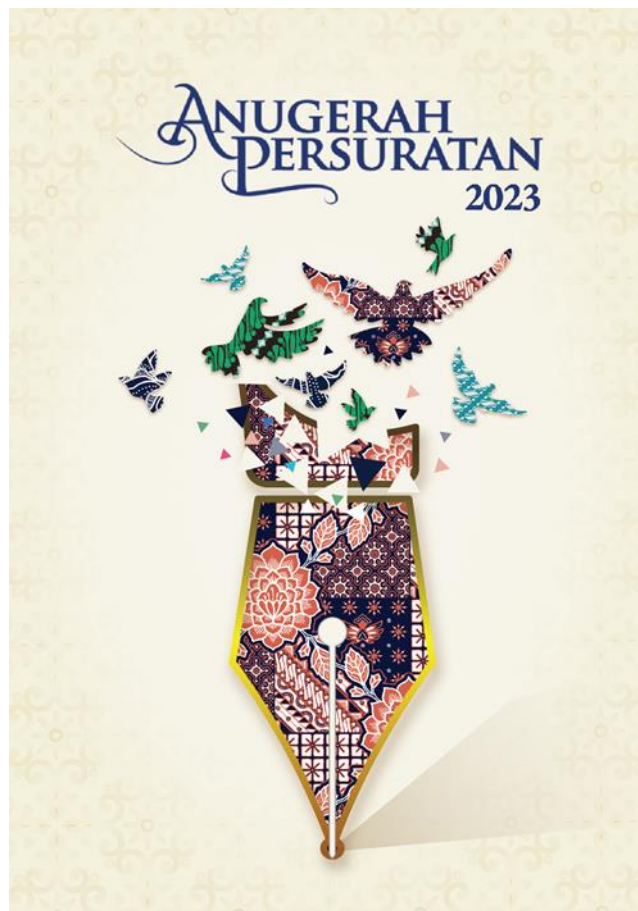


MAJLIS BAHASA MELAYU SINGAPURA (*Malay Language Council, Singapore*)
Anugerah Persuratan 2023
d/a Singapore Book Council
Goodman Arts Centre, 90 Goodman Road, Blk E #03-32, Singapore 439053
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MEDIA RELEASE (Embargoed until 1pm, Saturday, 11 November 2023)

**ANUGERAH PERSURATAN 2023
(MALAY LITERARY AWARD 2023)**

**HIGHEST RECOGNITION FOR 4 MALAY WRITERS;
JAMAL ISMAIL RECEIVES TUN SERI LANANG AWARD**



11 November 2023 –The biennial Anugerah Persuratan (AP) 2023 which was held on Saturday, 11 November 2023 gave recognition to outstanding Malay writers. The event was held at the Asian Civilisations Museum and graced by Guest-of-Honour, Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Communications and Information and Second Minister for Home Affairs. During the event, Dr Azhar Ibrahim, Head Judge for Anugerah Persuratan and Chairman of Literary Committee of the Malay Language Council,



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Singapore (Majlis Bahasa Melayu Singapura or MBMS) and Mrs Josephine Teo delivered their speeches.

Mr Jamal Ismail is the recipient of the prestigious Tun Seri Lanang Award for Anugerah Persuratan 2023. He is also a recipient of the Hadiah Persuratan (Literary Award) in the Novel category for his book, *Mustafa: Epik Kerohanian Seorang Kiai*. Mr Jamal Ismail actively contributes to the community by sharing with and nurturing new writers. He has conducted numerous writing workshops and participated as a speaker for Bulan Bahasa and Singapore Writers Festival programmes.

Jamal Ismail writes in different genres such as theatre, radio and television scripts, as well as poetry, essays, short stories and novels. His accolades include both local and international awards and most recent awards received are the Hadiah Persuratan (Literary Award) in the Short Story and Novel categories for *GOD(A)* and *Pointing the Sky* respectively (Anugerah Persuratan, 2020/2021).

Mr Muhammad Khairool Haque, a 31-year-old writer and a Malay Language teacher, is the recipient of the Anugerah Harapan (Promising Award) for Anugerah Persuratan 2023. He also received the Hadiah Persuratan (Literary Award) in the Poetry category for his book, *Anak Waktu Belajar Diam*. Khairool Haque started writing since his teens, and was a recipient of the Golden Point Award 2009 at a tender age of 17. In 2021 he was appointed as a Sahabat Sastera (Friend of Literature) by MBMS. He has also participated in several literary events and workshops as a speaker and trainer.

Ms Raudhah Binte Alias, a preschool teacher, is the recipient of the Hadiah Persuratan (Literary Award) for Anugerah Persuratan 2023 in the Children's Literature category for her book *Feri Menjaga Kelestarian Laut*. The book highlights the importance of caring for the environment. This is her first award in the literary scene.

Mr Farihan Bahron, recipient of the Anugerah Harapan (Promising Award) for Anugerah Persuratan 2017, returns clinching Hadiah Persuratan (Literary Award) for Anugerah Persuratan 2023 in the Short Story category for his book *Kepala Kotak*. He



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was recently conferred the Anugerah Sasterawan Muda Mastera 2023 (Mastera's Young Writer Award 2023) in Indonesia, by Mastera (Majlis Sastera Asia Tenggara or Southeast Asian Literature Council). He actively nurtures budding writers through mentorships and workshops for aspiring writers.

This year, Anugerah Persuratan also presents Honourable Mention prizes in the categories of Drama (for Stage) and Essay / Literary Research. This is to encourage writers to continue writing and publishing, so as to boost submissions for these genres in the future.

About Anugerah Persuratan:

Since 1993, the biennial Anugerah Persuratan recognises Singapore Malay writers who have made outstanding contributions to the Malay literary arts. It is organised by the Malay Language Council, Singapore (Majlis Bahasa Melayu Singapura or MBMS), supported by the National Heritage Board (NHB) and the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY). The Singapore Book Council (SBC) is the secretariat for the 2023 edition.

The following awards will be conferred at the Anugerah Persuratan 2023.

No.	Award	Award Recipients
1.	Tun Seri Lanang Award	Jamal Ismail
2.	Anugerah Harapan (Promising Award)	Muhammad Khairool Haque

No.	Hadiah Persuratan (Literary Award)	Award Recipients	Book Title
1.	Short Story	Farihan Bahron	Kepala Kotak
2.	Novel	Jamal Ismail	Mustafa: Epik Kerohanian Seorang Kiai



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3.	Poetry	Muhammad Khairool Haque	Anak Waktu Belajar Diam
4.	Children's Literature	Raudhah Binte Alias	Feri Menjaga Kelestarian Laut

No.	Honourable Mention	Award Recipients	Book Title
1.	Drama (for Stage)	Anwar Hadi Bin Ramli	RASAlah
2.	Essay/Literary Research	City Mazita Binte Maswadi	Jervoisku Meniti Masa

Please refer to **Annex A** for details of the award recipients and their works.

The period for submission of entries lasted from 27 March to 10 May 2023. Anugerah Persuratan 2023 received a total of 69 entries across six categories. The call for submissions also invited public nominations for the Anugerah Tun Seri Lanang (Tun Seri Lanang Award), Anumerta Tun Seri Lanang (Tun Seri Lanang Posthumous Award) and Anugerah Harapan (Promising Award).

Original Malay language literary works submitted for the Literary Awards must be written by Singaporeans or Singapore Permanent Residents and only works published in 2020, 2021 or 2022, in Singapore or overseas with ISBN number, qualify for Anugerah Persuratan 2023.

Please refer to **Annex B** for details of the various awards.



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For more information, please contact:

Ms Hanis Husin

Secretariat, Singapore Book Council

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Annex A


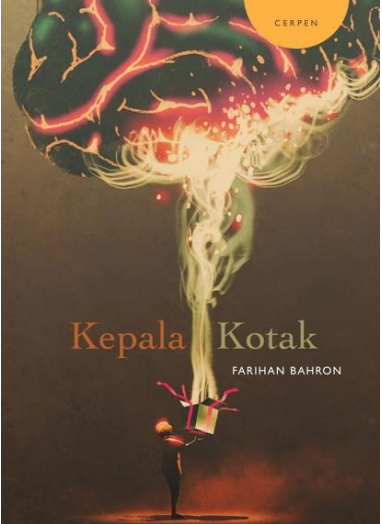
TUN SERI LANANG AWARD AND ANUGERAH HARAPAN RECIPIENTS


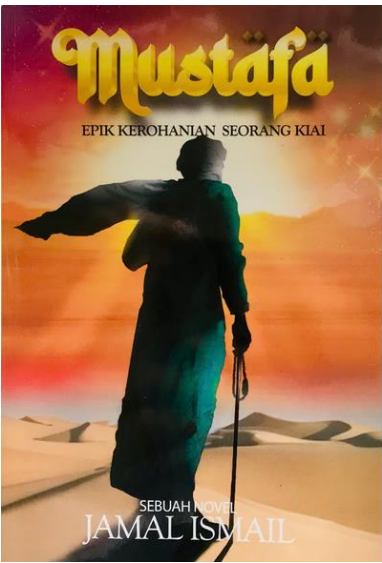
No.	Award Recipient	Biography
1.	 <p>Jamal Ismail Tun Seri Lanang Award</p>	<p>Jamal Ismail is an established broadcaster and prolific writer of short stories and novels. He is actively engaged as a television scriptwriter, director, executive producer, and producer of drama and documentary programmes. He was the recipient of the Loheh Noor Award from the Ministry of Information for the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1997, for his documentary work on Islam, as well as the TV3 Malaysia Screen Award for telemovies and drama series in 2011 and 2013. His recent accolades include Literary Awards for the Short Story and Novel categories for his works <i>GOD(A)</i> and <i>Tunjuk Langit</i> (Literary Award, 2020/2021).</p>
2.	 <p>Muhammad Khairool Haque Anugerah Harapan (Promising Award)</p>	<p>Muhammad Khairool Haque is a writer and educator currently pursuing his studies at the National Institute of Education (NIE). Prior to that, he taught Malay in several primary schools in Singapore. He was awarded the Golden Pen Award for poetry in 2009 and the ASEAN Young Writer Award in 2014. His notable works include the poetry collection <i>Iftitah</i> (2019) and <i>Anak Waktu Belajar Diam</i> (2020). In addition to his creative writing, Khairool Haque also researches and writes about Malay literature. In 2021, he was appointed as a Sahabat Sastera by MBMS.</p>


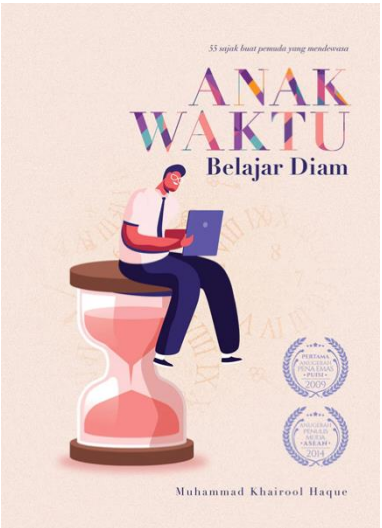


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HADIAH PERSURATAN (LITERARY AWARD) RECIPIENTS

No.	Award Recipient & Book Cover	Details
1.	 	<p>Name: Farihan Bahron</p> <p>Biography: Farihan Bahron is a recipient of the Anugerah Harapan (Promising Award) for Anugerah Persuratan 2017. He has won several creative writing competitions, including the Peraduan Asah Bakat (1998), the Anugerah Pena Bakti (2000), the Golden Point Award (2003, 2015), the Mencari Kristal (2016), and the Sayembara Puisi Kata-Pilar (2020). His poetry collection, <i>Tukang Tunjuk Telunjuk</i>, received the Singapore Literature Prize in 2018 and the Anugerah Persuratan Literary Award in 2021, while his short story collection, <i>Kepala Kotak</i>, garnered the Singapore Literature Prize in 2022. He was recently conferred the Anugerah Sasterawan Muda Mastera 2023 (Mastera's Young Writer Award 2023) in Indonesia by Mastera (Majlis Sastera Asia Tenggara or Southeast Asian Literature Council).</p> <p>Category: Short Story</p> <p>Title: Kepala Kotak</p> <p>Publisher: Unggun Creative</p>

		<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Farihan Bahron's collection of short stories, <i>Kepala Kotak</i>, presents 15 stories written from 2017 to 2021. The themes explored in this collection encompass the interaction between humans and technology and the world of the future.</p>
<p>2.</p>	 	<p>Name: Jamal Ismail</p> <p>Biography: <i>See section on Tun Seri Lanang Award</i></p> <p>Category: Novel</p> <p>Title: Mustafa: Epik Kerohanian Seorang Kiai</p> <p>Publisher: Majlis Pusat Singapura</p> <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>This hagiographic novel is set against the historical backdrop of the 1915 rebellion of Hanafi-rite Muslim Sepoy soldiers in Singapore.</p> <p>The story follows the perspective of Tengku Hamzah, a royal descendant of Johor, narrating the tale of Kiai Mustafa during 1914-1915, a revered teacher whom he greatly admires. Despite facing opposition from British colonisers, false accusations, and death threats, this</p>

		<p>exceptional figure remains steadfast in his belief that Islam is a peaceful religion.</p> <p>The novel weaves in experiences and spiritual teachings of the Kiai as he continues to strive for the spread of Islam amidst the communities of Singapore and Malaysia and in the heat of the First World War.</p>
3.	 	<p>Name: Muhammad Khairool Haque</p> <p>Biography: <i>See section on Anugerah Harapan Award</i></p> <p>Category: Poetry</p> <p>Title: Anak Waktu Belajar Diam</p> <p>Publisher: Unggun Creative</p> <p>Synopsis: A compilation of poems on the journey to adulthood.</p> <p>The poems in this book are infused with proverbs that carry themes and messages aimed at shaping character, building resilience, and navigating emotions, fostering the aspiration of individuals to become better and beneficial human beings.</p>



		<p>It is an invitation to readers to embrace the wisdom of past generations. The poet encourages readers to walk as children of time, understanding the profound wisdom found in silence and stillness, while also recognising the importance of speaking and expressing in moments of quietude.</p>
<p>4.</p>	 	<p>Name: Raudhah Binte Alias</p> <p>Biography: Raudhah is a kindergarten teacher who has been teaching pre-schoolers for more than 20 years. She was awarded the Outstanding Preschool Mother Tongue Language Teacher Awards with Merit in 2019.</p> <p>Raudhah enjoys writing stories for children because it creates a magical engagement through creative imagination. This sparks their interest in reading and writing, which helps in building the foundation of language and literacy skills and their enthusiasm for learning their Mother Tongue.</p> <p>Category: Children's Literature</p> <p>Title: Feri Menjaga Kelestarian Laut</p> <p>Publisher: Pustaka Nasional</p> <p>Synopsis: This work emphasises the importance of environmental conservation. The story begins</p>



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		<p>with Feri taking a stroll along a beach strewn with scattered plastic waste. Witnessing the detrimental impact of plastic debris on marine life, particularly the death of many fish, deeply affects Feri. Thus begins the adventure of Feri and Kayan to locate the ship responsible for polluting the sea, along with their endeavours to clean up the ocean.</p>
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HONOURABLE MENTION RECIPIENTS

No.	Photo	Details
1.	 	<p>Name: Anwar Hadi Bin Ramli</p> <p>Biography: Anwar Hadi Ramli is a theatre enthusiast, director, writer, actor, and arts educator. Since 2003, he has been involved in more than 90 full-scale productions, not including smaller performances for community events.</p> <p>Category: Drama (for Stage)</p> <p>Title: RASAlah</p> <p>Publisher: Anwar Hadi Bin Ramli</p> <p>Synopsis: A compilation of 3 performances, <i>Bagaimana Kalau Gentar Gegarannya?</i>, <i>Mahameru</i> dan <i>Kurun Yang Hilang</i>.</p>

		<p>The works compiled in these books have been performed for national events such as Gentarasa 2012 and the Singapore Bicentennial celebration in 2019.</p>
<p>2.</p>	 	<p>Name: City Mazita Binte Maswadi</p> <p>Biography: City Mazita is an alumna of Jervois West Primary School and is actively involved in organising significant events for former teachers and students.</p> <p>Category: Essay / Literary Research</p> <p>Title: Jervoisku Meniti Masa</p> <p>Publisher: City Mazita Binte Maswadi</p> <p>Synopsis: A comprehensive biography detailing the history and life of Sekolah Rendah Jervois Barat (JWPS), a Malay school that operated for 30 years from 1959 until its closure.</p> <p>The book features unique records, including photographic documentation, illustrations, newspaper clippings, and shared experiences gathered through interview sessions.</p>



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		<p>Additionally, it incorporates contributed articles and creative works.</p> <p>The narrative explores the school's evolution to contemporary standards, emphasizing its role in providing lifelong education and progress across various aspects of life.</p>
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ANNEX B

Hadiah Persuratan (Literary Awards)

Each recipient will receive \$3,500 in cash, a trophy and a certificate of achievement. One Literary Award will be conferred for each of the following categories, unless otherwise mentioned.

Category	Note
Short Story	
Drama (for Stage)	Honourable Mention
Essay / Literary Research	Honourable Mention
Novel	
Poetry	
Children's Literature	

Anugerah Tun Seri Lanang (Tun Seri Lanang Award) / Anumerta Tun Seri Lanang (Tun Seri Lanang Posthumous Award)*

Nominees are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- i) outstanding qualities as a local language and literary activist;
- ii) excellent contributions to both local and international literary scene;
- iii) ability to lead / have led and shaped collective thinking towards nation-building, through writings (creative and non-creative works); and
- iv) exemplary dedication to the pursuit of knowledge to hone the writing craft

* Nominees who fulfilled the above criteria in his/her lifetime.

Recipients for Anugerah Tun Seri Lanang / Anumerta Tun Seri Lanang will receive \$5,000 and \$2,000 in cash respectively, a trophy and a certificate of achievement.



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A grant of \$3,500 will be awarded for research works on the award recipient(s).

Note: There is no recipient for Anumerta Tun Seri Lanang for Anugerah Persuratan 2023.

Anugerah Harapan (Promising Award)

Nominees must be below 40 years of age, and display potential in the field of literary writing. Nominees are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- i) active involvement in literary activities to promote writings for eg short story, poetry, novel, drama, non-fiction works;
- ii) conducts literary sharing sessions to students and youth; and
- iii) produces quality works that can add value to both creative and non-creative writing, in printed or electronic form, to shape collective thinking towards nation-building.

The recipient for Anugerah Harapan will receive \$3,000 in cash, a trophy and a certificate of achievement.