

## Media Release

Embargoed till 9.30pm, Saturday, 2 September 2023



### **BULAN BAHASA 2023 CELEBRATING THE TAPESTRY OF MALAY ARTS**

**2 September 2023** – Majlis Bahasa Melayu Singapura (MBMS or Malay Language Council, Singapore) presented the official launch of Bulan Bahasa 2023 via telecast on Mediacorp Suria, at 8.30pm on Saturday, 2 September 2023. The launch was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Minister for National Development and the Minister-in-Charge of Social Services Integration, Mr Desmond Lee. The programme is now available for on-demand viewing via MeWATCH.

During the programme, Guest-of-Honour Minister Desmond Lee reiterated the relevance of the Malay language in instilling important and timeless values such as humility, courtesy and harmonious living. He also encouraged everyone to partake in meaningful conversations and enjoy the array of programmes presented in Bulan Bahasa 2023.

Bulan Bahasa Committee Chairman, Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim also thanked the dedication and commitment of community partners in presenting programmes. He said, “The promotion of our Malay language would not be possible without the contribution and efforts of the individuals, groups and organisations who have worked tirelessly for Bulan Bahasa.”

#### **A Programme Featuring a Tapestry of Malay Arts**

In this year’s launch programme, the Malay arts and culture took centre stage, and featured the vibrant usage and display of Malay language. With music arrangements helmed by Duta Bahasa (Language Ambassador), Megat Firdaus, the programme line-up offered a heartwarming celebration of the language. The programme was also hosted by Duta Bahasa, Khairudin Saharom and Izyan Mellyna.

The audience and viewers were greeted with an energetic *dikir barat* performance by local groups Makyong Kedek and Dang Anom, with main vocals by Duta Bahasa Aqmal N and Anis Qurratu’aini. The programme then featured classic Malay song performances by Suryana Norddin, Puteri Emily and Alfan Ryan, accompanied by live music from Orkestra Sri Temasek, and dancers from Perkumpulan Seni.

The Malay literary arts was the mainstay of the programme, as seen through *pantun* (Malay rhymed quatrains) exchanges and poetry declamations. The studio audience were engaged

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in *pantun* exchanges with MBMS Chairman, Mr Fahmi Aliman and the Bulan Bahasa Committee Chairman, Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim. The newly appointed Duta Bahasa, Afi Hanafi, Nursha Ismail, Nuzhan Halim and Syafiqah 'Adha also presented an enchanting medley of inspiring *syair* and *sajak*, inviting the community to cherish the Malay language.

### **Promoting Young Talent and Community Partnership**

The launch programme continued to showcase the budding talents of Rakan Bahasa (Friends of the Language). These youthful Rakan Bahasa from Deyi Secondary School and Geylang Methodist Primary School engaged members of the public in a proverb quiz, and interviewed Tampines Central CC MAEC, a long-time community partner for Bulan Bahasa. Other community partners featured in this programme include Keat Hong CC MAEC who presented a snippet of its theatre performance, and Kamal Arts, who enthralled the audience with a batik painting.

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### For more information, please contact:

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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). For the Calendar of Events of Bulan Bahasa 2023, click "Download Calendar" on [mbms.sg](http://mbms.sg).

### Theme of Bulan Bahasa

'Cita. Citra. Cinta. Bahasa Kita.' reflects the dynamism of the Malay language as we move towards a new era. 'Cita' encapsulates the aspiration of the community to maintain the relevance of the Malay language. 'Citra' underscores the diversity in the usage and adaptation of the language. It also represents the potential of the Malay language as a window to knowledge and a means of communication. 'Cinta' emphasises the need to cultivate the love and appreciation towards the Malay language.

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**Annex A**

**Behind-The-Scenes Photos of the Launch of Bulan Bahasa 2023**



Duta Bahasa



Minister Desmond Lee (GOH, *standing fourth from right*), with Duta Bahasa 2023, Mr Fahmi Aliman (MBMS Chairman, *standing extreme left*) and Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim (Bulan Bahasa Committee Chairman, *standing extreme right*)



Emcees, singers, dancers and performers for the Launch of Bulan Bahasa 2023



Duta Bahasa 2023 performing *sajak* and *syair* during the Launch of Bulan Bahasa 2023

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Minister Desmond Lee (GOH, *middle*), with Mr Fahmi Aliman (MBMS Chairman, *left*) and Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim (Bulan Bahasa Committee Chairman, *right*)



Mr Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim (Bulan Bahasa Committee Chairman) engaging a member of the audience in a *pantun* exchange



A member of the audience engaging in a *pantun* exchange with the Bulan Bahasa Committee Chairman



Puteri Emily, Suryana Norddin and Anis Qurratu'aini in a song performance

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Kamal Dollah from Kamal Arts showcasing his batik painting



MBMS Members, Bulan Bahasa Committee Members and Duta Bahasa

To download high resolution photos, please visit this [link](#).