

Media Release

Embargoed till 5.00pm, Thursday, 4 May 2023



**RAKAN BAHASA AND TEACHERS GATHER IN-PERSON
AFTER THREE YEARS OF VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES**

Thursday, 4 May 2023 - Students from various schools gathered in-person this afternoon at the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre (SCCC) for a Rakan Bahasa Networking and Training Session, after three years of virtual activities. Mdm Rahayu Mahzam, Chairman of the Bulan Bahasa Committee, Member of the MLCS, and Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health & Ministry of Law, graced the event as Guest-of-Honour. This year, 368 Malay Language students from 185 schools have been appointed as Rakan Bahasa by Majlis Bahasa Melayu Singapura (MBMS, or the Malay Language Council, Singapore).

"We are thrilled to meet all Rakan Bahasa and their teachers in-person again. It is very heart-warming to see the faces of our young ones, who share our common love and passion for the Malay language. We can also never underestimate the importance of face-to-face interaction when it comes to engaging our young, keeping our language in use and our culture, alive," says Mdm Rahayu.

"We hope that the session today will help all Rakan Bahasa crystallise their fervour to promote our mother tongue amongst their friends and family. At the same time, the event today renews our commitment to continue nurturing our young ones, so that they can continue to champion our Malay language and become avid users of our mother tongue in the future," she adds.

Mdm Rahayu congratulated the students on their appointments, and expressed gratitude to teachers and parents who continue to support to their students and children. The Bulan Bahasa Committee Chairman also shared details on the various initiatives helmed by the Rakan Bahasa sub-committee.

One of the Rakan Bahasa signature programmes is 'Pertandingan TeeVers', which took place from 10 to 14 April 2023. 'Pertandingan TeeVers' is a video-making competition inaugurated in 2018, for students to create news reports through the Moo-V application sponsored by Teevers Pte Ltd. At the event, Mdm Rahayu presented trophies and medals to

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the winners of this year's competition. To see the photos of the training and briefing sessions, please visit [this link](#). For the list of winners, please see **Annex A**.

During the Rakan Bahasa Networking and Training Session, a sharing session on presentation skills was conducted by Duta Bahasa (Language Ambassador), Mr Hairianto Diman. He provided all Rakan Bahasa with useful tips on effective presentation and public speaking. He also shared with them the importance and relevance of the Malay Language for professional development.

The venue for the Rakan Bahasa Networking and Training Session was kindly sponsored by the SCCC.

Upcoming Programmes for Rakan Bahasa

Several other programmes have also been planned for all Rakan Bahasa this year. These are designed to help students deepen their appreciation of the Malay language and build their confidence when using it.

1. Penterjemah Pintar 2023

Supported by the National Translation Committee (NTC), the Penterjemah Pintar translation competition returns this year. Organised since 2019, this competition aims to promote the relevance and importance of effective bilingualism in daily context amongst Rakan Bahasa. This year, the competition will be jointly organised by MBMS, the Bulan Bahasa Committee and 4PM (Persatuan Persuratan Pemuda Pemudi Melayu or the Malay Youth Literary Association). This competition will be held on 19 May 2023, at Woodlands Regional Library 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 learning and use of the Malay language. Customised for different levels (primary, secondary and tertiary), the 2023 activity card features a fresh set of tasks to enhance all Rakan Bahasa's skills and interest in

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reading, writing, speaking and other activities that support language learning. Rakan Bahasa who complete the stipulated tasks will receive an exclusive collar pin at the end of the exercise, to celebrate their learning achievements.

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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).

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**Annex A: Winners of Pertandingan TeeVers 2023**

**Primary School Category**

| <b>Placing</b>              | <b>School</b>                |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>1st place</b>            | Changkat Primary School      |
| <b>2nd place</b>            | Ahmad Ibrahim Primary School |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> place</b> | Haig Girls' School           |

**Secondary School and Junior College Category**

| <b>Placing</b>              | <b>School</b>                   |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>1st place</b>            | Deyi Secondary School           |
| <b>2nd place</b>            | St Joseph's Institution         |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> place</b> | Madrasah Al-Arabiah Al-Islamiah |