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**MALAYSIA
NATIONAL
POETRY SLAM**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
27 June 2018

Malaysia's first National Poetry Slam to take place at George Town Literary Festival 2018.

THE SEARCH for Malaysia's brightest voices in spoken word poetry begins as the inaugural Malaysia National Poetry Slam is set to take place in November this year.

Built on the art of performance poetry, the competition will see 12 shortlisted poets showcasing their best work at George Town Literary Festival 2018 (GTLF 2018), which will take place from 22-25 November. The competition is open to all Malaysian citizens 15 years and above, and submissions will be accepted in English and Bahasa Malaysia.

A poetry slam is a competition that combines the performative elements of poetry recitation and theatre to discover the brightest voices in Malaysian spoken word. This platform will allow the winner of the National Slam to compete at international poetry platforms.

GTLF Festival Director Bernice Chauly said the the national poetry slam is a timely affair with the country's successful exercise of democracy and is also aligned with the festival's theme this year 'The State of Freedom'.

"The National Slam is aimed to showcase the best in Malaysian spoken word and the GTLF is ready to host the finals of the very first national slam.

"In the same spirit of celebrating free speech and expression, the GTLF continues to support necessary and emerging voices in a rapidly transforming country," said Chauly.

From now to September, the Malaysia National Poetry Slam will have it's preliminary rounds where keen participants can submit a 3-minute video of their performance.

Video entries can be submitted until midnight of September 16.

Entries will then undergo a selection process by a panel of local judges, out of which 12 participants will be shortlisted to compete at the poetry slam finale at George Town Literary Festival on Nov 26.

Helmed by GTLF co-curator Melizarani T.Selva and Australian poet William Beale, the poetry slam is designed to be both online and offline as a live event to reach out to spoken word poets around Malaysia.

"Spoken word poets are plentiful in Malaysia, however, much focus is given to poets based in Kuala Lumpur.

Festival Producer



No. 14A & 16A (First Floor), The Whiteaways Arcade, Lebuh Pantai, George Town, 10300 Penang, MALAYSIA
T/ +604 261 6161 E/ info@pceb.my W/ www.pceb.my



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“By having the preliminary round online, we hope to make the poetry slam accessible to poets across the country and offer them equal opportunity to compete.

“A poetry slam on a national scale will also bring Malaysia’s diverse and range of storytelling to the forefront and further encourage our youth to participate.” said Melizarani.

Beale, who co-founded Kuala Lumpur’s longest running poetry open mic ‘If Walls Could Talk’ with Selva said the national poetry slam will be a invaluable opportunity to encourage fresh Malaysian voices.

Supported by British High Commission Kuala Lumpur, submissions for the Malaysia National Poetry Slam opens on July 1.

For details, visit georgetownlitfest.com/slam or email gtlflslam@gmail.com

ENDS

For all media enquiries regarding George Town Literary Festival, please contact:

Toh Mei Chern
Executive, Marketing & Communications
Email: meichern@pceb.my

NOTE TO EDITORS

About Penang Convention & Exhibition Bureau (PCEB)

Penang Convention & Exhibition Bureau (PCEB) is a state bureau established to develop the Business Events and meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions (MICE) industry in Penang. PCEB aims to position Penang as the preferred location for Business Events activities in the region. With its rich UNESCO heritage, thriving multicultural society, state-of-the-art facilities and vibrant natural attractions, Penang offers a truly eclectic tropical experience.

In line with its mission to incubate the growth of Business Events in Penang, PCEB serves as Penang's focal point for the coordination of all Business Events activities, providing expert assistance to organisations and Business Events planners at every step of the planning. PCEB's team of industry experts work hand-in-hand with professional service providers and world-class hotels, convention centres and unique venues to ensure the smoothness and success of each event organized. PCEB's goal is to enhance our Business Events clients' experience and at the same time to expand the beneficial economic impact of local MICE businesses.

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About George Town Literary Festival (GTLF)

The George Town Literary Festival is the largest international literary festival in Malaysia which is supported and funded by the State Government of Penang. Held annually in the World UNESCO Heritage site of George Town, the GTLF is one of the last bastions of free speech in Malaysia and has a specific focus on world literature. The festival invites local and international writers, poets and performers to engage in topics and themes that are crucial to the world we live in. The GTLF believes in the power of free speech and expression, and is committed to being one of the most urgent, vital and provocative literary festivals in the region.

More information on the George Town Literary Festival 2018 can be obtained from:

Website: www.georgetownlitfest.com

Facebook: @georgetownlitfest

Tel: +604 261 61

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