

# THE MALAY HERITAGE FOUNDATION LTD

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### BACKGROUND

- 1 The Malay Heritage Foundation Ltd (MHF) was incorporated in Singapore on 28 July 1999 as a company limited by guarantee without a share capital. Each ordinary member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company in the event of it being wound up while he is a member, or within one year after he ceases to be a member, for payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company contracted before he ceases to be a member and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, such amount as may be required but not exceeding \$1.00/-.
- 2 MHF is an approved Charity under the Charities Act, Cap. 37 with effect from September 1999 and has been accorded the status of an Institution of Public Character (IPC) since 29 May 2006. This IPC status has been renewed from 29 May 2020 to 28 May 2022.

Registration No. : 199904358R  
IPC No. : IPC000595  
Registered Address : 85 Sultan Gate, Singapore 198501

- 3 The Board of Directors (BOD) was appointed by the Minister for Culture, Community & Youth, through letters of appointment. The Minister, Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth (MCCY) is empowered by clause 28 of the Articles of Association of the Company to appoint the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and all members of the Board for such terms and conditions as he deems fit.

The list of BOD is as follows.

No.	Name	Current Designation	Date of Appointment to MHF Board
1	Dr Norshahril bin Saat	Chairman Vice Chairman	1-Aug-2018 1-Aug-2017
2	Dr Azhar bin Ibrahim	Vice Chair Director	1-Aug-2019 1-Aug-2017
3	Mdm Rahayu binti Buang	Vice Chair Director	1-Aug-2019 1-Aug-2017
4	Mr Alvin Tan	Director	1-Oct-2018
5	Mr Alwi bin Abdul Hafiz	Director	1-Aug-2017
6	Dr Lai Ah Eng	Director	1-Aug-2015
7	Mr Muhammed Khairudin bin Saharom	Director	1-Aug-2019
8	Ms Nadia Yeo	Director	1-Aug-2019
9	Ms Suree binte Rohan	Director	1-Aug-2019

10	Mr Zafilin bin Abdul Hamid	Director	1-Aug-2015
11	Mr Zhulkarnain bin Abdul Rahim	Director	1-Aug-2017

## OBJECTIVES

- 4 The principal objective of MHF is to promote and safeguard our Malay heritage for all. It does this through the promotion of study and research, and enhancing the public's understanding and knowledge of the historical and socio-cultural developments of the Malay community in Singapore.

## POLICIES

### Finance and Funding

#### **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

- 5 In Dec 2012, MHF signed an MOU with the National Heritage Board (NHB). In accordance with the MOU, NHB will provide for a one-time direct development grant to cover 95% of the development cost and will provide funds to cover 99% of the recurring operating costs of the Malay Heritage Centre (MHC).

#### **Endowment Fund**

- 6 The Endowment Fund is maintained for funds raised by MHF as well as dollar-for-dollar government matching grants up to \$2 million. The Company may, at the discretion of its directors, use the Endowment Fund for any purposes, including for investments, provided that it is incidental, necessary, beneficial or conducive to the attainment of the objectives of the Company as stated in the Memorandum of Association.

#### **Management of Reserves**

- 7 MHF regards its unrestricted general fund as its reserves. The Company's reserve policy requires it to maintain sufficient reserve to ensure long term financial sustainability and continuity for the purpose of operating effective programmes. This includes transfer between funds. The Company's overall strategy remains unchanged from the previous year. The Company is not subject to any externally imposed capital requirements.

## REVIEW FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 01 APR 2020 – 31 MAR 2021

### Staffing

- 8 Since 16 September 2011, Ms Julina Khusaini has been on secondment to MHF and appointed as the General Manager. With effect from 1 January 2016, she was converted into a full-time staff of MHF. Ms Rozana Sidek was appointed as its full time Administrative Officer since 3 November 2010. Mr Muhammad Fadli Mohd Idris was appointed as an Assistant General Manager since 18 January 2021.

None of these staff received annual remuneration above \$100,000.

### Impact of Global Outbreak of Covid19 Pandemic

- 9 The global Covid-19 pandemic has greatly affected MHF in its financials and programmes. There was a significant drop in donation income compared to the previous FY (FY2021: \$5,082 / FY2020: \$23,030).

Several programmes had to be postponed or cancelled due to the stricter guidelines for social interactions and safety management measures imposed during the Circuit Breaker period and Heightened Alert during Phases 2 and 3. For example, all guiding activities at the museum and outdoor trails such as the Kampong Gelam Heritage Trail guided tours had to be put on hold due to the health and safety concerns as well as restriction on social gatherings.

The outbreak of the pandemic also pushed the agenda on the need for digitalisation for arts and cultural programming, sooner than expected. For instance, some of the signature events at the Malay Heritage Centre, such as the annual Malay CultureFest 2020 were conducted online on digital platforms. MHF's newly launched Cendekiawan Lecture Series on 30 Oct 2020 also pivoted on the digital platform by livestreaming the event on Facebook.

### Cultural Matching Fund

- 10 MHF had applied for the Cultural Matching Fund grant for \$23,030.00 in the Apr 2020 Application Window. Application was approved on 20 July 2020 and the funds credited into the MHF-CMF Account on 20 Aug 2020. The grants had been fully utilized for the approved and permitted purposes and the Milestone Report submitted to CMF on 5 Apr 2021.

### Calendar of Events

- 11 The following events were conducted between 01 April 2020 and 31 March 2021 at the Malay Heritage Centre (MHC) and other external locations.

### Regular / Monthly / Annual Programmes @ MHC

Date / Month	Event	Remarks
Ad hoc	<b>Curator's Tour of Permanent Galleries &amp; Special Exhibition</b>	Moved to digital platform during Circuit Breaker (CB) period & resumed after CB is lifted on 03 Jul 2020
Ad hoc	<b>Guided Tours of Permanent Galleries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English</li> <li>• Mandarin</li> </ul>	Tuesday – Friday Every Third Saturday of the month
Annual	<b>Children's Season 2020</b>	Every Jun
Annual	<b>Students' Guiding Programme for Permanent Gallery</b>	
27 Feb 2021	<b>Public Lecture Series</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Singapore's Urban Malayo-Nusantara Communities &amp; their Legacies beyond Kampong Gelam -</li> </ul>	By Dr Imran Tajudeen
30 Jan 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appreciating the Gemstones of the World</li> </ul>	By Tay Kun Ming, The Gem Museum
16 Jan 2021		By Banjarese Community

Date / Month	Event	Remarks
28 Nov 2020 26 Dec 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing Up Banjar in Singapore: Memories &amp; Imaginings of a Banjar Identity</li> <li>• Hikayat Banjar: A Narrative of Cultural Embeddedness</li> <li>• Sheikh Muhammad Arsyad Al-Banjari: Ulama Banjar Warisan Nusantara</li> </ul>	By Dr Azhar Ibrahim  By Dr Azhar Ibrahim & Ustaz Mohamed Qusairy Thaha
New programme Seasonal	<b>Kampong G(e)lamping @ MHC</b> Glamping with itinerary of activities including a guided heritage tour of the Kampong Gelam precinct and a specially curated tour of MHC's permanent galleries, as well as the 'Urang Banjar: Heritage and Culture of the Banjar in Singapore' special exhibition.	Dec 2020 & Mar 2021 School holidays
New programme Monthly	<b>Selera Warisan</b> An online series featuring celebrities and popular personalities demonstrating their family heritage recipes	Showcased on MHC's Facebook and Instagram page
Annual 27 Nov – 13 Dec 2020	<b>Malay CultureFest 2020</b>	Hybrid on site & online

#### Special Programmes @ MHC

Date / Month	Event	Remarks
Annual 28 Nov 2020 - 25 Jul 2021	<b>Special Exhibition</b> Urang Banjar: Heritage and Culture of the Banjar in Singapore	
10 Mar – 30 May 2021	Art installation – Paw-verbs on the Lawn	Exhibition/installation of lesser known cat themed Malay proverbs, a collaboration with Japanese artist Juno of @mofu_sand.

## Events organized by MHF

Date / Month	Event	Remarks
30 Oct 2020  23 Jan 2021	<b>Cendekiawan Lestari Series</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malays in the National Imagination: Defining Our Identity by Dr Yaacob Ibrahim</li> <li>• Eurocentrism, Malay Studies and Autonomous Knowledge by Prof Syed Farid Alatas</li> </ul>	Livestreamed via MHF Facebook  Hybrid on site & livestreamed via MHF Facebook
30 Sep 2020  6 Feb 2021  3 Apr 2021	<b>Sembang Ilmu Series</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ada Apa Dengan Bahasa - Collaboration with NUS Malay Studies Society</li> <li>• Understanding Our Past, Building for the Future: Malay Youths and History Making - Collaboration with World Scientific Publishing Co Pte Ltd.</li> <li>• Arts &amp; Humanities in Community Building: The Young Perspective - Collaboration with NUS Malay Studies Society</li> </ul>	Via Zoom  Hybrid on site & livestreamed via World Scientific Facebook  Hybrid on site & livestreamed via MHF Facebook
30 Jan 2021  27 Feb 2021  27 Mar 2021	<b>Wacana Warisan Series – discursive talk by Vice Chair Dr Azhar Ibrahim</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ceritera Singapura dari Sulalatus Salatin (Sejarah Melayu) (Stories of Singapore in the Malay Annals)</li> <li>• Aksara Jawi: Kesaksian Sejarah dan Sumbangan yang Menghidupi (The Jawi Script: Witness to History and Contributors to our Living Legacy)</li> <li>• The Heritage in Texts and Books: The Euphoria in Heritage Making *</li> </ul>	All talks are via Zoom
06 Feb 2021	MHF Board Corporate Advance	





"Ratu Begawan went to Ratu Anom and said: 'My son Ratu Anom, I have conducted the government for five years now. I am now in ill health and am no longer able to come and go to the reception-court. So now I wish to hand over the government to Dipati Tapassana.' Ratu Anom said: 'I do not object, Until now I have never objected to anything you wished. I am like a wayang puppet, and you are the performer (dalang) who manipulates it. I do not object.'"

*Hikayat Banjar*, p. 507

**Public Lecture Series**

**DR. AZHAR IBRAHIM**  
LECTURER OF MALAY STUDIES  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

**YANG MERANGSANG & YANG MENGGIUR:**  
Cerita dari sebuah Syair





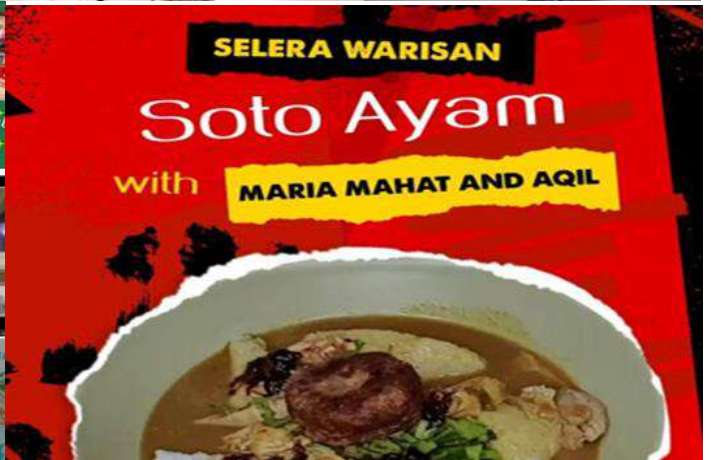
Videos / Digital content for online engagement



5 DIFFERENT STYLES OF WEARING THE SAMPUNG



COVID 2020



Kampong G(e)lamping @ MHC



Paw-verbs on the Lawn



Tales from the Nusantara: Misteri di Pasar Terapung



Little Gem Miners Workshop

Children's Activity  
5, 12, 19, 26 Dec  
go.gov.sg/mcf2020







## **REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATE AND EXPLANATION OF MAJOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS**

- 12 MHF recorded a surplus of \$ 41,943 for the financial year ending 31 March 2021.

## **POLICY OF MANAGEMENT AND AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

### **Disclosure of Interests Form**

- 13 All directors of MHF are required to disclose his/her interests in shares or debentures in the subject company or any of its related corporations, and interests held by his/her spouse or children (including adopted or step children) below the age of 21 years are treated as his/her interests. Such information has to be recorded in the Register of Directors' Shareholdings of the Company and disclosed in the Directors' Report accompanying the yearly audited accounts.

### **General Notice**

- 14 In its management and avoidance of conflicts of interest, the Board abides to the stipulation of Clause 43A of the Memorandum & Articles of Association i.e. "Whenever a Director of the Board is in any way, directly or indirectly, has an interest in a transaction or project or other matter to be discussed at a meeting, the Director shall disclose the nature of his/her interest before the discussion on the matter begins."

In adhering to the above regulation, all directors of MHF are required to declare his/her interest in any transaction or proposed transaction with the company, or if the director holds any office or any property which may create a conflict with his duties as a director of the company. For the purpose of the Companies Act, an interest of the director's spouse or child including an adopted or a step child shall be treated as an interest of the director.

## **FUTURE PLANS AND COMMITMENTS**

- 15 The MHF Board of Directors held their Corporate Advance on 06 February 2021 to outline the workplans for the next three (3) years.

## **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

- 16 The Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2021 is attached.

## APPRECIATION

- 17 We wish to thank all donors who had donated to MHF, responding to our appeal letters and those that had donated online via the <https://www.giving.sg>.
- 18 We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following donors for their generous contribution. We look forward to their continued support.

Dr Alexander Wiegand  
Dr Sethu Sundar Pethaiah  
Dr Yaacob Bin Ibrahim  
Messrs Harum  
Miss M Thevarani  
Mr Abdul Hafiz Waliyuddin bin Abdul Raib  
Mr Fox Matthew Ryan  
Mr Herpich Andreas  
Mr Lee Xin Li  
Mr Lee Yuan-Siang  
Mr Lin Dongyu  
Mr Mohammad Azree bin Rahim  
Mr Muhammad Firdaus bin Norman  
Mr Muhammad Kamsani bin Hussein  
Mr Muhammad Nur Islam bin Mohamed Samat  
Mr Teo How Ming  
Ms Arina Aryanty