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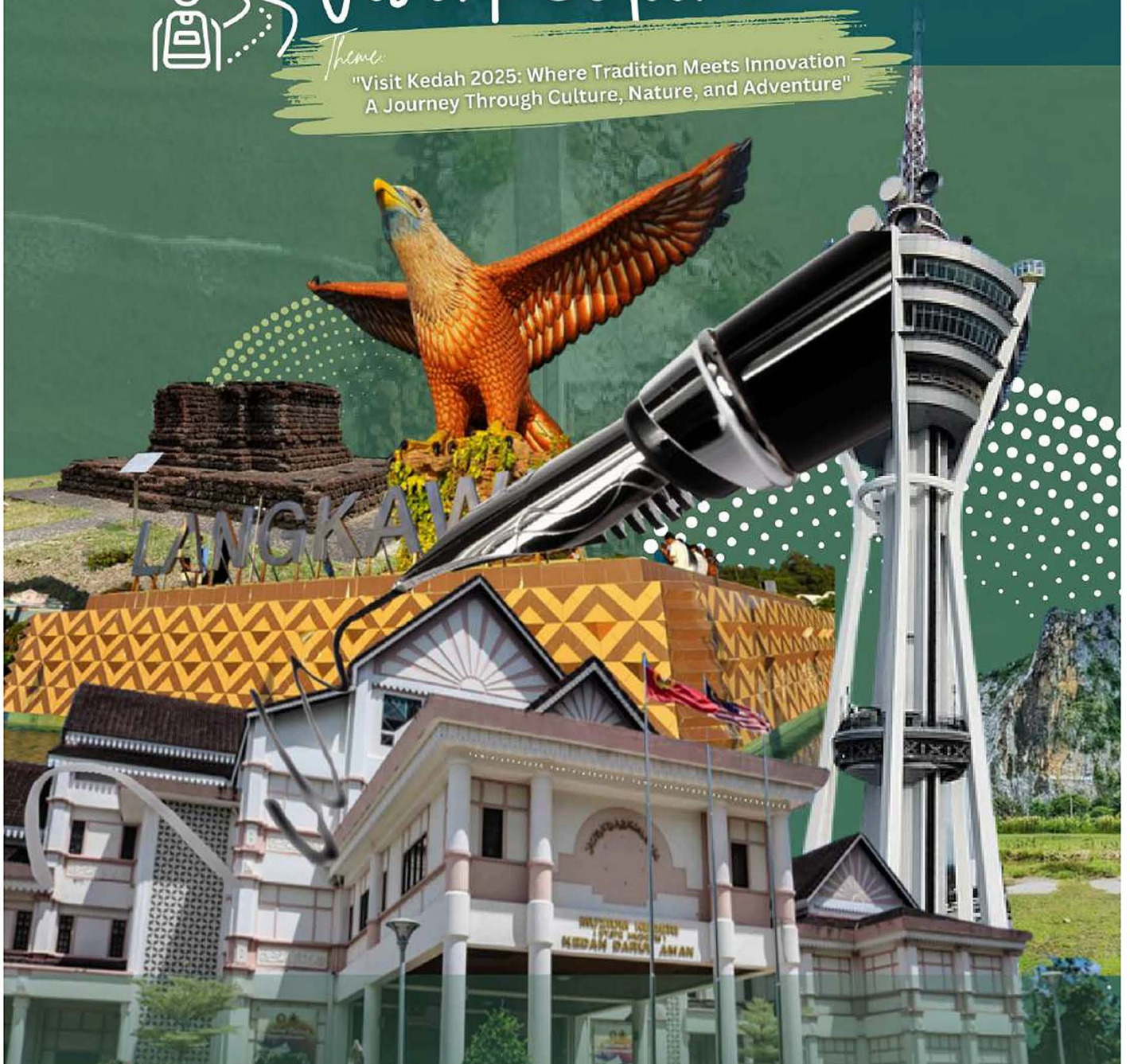


APB Kedah (e-magazine)

SPECIAL ISSUE EPITOME

Visit Kedah 2025

Theme:
"Visit Kedah 2025: Where Tradition Meets Innovation –
A Journey Through Culture, Nature, and Adventure"





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eISSN 3009 – 0075

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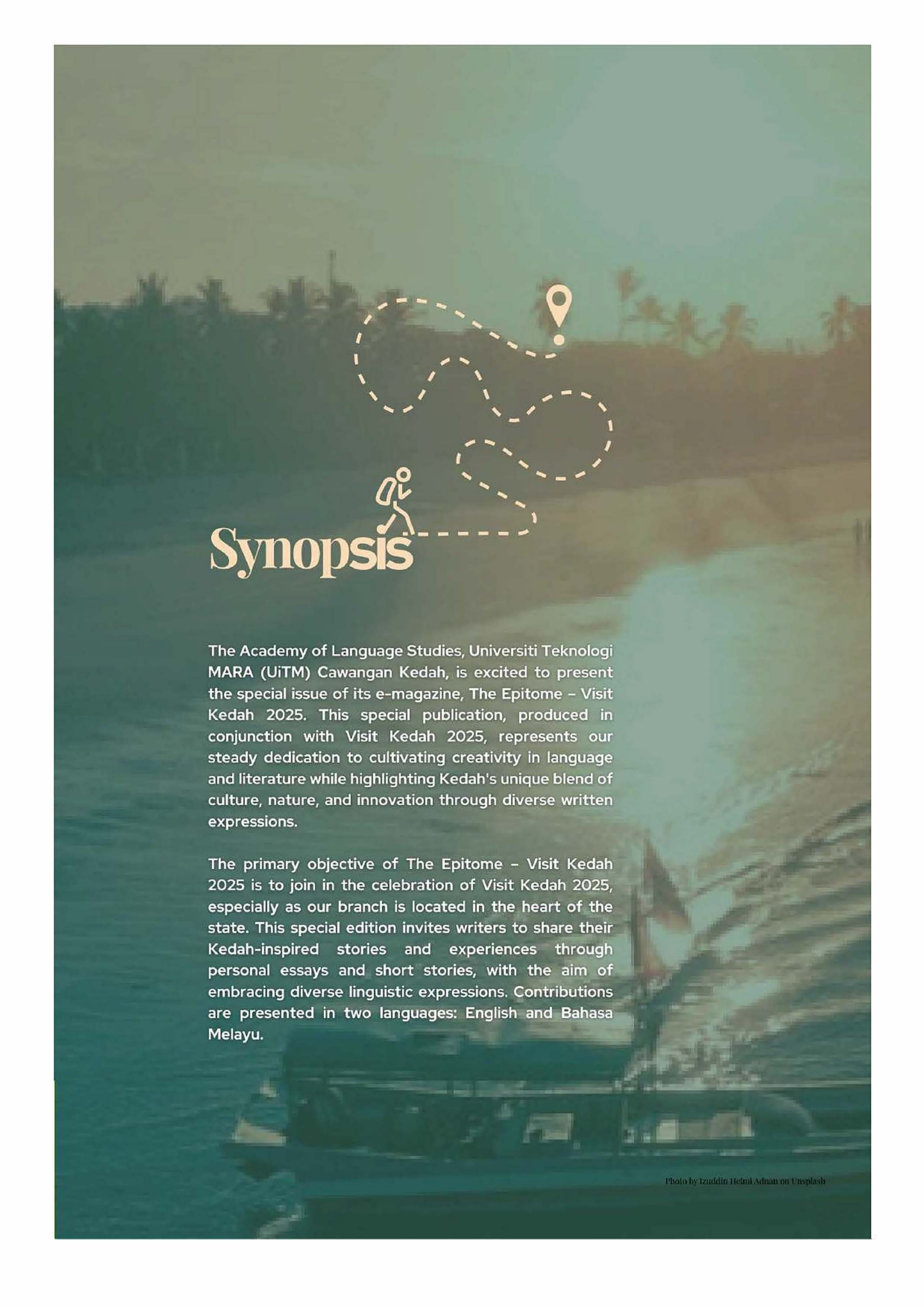


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Synopsis

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah, is excited to present the special issue of its e-magazine, *The Epitome – Visit Kedah 2025*. This special publication, produced in conjunction with Visit Kedah 2025, represents our steady dedication to cultivating creativity in language and literature while highlighting Kedah's unique blend of culture, nature, and innovation through diverse written expressions.

The primary objective of *The Epitome – Visit Kedah 2025* is to join in the celebration of Visit Kedah 2025, especially as our branch is located in the heart of the state. This special edition invites writers to share their Kedah-inspired stories and experiences through personal essays and short stories, with the aim of embracing diverse linguistic expressions. Contributions are presented in two languages: English and Bahasa Melayu.

face of Kedah

Mr. Azlan Abdul Rahman

Head of Faculty
Akademi Pengajian Bahasa (APB)
UiTM Kedah Branch

Welcome to this special edition of Epitome, where we embark on an exciting journey through the rich heritage, stunning landscapes, and vibrant culture of Kedah – one of Malaysia's most beloved and fascinating states.

As we look ahead to Visit Kedah 2025, this issue invites you to explore the treasures that await in this beautiful destination. From the serene beauty of Langkawi's beaches to the historical charm of Alor Setar, Kedah offers something for every traveller. Whether you are an adventure seeker, a history enthusiast, or someone simply in search of tranquillity, Kedah has it all.

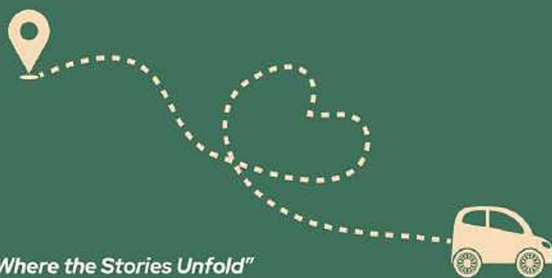
In the pages ahead, we delve into the many faces of Kedah, capturing the essence of its natural wonders, cultural landmarks, and unique experiences that define the state. Our stories, articles, and photographs will transport you to places where the past and present come together in perfect harmony – where lush green paddy fields stretch as far as the eye can see, and the rich flavours of local cuisine tantalize the senses.

Visit Kedah 2025 isn't just a campaign; it's an invitation to connect with the heart of Malaysia. It's an invitation to discover the unforgettable experiences that make Kedah a must-visit destination for travellers from around the world. In this edition, we hope to inspire you to plan your own journey to Kedah, whether it's to explore its breath-taking landscapes, immerse in its cultural heritage, or simply take in the warm hospitality of its people.

As you turn these pages, may you feel the spirit of Kedah calling to you – the call to discover, explore, and experience all that this incredible state has to offer.

Thank you for joining us on this exciting adventure. We hope to see you in Kedah in 2025!





Kedah, Where the Stories Unfold"

As the Chief Editor of Epitome, it gives me great pleasure to present this special edition in celebration of Visit Kedah Year 2025—an ode to a land where history, heritage, and heart live in every corner.

Nestled in the warm embrace of the northern Peninsula, Kedah is more than just Malaysia's rice bowl. It is a living canvas where time whispers through the ancient stones of Bujang Valley, dances across the rippling paddy fields, and echoes through the melodic drawl of the Kedahan dialect. Each tale we share in this issue draws its breath from Kedah's unique rhythm—where old meets new, tradition hugs the modern, and culture is not just remembered but lived.

From the misty peaks of Gunung Jerai, which once guided ancient mariners, to the shimmering flow of Sungai Merbok, where history quietly flows, Kedah's ecological richness is a story waiting to be told. Its mountains are guardians of myths; its rivers, keepers of memory. The lush rainforests, secret waterfalls, and wild orchids—all are pieces of a vibrant narrative woven by nature itself.

Yet, it is Kedah's people who breathe soul into this land. The warmth of pasar malam banter, the flavours of authentic laksa Kedah, the grace of traditional dance, and the way elders tell stories in that soft, endearing dialect—it all becomes poetry in motion. And in this special issue, we invite you to read, feel, and immerse yourself in the charm, wit, and wonder of Old Kedah and New Kedah alike.

Through creative fiction, heartfelt essays, and evocative poetry, Epitome brings together voices that sing of Kedah's mountains, rivers, food, language, and legacy. We hope this edition will not only inspire a visit but stir something deeper—a connection to the essence of a land that has long cradled Malaysia's earliest civilizations and continues to nurture its cultural heart.

Let the pages transport you to Kedah Darul Aman—a realm of peace, a sanctuary of stories.

Warmly,

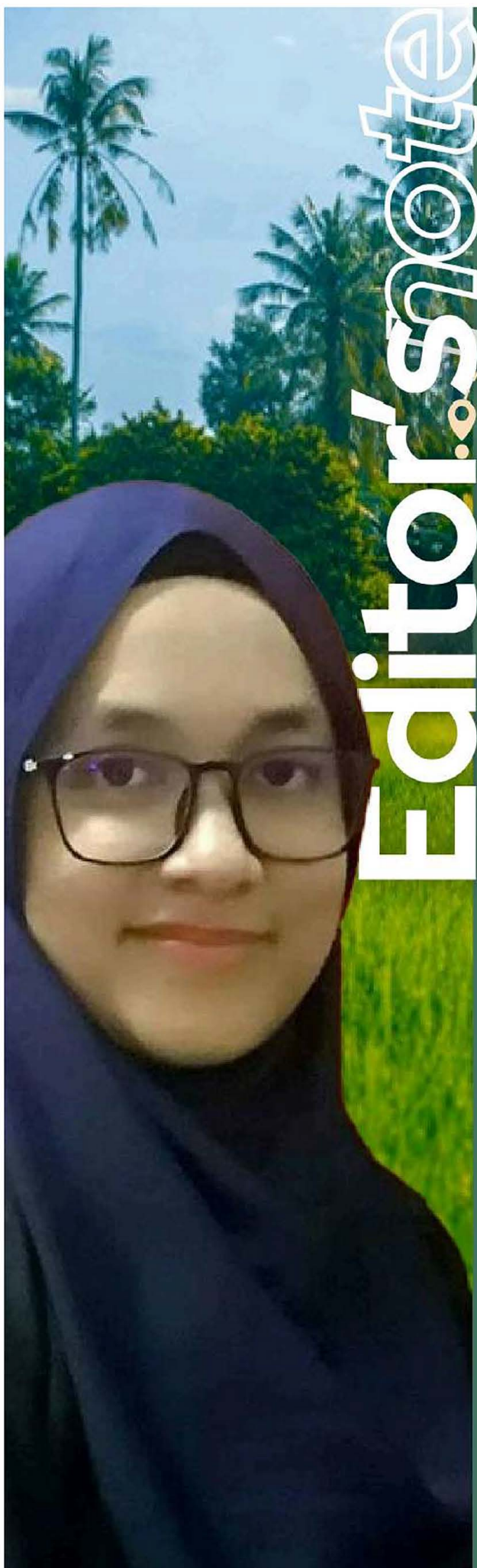
Razanawati Nordin

Chief Editor

THE EPITOME 2025

Editor's note





Editor's Note



It is with great pleasure that I present to you this special issue of The Epitome in conjunction with Visit Kedah 2025. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Head of Department for initiating this wonderful idea. As a proud Kedahan working in Kedah, I instantly agreed to be part of this project, knowing how close it is to my heart.

Reading the personal essays and short stories submitted by our contributors has been a truly enjoyable experience. I found myself smiling, reminiscing, and even imagining familiar places through their words. What makes this issue even more exciting is that some contributors are not originally from Kedah, yet they have beautifully shared their own reflections and experiences related to this charming state. Their fresh perspectives reminded me of the beauty I sometimes take for granted, having been born and bred in Kedah.

To all our contributors: thank you for your creativity, your voice, and for allowing us to travel through your narratives. Your stories have added soul and colour to this edition, and I hope our readers enjoy the journey through Kedah just as much as I did.

With appreciation,

Dr. Nur Syazwanie Mansor

Chief Editor, The Epitome
A Proud Kedahan

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE

- 29 “Dak.. La ni hang tak paham kat mana, mai aku translate”
by Nor Asni Syahriza Abu Hassan
- 31 Jejak Aceh di Yan: Menelusuri Sejarah dan Warisan
by Azni Syafena Andin Salamat, Syazliyat Ibrahim & Asrol Hasan
- 33 Menyingkap Khazanah di Balik Deruan Sungai Merbok: Galeri Produk Jerai Geopark
by Sharir Aizat Kamaruddin, Eliy Nazira Mat Nazir, Shukor Sanim Mohd Fauzi
- 35 My Encounter with Communists
by Nazima Versay Kudus & Mohamad Rashidi Mohd Pakri
- 37 Percutian Pendek Tetapi Manis di Alor Setar, Kedah
by Nur Jannah Azman

MODERN DEVELOPMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

- 41 Farmstay Relau: Kedah's Hidden Gem to Rejuvenate the Soul away from the city
by Nurul Alyaa binti Ibrahim

NATURE, ADVENTURE & WELLNESS

- 45 From Peaks to Plates: A UUM Hiking Tradition
by Nuraisyah Fitrie Abdullah & Azmira Abdullah
- 47 Gunung Keriang : Misi Penaklukan Gunung Jelapang Padi
by Nurul Isfariena Idris & Mohd Kairul Hakimi Zulkarni
- 49 Majestic Curtain Veil of Kedah
by Nawal Esa Binti Yazid Esa
- 51 Mount Jerai, It's Not Only About The Summit
by Nur Arcena Aqilah Mohd Sapri
- 53 Panic in Merbok
by Ong Elly
- 55 Road trippin' to Mokeun Hill
by Nurul Nadiah Dewi Faizul Ganapathy

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM & ECO-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES

- 59 Kilim, A Lifetime Experience
by Farah Zahidah Mohd Noor
- 61 Mencipta Memori di Kedah Darul Aman
by Fauziana Bi Fauzi & Mat Rawi
- 63 My/Mai Pengkalan Kapal
by Chuah Bee Peng





HISTORICAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE







Jejak Aceh di Yan

Menelusuri Sejarah dan Warisan

Azni Syafena Andin Selamat, Syazliiyati Ibrahim & Asrol Hasan

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Yan merupakan sebuah daerah yang terletak di bahagian barat Kedah dan terkenal dengan keindahan alam semulajadinya. Sememangnya daerah ini tidak dapat dipisahkan dengan kehadiran orang Aceh yang telah bertapak semenjak kurun ke-18 lagi. Beberapa tahun dahulu, kumpulan kami pernah mendapat geran Kerajaan Negeri Kedah untuk menjalankan penyelidikan di sekitar Kedah. Yan menjadi pilihan kami kerana tarikan sejarah perpindahan orang Aceh ke Yan sehingga wujudnya Kampung Aceh.

Pada satu petang yang indah, kami melawat semula Koop Sabena atau nama lainnya KAMC di Kampung Aceh. Kami bercerita semula mengenai kehidupan orang Aceh di Yan, ada di kalangan mereka yang telah melepasi generasi keempat atau kelima yang menetap di sini. Encik Jazni Gani menemani kami menelusuri sejarah kedatangan orang Aceh ke Tanah Melayu. Asalnya, penghijrahan mereka melibatkan golongan ulama serta pendakwah yang mencari tapak untuk mendapatkan dana bagi meneruskan perjuangan menentang Belanda di Aceh, Indonesia. Keputusan untuk berhijrah terpaksa dibuat kerana pada ketika itu Belanda telah berjaya menakluk Indonesia dan Aceh yang pada awalnya merupakan wilayah yang begitu sukar untuk ditakluk namun akhirnya menjadi wilayah terakhir ditakluki penjajah. Tentangan demi tentangan dibuat oleh golongan pejuang, bangsawan dan ulama untuk mengusir puak penjajah bagi mempertahankan tanah air mereka. Dalam keadaan huru hara mereka berhijrah dengan menaiki perahu untuk ke tengah lautan. Sepanjang tempoh pelayaran tersebut, mereka menggunakan Gunung Jerai dan sungai di Yan sebagai tanda arah. Mereka berpendapat dengan adanya dua petunjuk ini, maka adanya daratan untuk mereka berlabuh dan sekaligus dapat membina perkampungan.





Didapati masyarakat Aceh di Yan masih gigih memelihara identiti keturunan mereka. Sebahagian mereka masih fasih berkomunikasi dalam Bahasa Aceh dan turut mengekalkan adat resam, jati diri dan makanan tradisi yang diwarisi di samping turut melestarikan budaya Aceh.

Mereka turut aktif mendidik nilai-nilai warisan budaya kepada generasi muda agar tidak hilang ditelan zaman. Kisah semangat Aceh seperti yang disahkan oleh Encik Jazni Gani perlu diketengahkan sebagai suatuinggalan sejarah yang bernilai. Kampung Aceh, kisah perjuangan dan kehidupan orang Aceh di Malaysia menjadi satu warisan berharga yang meraikan kepelbagaian latar belakang masyarakat nusantara.



- Azni Syafena Andin Salamat merupakan pensyarah kanan di Fakulti Sains Pentadbiran dan Pengajian Polisi, UiTM Kedah.
- Syazliyati Ibrahim merupakan pensyarah kanan di Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Kedah.
- Asrol Hasan merupakan pensyarah kanan di Kolej Pengajian Seni Kreatif, UiTM Kedah.



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eISSN 3009-0075



9 773009 007004