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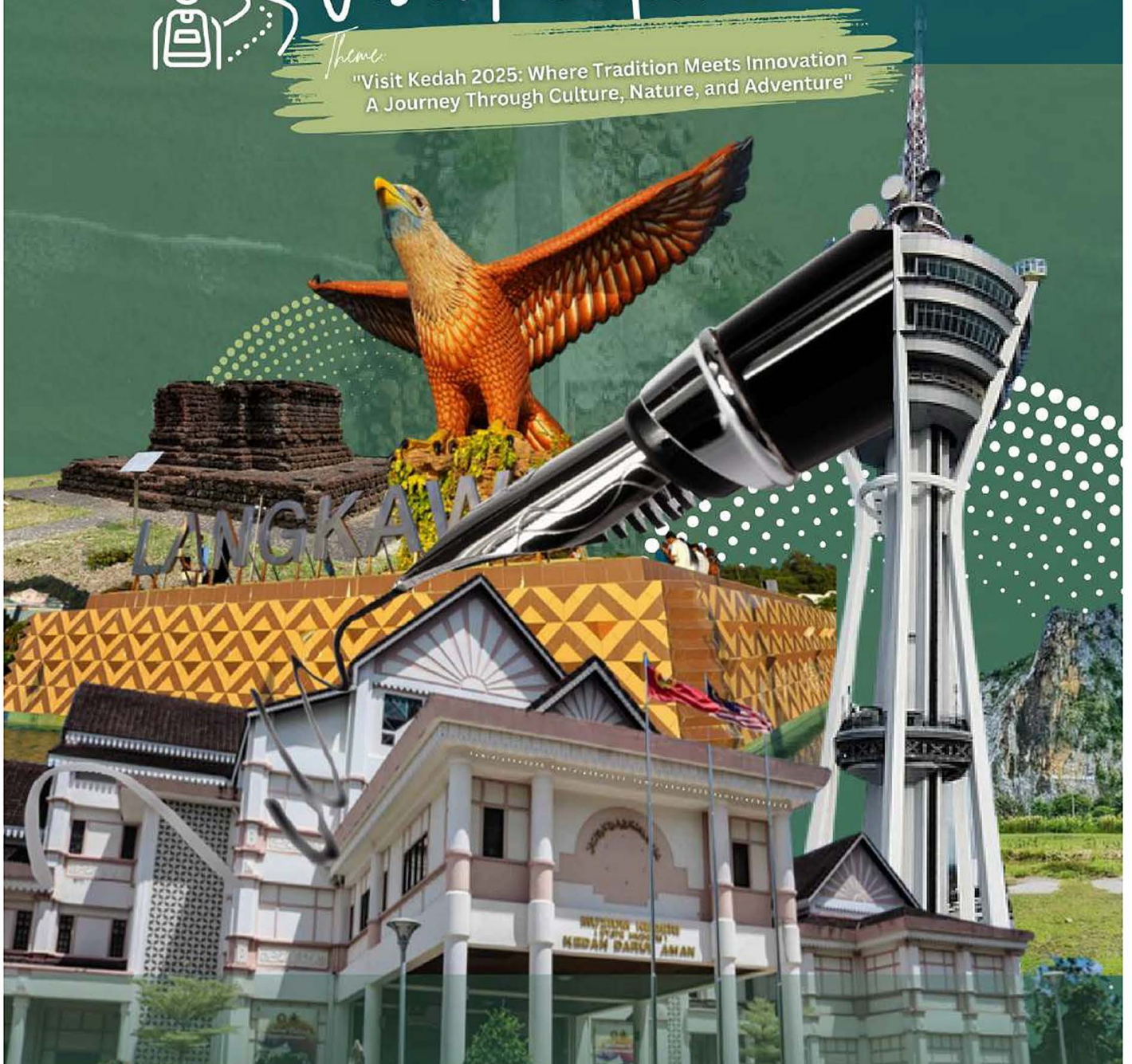


APB Kedah (e-magazine)

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

Published by:
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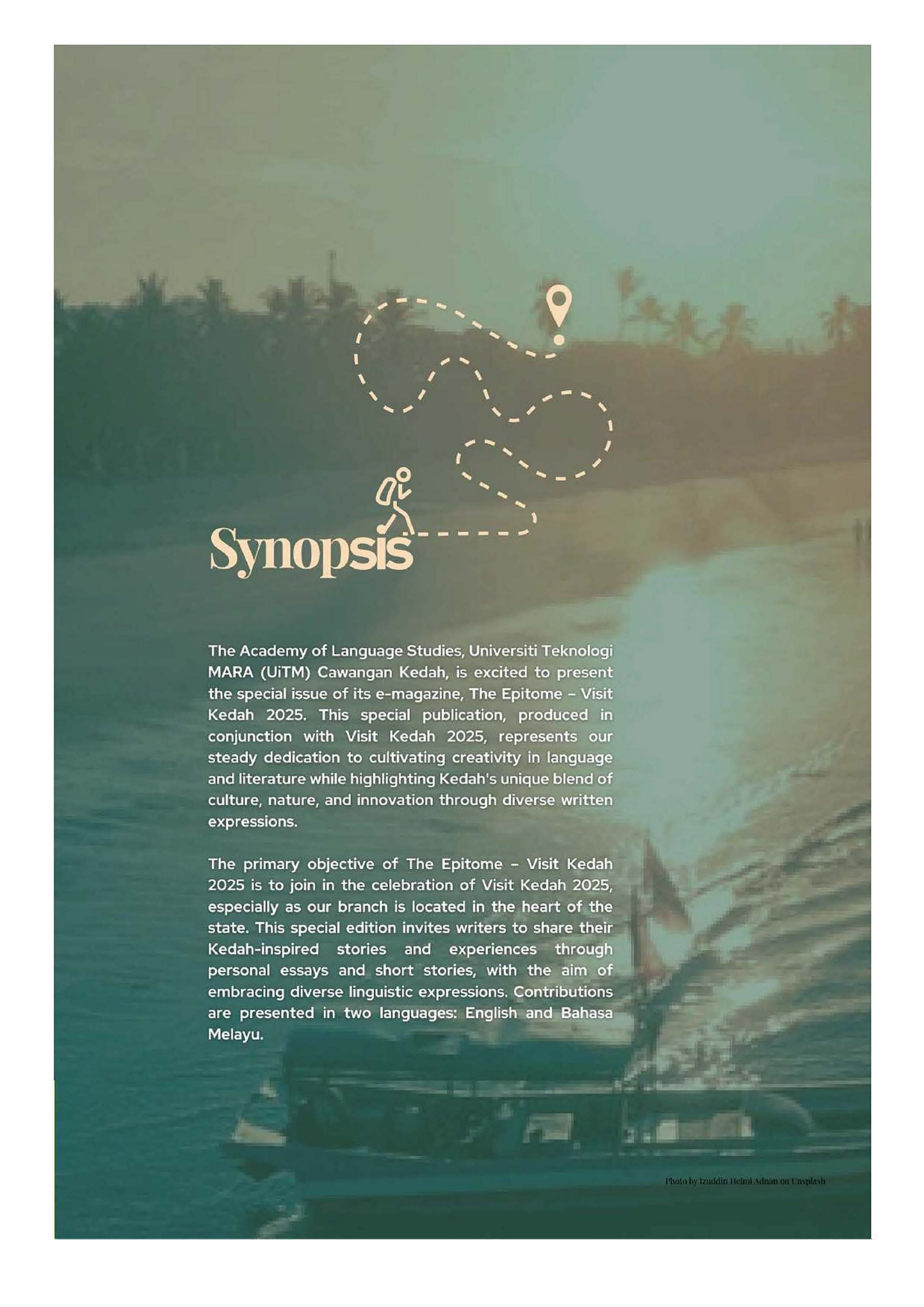


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Synopsis

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.

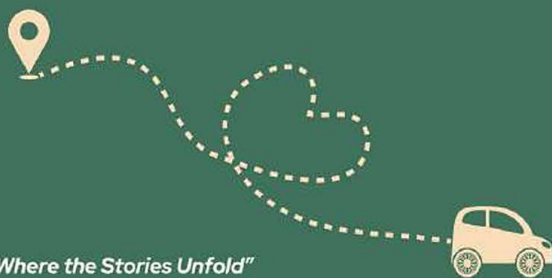
In the pages ahead, we delve into the many faces of Kedah, capturing the essence of its natural wonders, cultural landmarks, and unique experiences that define the state. Our stories, articles, and photographs will transport you to places where the past and present come together in perfect harmony – 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,

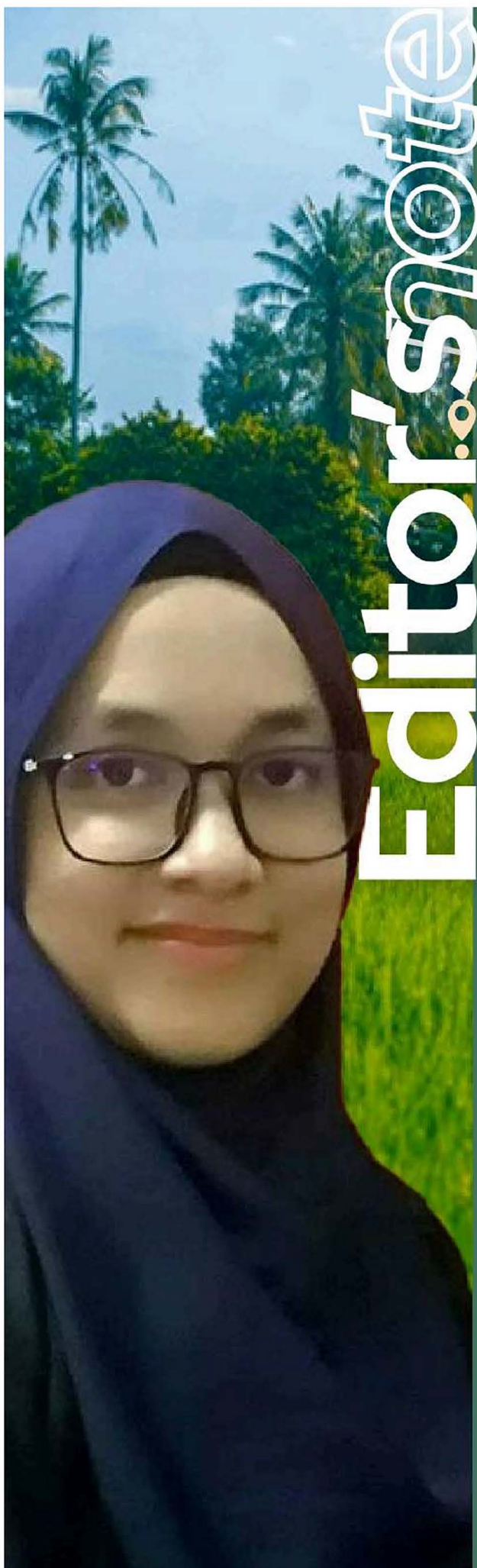
Razanawati Nordin

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

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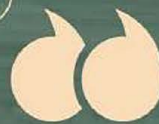
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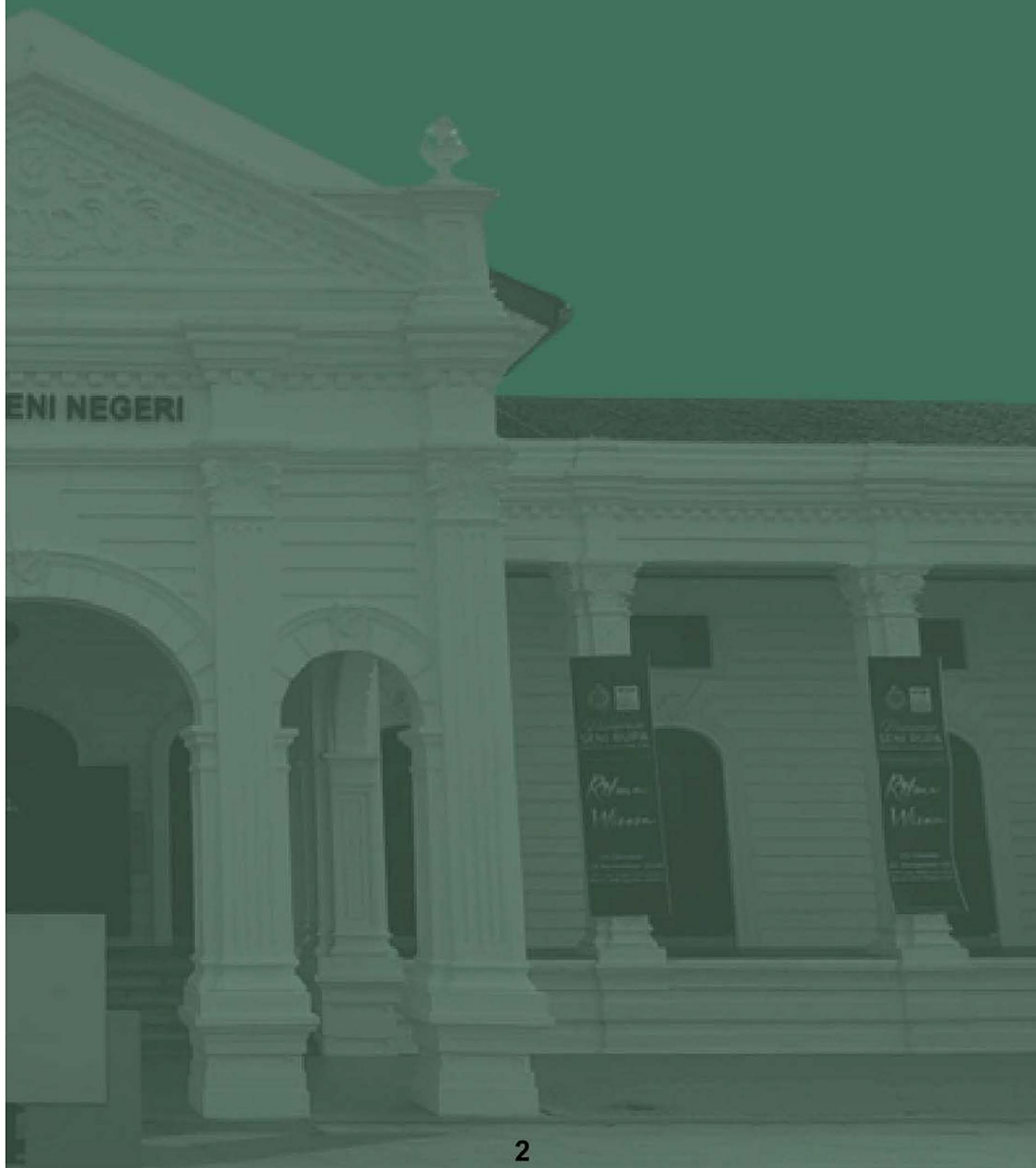
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ARTS & CRAFTS



BALAI S





Kedah Batik

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A Personal Journey into Timeless Elegance

Batik, a traditional textile art form, holds a special place in Malaysia's cultural heritage. Originating from various regions of the country, each with its distinctive styles and motifs, batik is an artistic expression that intertwines history, craftsmanship, and contemporary fashion. Among the diverse types of Malaysian batik, I am particularly captivated by the exquisite batik produced in Kedah, a northern state renowned for its rich artistic traditions. My admiration for Kedah batik is not only rooted in its aesthetic appeal but also in the profound connection it fosters between fashion, culture, and identity. One of the most compelling aspects of Kedah batik lies in its fabric choices. Traditionally crafted from silk, cotton, or linen, these textiles offer versatility and comfort that align seamlessly with Malaysia's tropical climate. The softness of silk, in particular, enhances the fluidity of batik garments, making them an elegant yet breathable attire choice. Whether worn during formal events or casual outings, Kedah batik exudes an understated sophistication that transcends trends and time. Its ability to blend traditional artistry with contemporary fashion sensibilities makes it an indispensable element of my wardrobe.

Beyond its material composition, Kedah batik fascinates me due to its intricate designs and vibrant color palettes. My personal preference leans towards floral motifs rendered in striking hues, as they evoke the perpetual summer that characterizes Malaysia. The meticulous craftsmanship involved in producing these designs reflects the dedication of Kedah's artisans, who employ traditional waxing and dyeing techniques to create visually captivating patterns. These floral elements symbolize not only the natural beauty of Malaysia but also the artistic ingenuity that has been passed down through generations. Every piece of batik fabric tells a unique story, woven with precision and cultural significance.



A key aspect of my appreciation for Kedah batik is the personal experience of acquiring and tailoring it. At least twice a year, I travel to Kedah, where I meticulously select batik fabric that aligns with my taste. The process of choosing the perfect material is an immersive experience—one that involves admiring the array of patterns, feeling the texture of the fabric, and envisioning the final garment. Once I acquire the fabric, my trusted tailor skillfully transforms it into a custom-made outfit that perfectly fits my style and comfort preferences. This personalized approach not only enhances the exclusivity of the attire but also deepens my connection to the craft, as I witness the transformation of raw fabric into a refined masterpiece.

The allure of Kedah batik extends far beyond Malaysia's borders. From my personal experience, I have observed that this traditional Malaysian dress garners significant admiration in Western European countries. Whenever I wear my silk batik attire adorned with vibrant floral patterns, I am met with numerous compliments and inquiries about its origin. The uniqueness of batik, coupled with its sophisticated aesthetic, captivates those unfamiliar with this art form. In an era of fast fashion and mass-produced clothing, handcrafted textiles like Kedah batik stand out as timeless expressions of individuality and cultural heritage. The positive reception I receive abroad reaffirms the universal appeal of batik and its potential to bridge cultural appreciation across continents. Furthermore, wearing Kedah batik transcends mere fashion; it embodies a deep connection to Malaysia's artistic and environmental landscape. The motifs often draw inspiration from nature, paying homage to the country's lush tropical flora. Each time I don a batik ensemble, I am reminded of Malaysia's vibrant ecosystems and the skilled artisans who dedicate their lives to preserving this craft. In a world increasingly dominated by mechanized production, the continued support and appreciation of traditional textiles such as Kedah batik play a crucial role in sustaining local economies and ensuring the longevity of cultural heritage. In addition to its cultural significance, Kedah batik represents a commitment to ethical and sustainable fashion.

The handcrafting process ensures minimal environmental impact compared to industrialized textile production. This sustainable aspect further enhances my appreciation for batik as not only a fashionable choice but also a responsible one. The fabric can be styled into various garments, and each variation highlights a different facet of the wearer's personality while maintaining the distinctive cultural essence of batik. Whether paired with contemporary accessories or worn in its traditional form, Kedah batik seamlessly adapts to different occasions and personal styles. This adaptability makes it a staple in my wardrobe, as it allows me to express my individuality while honoring Malaysia's artistic heritage.

In conclusion, my fascination with Kedah batik is multifaceted, encompassing its luxurious fabric choices, intricate designs, and profound cultural significance. This traditional attire not only allows me to express my personal style but also connects me to Malaysia's rich artistic legacy. The experience of selecting, tailoring, and wearing batik enhances my appreciation for the craftsmanship involved, while its reception in Western Europe highlights its global appeal. As a testament to the enduring beauty of Malaysian textile artistry, Kedah batik continues to inspire and captivate, bridging cultures and celebrating tradition in a modern world.



Piermauro Catarinella is a fond and dedicated writer. He got his Ph.D. in 1991 at the University of Rome "La Sapienza". Since 2001, he has been a lecturer in the Italian language at the Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi Mara, Shah Alam Campus. He has authored several research papers on Italian grammar, social science, and EU politics.

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eISSN 3009-0075



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