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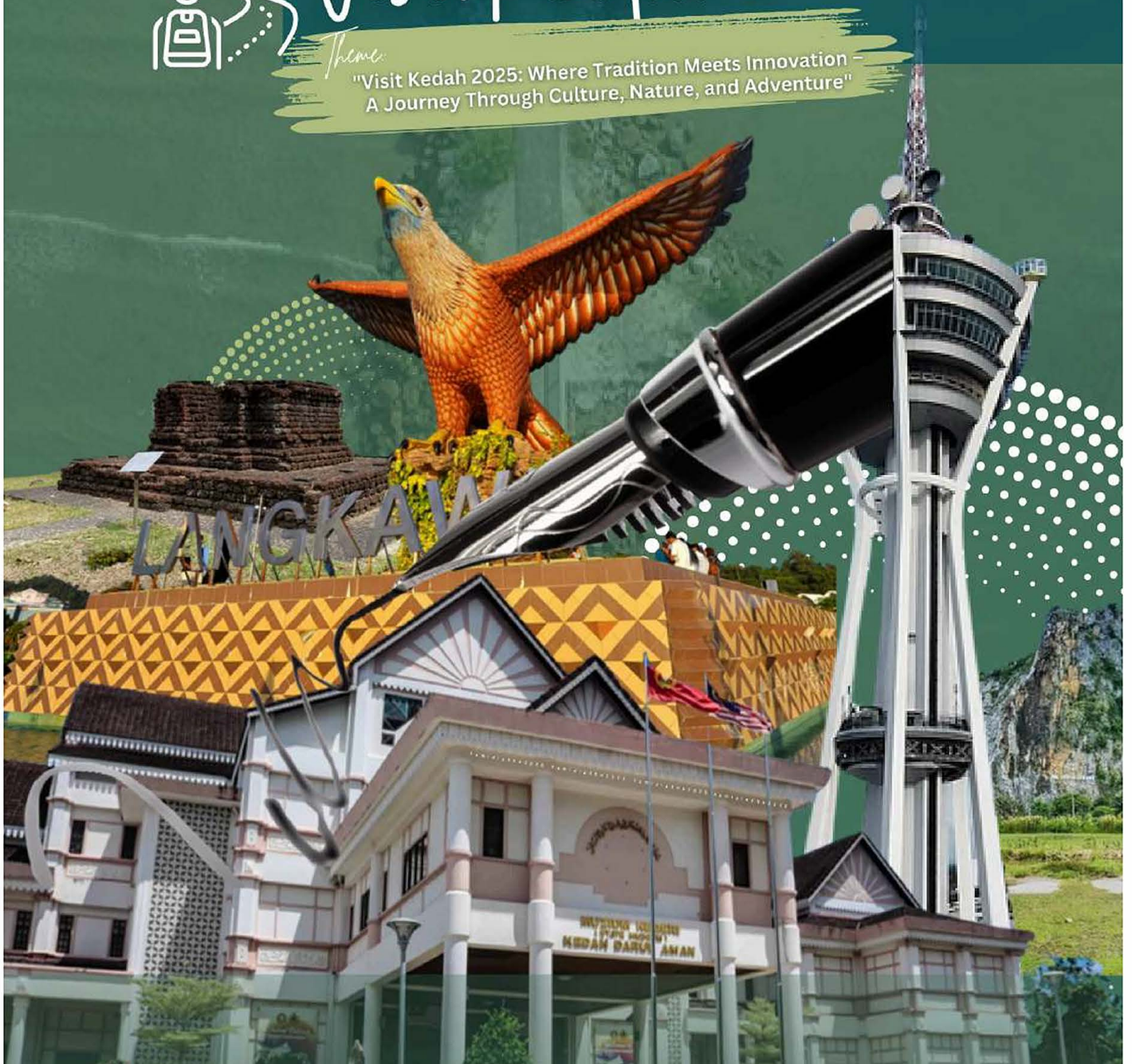


APB Kedah (e-magazine)

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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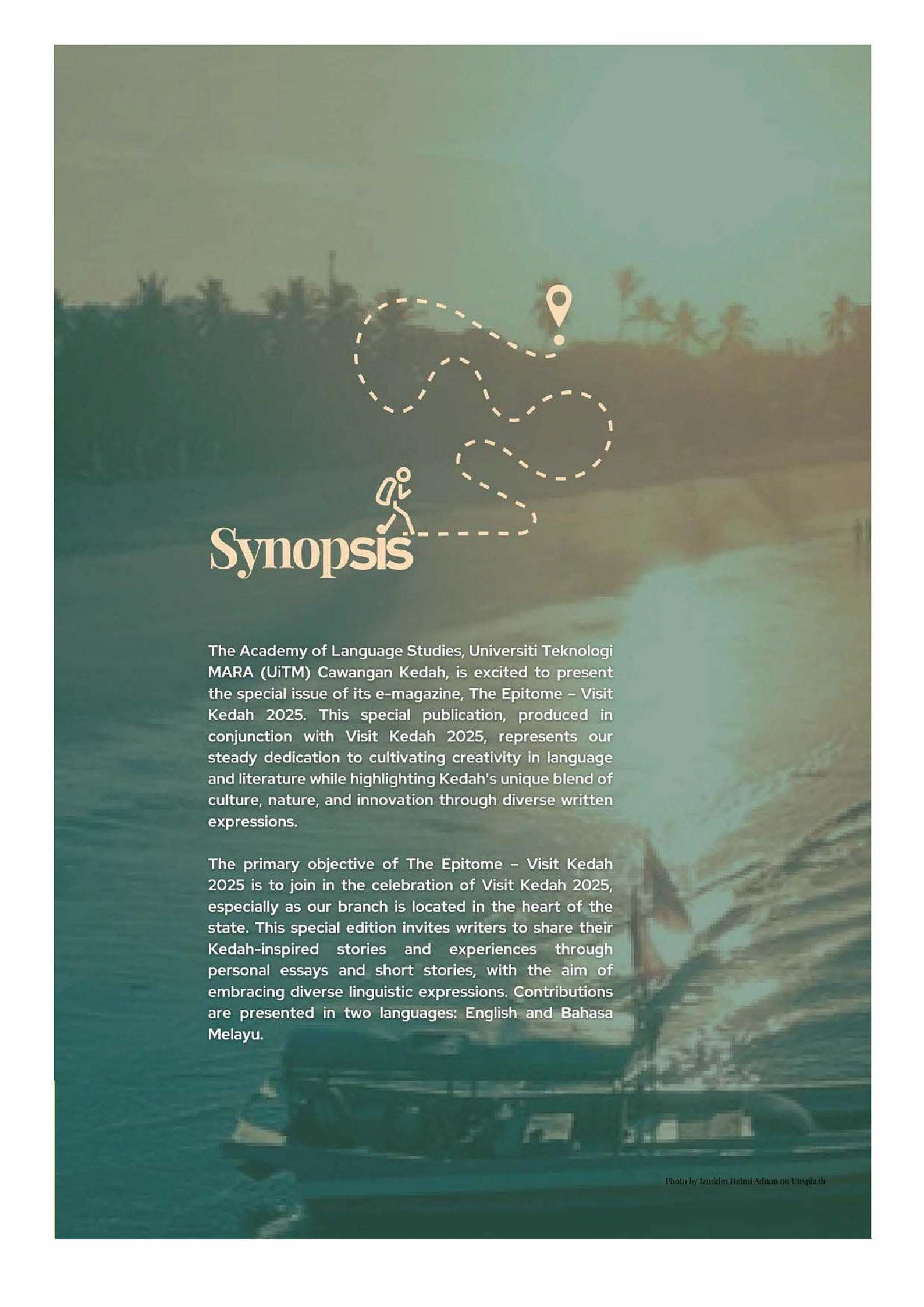
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Synopsis

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.

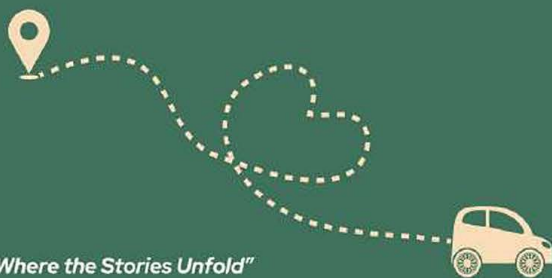
In the pages ahead, we delve into the many faces of Kedah, capturing the essence of its natural wonders, cultural landmarks, and unique experiences that define the state. Our stories, articles, and photographs will transport you to places where the past and present come together in perfect harmony –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

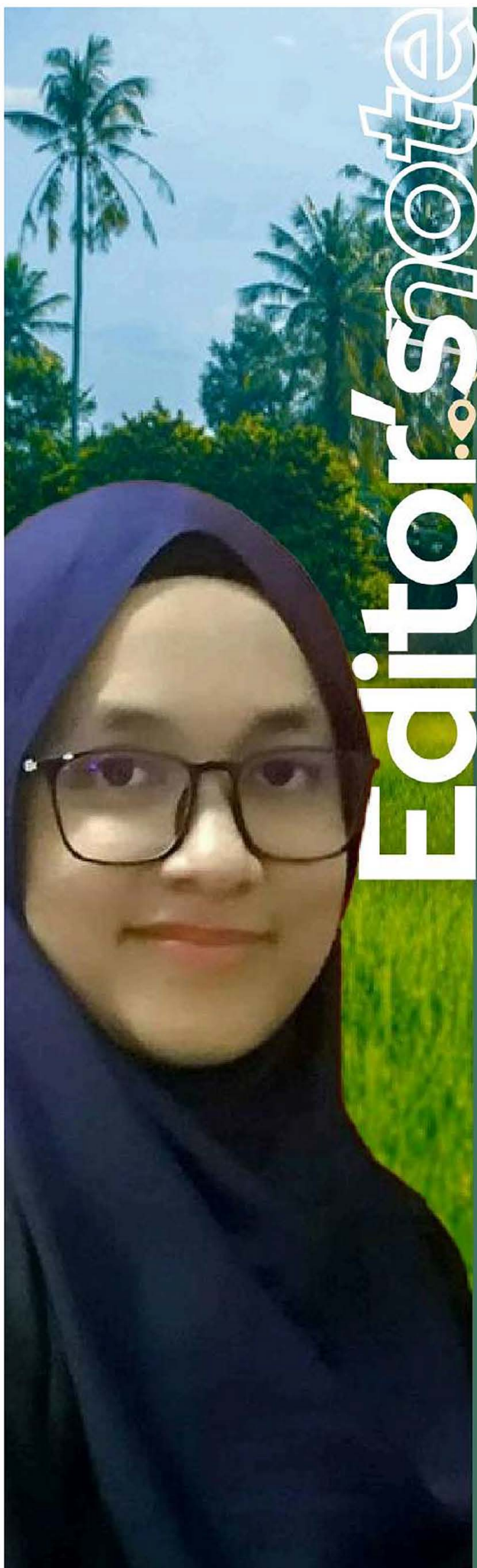
Razanawati Nordin

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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HISTORICAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE

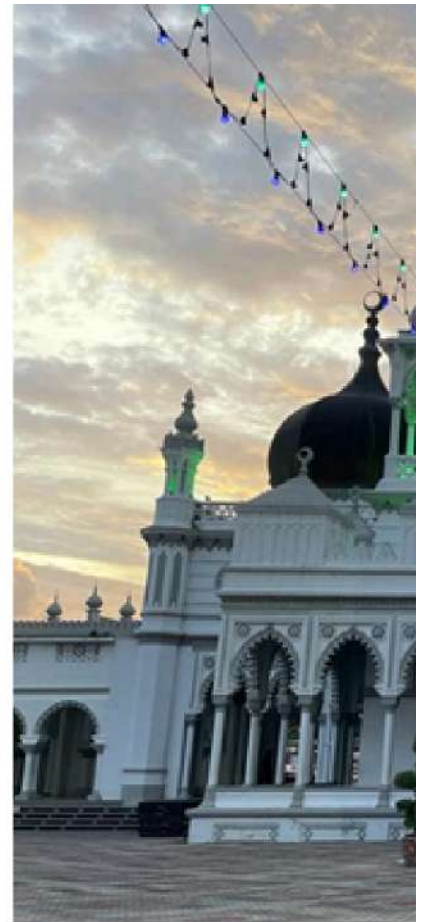




Percutian Pendek Tetapi Manis di Alor Setar, Kedah

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Destinasi percutian keluargaku ketika cuti sekolah pada tahun lalu adalah ke negeri jelapang padi iaitu negeri Kedah. Sungguhpun destinasi kali ini dirasakan seperti kurang popular bagi keluargaku namun dek kerana jarang ke negeri-negeri di sebelah utara kerana tiada saudara mara bermastautin di situ, perhatianku tetap dialihkan ke Kedah kerana tidak mahu bersesak-sesak di bandar besar yang viral dan menjadi tumpuan utama pelancong. Faktor umur yang semakin meningkat juga menjadikan aku lebih menggemari tempat yang tenang serta kaya dengan flora. Pastinya, tempat yang ikonik di bandar utamanya iaitu Menara Alor Setar menjadi destinasi utama kami.

Menara yang berketinggian lebih kurang 165 meter di tengah-tengah bandar itu dibina oleh Telekom Malaysia dan merupakan destinasi utama para pelancong di negeri Kedah. Ini kerana menara telekomunikasi ini tercatat sebagai bangunan tertinggi di Alor Setar serta kedua tertinggi di Malaysia dan pastinya pengunjung yang datang ke sini tidak akan melepaskan peluang bergambar di sekitar menara. Menara ini juga menjadi mercu tanda terkenal di Alor Setar yang tersergam indah dan dikelilingi bangunan, dataran serta kedai di sekitarnya. Menariknya, rekabentuk Menara Alor Setar direka seperti secekak padi yang diikat sebagai simbolik kepada tanaman padi yang terkenal di Kedah. Pemandangan indah keseluruhan bandaraya Alor Setar dapat dilihat dengan jelas menerusi menara tinjau yang disediakan di atas menara ini. Fungsi utamanya adalah sebagai menara telekomunikasi dan juga balai cerap, namun kemudahan seperti Star View, Megaview Banquet Hall dan Sky View Revolving Hall yang diletakkan di pelantar terbuka menara telah menarik perhatian pelancong dari serata tempat. Perkhidmatan kaunter dan kaedah pembayaran yang moden memudahkan urusan pengunjung di samping masa menunggu yang singkat memudahkan keluarga yang membawa anak-anak kecil dan warga emas. Terdapat juga ruang untuk minum, berehat dan menikmati snek dalam pelantar. Lawatan kami sekeluarga ke sini adalah pada waktu malam, dan cuaca yang baik membuatkan pemandangan indah waktu malam dengan kerlipan cahaya pelbagai warna daripada bangunan keseluruhan bandar, kerlipan neon, serta pemandangan bulan dan bintang dirasakan begitu indah. Pelantar yang luas dan bersih dan dengan kemudahan asas yang selesa untuk pengunjung mengambil gambar menjadikan lawatan kami ke sini mudah dan tenang tanpa perlu bersesak-sesak dengan orang ramai.



Pemandangan indah berlatarbelakangkan Masjid Zahir.



Penulis bergambar di hadapan Menara Alor Setar



Penulis bersama keluarga menikmati pemandangan malam bandar Alor Setar menerusi menara tinjau.

Lawatan kami juga tidak akan lengkap sekiranya tidak berkunjung ke Masjid Zahir yang kedudukannya berhampiran dengan Menara Alor Setar. Masjid ini juga menjadi mercu ikonik terkenal di Alor Setar. Latar belakang indah masjid ini dengan ciri kubah hitam iaitu satu kubah utama dan lima kubah lebih kecil, merupakan lambang lima rukun Islam yang menjadi pegangan umat Islam menjadikan masjid ini unik dan menarik. Menurut sejarah masjid ini dibina di atas tapak sebuah masjid lama yang juga dikenali sebagai Masjid Kayu dan ianya hanya berbumbungkan atap daripada nipah.

Lawatan kami ke sini dengan melihat sendiri kemudahan di dalamnya dan solat berjemaah bersama. Kedudukannya yang sangat strategik dengan ruang parkir yang luas sangat memudahkan urusan pengunjung dan jemaah. Pasti ada peluang bergambar dengan berlatarbelakangkan pemandangan masjid tidak akan dilepaskan. Percutian yang pendek dengan lawatan ringkas tempat ikonik menjadikan ia momen yang manis dan tidak akan dapat dilupakan. Moga Kedah akan terus maju dan makmur serta dilimpahkan rahmat oleh Allah swt.



Nur Helmi @ Nur Jannah bt Azman adalah pensyarah bidang fizik yang telah berkhidmat sejak tahun 2006 di UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan. Berkelulusan PhD daripada Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, (UKM), Master Sains (Sains Bahan) dan Ijazah Sarjana Muda (Fizik) daripada Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), beliau aktif dalam penerbitan makalah berindeks dan juga cerpen.



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