

MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE

**61ST INTERNATIONAL AL-QURAN RECITAL AND MEMORISATION ASSEMBLY
(MTHQA) 1440H/2019**

1. I am pleased to inform that the Malaysian Government through the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM) is organising the 61st Al-Quran Recital and Memorisation Assembly at International level for the year 1440H/2019, scheduled for 6 days from 9 - 14 Sya'ban 1440H or 15 – 20 April 2019 (Monday – Saturday). It will be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre for the first time. Before this, it was held at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) Kuala Lumpur.
2. For your information, Al-Quran recital programme will be held from 9 – 13 Sya'ban 1440H or 15 – **19 April 2019 (Monday – Friday) from 8.45 pm to 11.00pm while the Memorisation of Al-Quran** programme will be from 10 – 12 Sya'ban 1440H or from 16 – 18 April 2019 (Tuesday – Thursday) from 9.00am to 12.00 noon.
3. The organisation of the Malaysia's 61st International Al-Quran Recital and Memorisation Assembly, has been a continuing effort of the Malaysian Government in enhancing Islamic Syiar by bringing the message of mercy, peace and prosperity based on Maqasid Syariah towards building a Malaysian model which is suitable to the conditions, customs and cultures of the different races in Malaysia without neglecting the fundamentals of Islam.

OFFICIAL CLOSING CEREMONY AND AWARD PRESENTATION

4. This prestigious ceremony will be officiated by His Royal Highness, the 16th DYMM Seri Paduka Yang di Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah ibni Sultan Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah in conjunction with the Official Closing Ceremony and Award Presentation on the 14th of Sya'ban 1440H or the 20th of April 2019 (Saturday) at 8.45pm.

MALAYSIA'S SUCCESS IN QURANIC EVENTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

5. Malaysia's success in Quranic events at the international level for the year 2018 was very gratifying. Malaysian participants were triumphant at the international stage in Recital and Memorisation of Al-Quran including ones organised by countries that do not have Muslim majority. Among the success stories were:
 - a) Two participants from Malaysia, Muhammad Dzulfaqar bin Mohd Zaini and Ahmad Luqman bin Ahmad Zaini won the Memorisation of 20 chapters and 10 chapters respectively, held in conjunction with the Annual Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz Alu Suud Competition on Memorisation of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah for Asia Pacific Countries, Indonesia, 2018.
 - b) **Tuan Haji Azraie bin Haji Abdul Hak won the Recital category on the occasion of the 9th Session of the Kuwait International Prize for Memorisation, Recitation and Tajweed of the Holy Quran, in Kuwait.**
 - c) Encik Abdul Wafi Azzaki bin Sinwan became the champion in the Memorisation of 30 chapters category on the occasion of the First Eurasian Contest of Reciters of the Holy Quran, Saratov, Russia.

INVITATION TO COUNTRIES AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE 61ST MTHQA

6. In the 61st International MTHQA, 90 countries including Malaysia were invited to participate in the Al-Quran Recital and Memorisation Assembly. From the total number of invited countries, 23 countries were invited to participate in the Al-Quran Recital Category where each country is represented by one Qari and one Qariah. Malaysia will be represented by the Qari and Qariah winners from the National Al-Quran Recital and Memorisation Assembly 2019 held at the Seremban Town Hall, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan on 10 – 15 Rejab 1440H or 17 – 22 March 2019. The respective participants are Mr Abdul Khair bin Jalil from Selangor and Miss Nor Farhatul Fairuzah binti Panut from Negeri Sembilan.
7. For the Memorisation of Al-Quran category, 26 countries were invited to participate, with the majority from the Middle East, Africa and a few other countries which were more inclined to Memorisation of Al-Quran. In this category, Malaysia will be represented by the Male and Female winners from the 30 chapters category of the National Al-Quran Recital and Memorisation Assembly 2019. The respective participants are Mr Abdullah Ulwan bin Ismail from Kelantan and Miss Raudah binti Abdul Razak from Kedah.
8. Furthermore, 41 other countries were invited and given open selection where the countries were could participate either in the Recital or Memorisation category.
9. For your information, the Recital category which is to be held for 5 days starting from the 9 – 13 Sya'ban 1440H or 15 – 19 April 2019, will involve 38 participants who have cleared the preliminary round and thus proceed to the final level. The Al-Quran Memorisation category to be held for 3 days from 10 – 12 Sha'ban 1440H or 16 – 18 April 2019 will involve 36 participants who have cleared the preliminary round and thus proceed to the finals.

10. This year, for the first time, the organizers have received participation from 7 countries namely: Azerbaijan, Montenegro, Sweden, Norway, Austria, Kenya and Ivory Coast.

JUDGING

11. The 61st International Al-Quran Recital and Memorisation Assembly will be judged by a 14-member Judging Panel from various countries including Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam and others. In the Recital category, judging will be on the aspects of Tajweed, Fasahah, Tarannum and Voice. For the Memorisation category, additional aspects of assessment which are memorisation and fluency will also be included.

PRIZES FOR THE WINNERS

12. Alhamdulillah, the winners of this year's Al-Quran Recital and Memorisation Assembly for both categories will receive a range of attractive prizes. The prizes to be awarded to participants are as follows:

a) Recital of Al-Quran Category

Qari and Qariah winners - A gold bar worth RM70,000.00 (contributed by YaPEIM) - A Trophy and RM 40,000.00 in Cash.

Runners-up for Qari and Qariah – RM30,000.00 in Cash

3rd place for Qari and Qariah – RM20,000.00 in Cash

4th place for Qari and Qariah – RM15,000.00 in Cash

5th place for Qari and Qariah – RM10,000.00 in Cash

Consolation Prizes – RM3,000.00 in Cash

In addition, every participant will receive a token of appreciation and a certificate of participation.

b) Memorisation of Al-Quran Category

Hafiz and Hafizah winners – A gold bar worth RM70,000.00 (contributed by YaPEIM) - A Trophy and RM25,000.00 in Cash

Runners-up for Hafiz and Hafizah – RM20,000.00 in Cash

3rd place for Hafiz and Hafizah – RM15,000.00 in Cash

Consolation Prizes – RM3,000.00 in Cash

In addition, each participant will receive a token of appreciation and a certificate of participation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO SPONSORS

13. The organizers would like to express their highest gratitude and thanks to the main sponsor YaPEIM for the contribution of the Gold Bars to the Qari and Qariah winners for the Al-Quran Recital Category and for increasing the value of the Gold Bars for the male and female winners of the Memorisation Category to the value of RM70,00.00, from RM50,000.00 last year.

14. Additionally, the organisers would also like to express their highest gratitude and thanks to the sponsors of this year's MTHQA which are Primavalet Fashion Hub, Abdul Samad al-Qurashi, Rakan Masjid Asy-Syakirin, Sekretariat dakwah Korporat, Duopharma and Yayasan Restu.

THEME OF MTHQA – 'COMPASSION FOR THE UMMAH BRINGS MERCY'.

15. The choice of the theme is most apt with the Government's consistent efforts in implementing the 3 principal cores, that are Rahmatanlil 'Alamin, Masqasid Syariah and the Malaysian Model, where the interrelations of these elements follow the mould of syariah Islam in achieving the civilisation of the Ummah until they are able to pattern their lives in the plural society, creating the concept of Unity in Diversity.

16. The annual organisation of the International Al-Quran Recital and Memorisation event by the Government displays the commitment of the Government in inculcating interests and the culture of reading Al-Quran to comprehend its contents and to apply what is obligated and what is forbidden by Allah SWT in our daily lives.

OTHER INTERESTING PROGRAMMES

17. During the same time period, a number of programmes have been arranged in order to attract more people to be present at this event. The organisers have prepared among others:

- i. Exhibition of Materials of Al-Quran from the Islamic Cultural Museum, Kuala Lumpur.
- ii. Taddabur Al-Quran clinic
- iii. Tahsin Al-Quran clinic
 - a. Khat writing competition
 - b. rewriting Al-Quran competition
- iv. Surah al-Kahfi World Convention Seminar
- v. Competition in writing Article on Religion – on the Al-Quran being the source of knowledge and life (open to Muslims and Non-Muslims).

COOPERATION OF THE MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC

18. Consequently, we appeal to the media to make announcements and coverage on the organisation of the 61st International Al-Quran Recital and Memorisation Assembly (MTHQA) 1440H/2019 scheduled for 6 days from 9 – 14 Sya'ban 1440 or 15 – 20 April 2019 (Monday – Saturday) at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur.

19. Members of the public are cordially invited to witness live recital of the participants and the joyous atmosphere of the event. Additionally, the Recital Category held during the evening sessions can be watched by people all over the world through live streaming via RTM TV1, Alhijrah TV channel and live

broadcast by the National Radio FM and IKM FM. A number of RTM radios will also conduct live broadcast through Salam FM (BM), KL FM (BM), Ai FM (Mandarin), Traxx FM (English), Minnal FM (Tamil) and Asyik FM (Indigenous people).

20. Meanwhile, for the Memorisation category to be held in the morning, live coverage will be provided by Alhijrah TV Channel. On top of this, the event can also be viewed all over the world through live streaming by TV Jakim at www.tvjakim.my, and also by Alhijrahmedia at www.alhijrahmedia.com

YB DATUK SERI DR MUJAHID YUSOF

MINISTER AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT

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