

Impressive line-up of judges

BY KEE THUAN CHYE

THERE are only four days left to the closing date of theSun Writing Competition. But that should still be enough time for those of you who want to try and win the top prize of RM5,000 cash.

The competition, which is open to Malaysians aged between 15 and 30, closes on Friday.

It also offers a second prize of RM3,000, a third prize of RM2,000, and 10 consolation prizes of RM500 each (see advertisement on this page).

You can write in any genre – essay, fiction, poetry, short drama, etc – but be sure to address the theme of “Malaysia and Me” as creatively and imaginatively as you can. We are not looking for sappy, flag-waving, nationalistic stuff. Give us something fresh and personal, not something that we often read in public service pamphlets.

Keep the number of words in your entry to a maximum of 1,500 words. There is no minimum.

The judging will be done by an independent panel of professionals who are not only writers themselves but also experts on writing. They are Amir Muhammad, Bernice Chauly and Daphne Lee. All three are published authors.

► **Amir** is also a publisher and occasional movie director. He started contributing articles to the print media at the age of 14. His published books include *Rojak: Bite-Sized Stories*, *Yasmin Ahmad's Films* and the soon-to-be-released *Sejarah Melayu Reloaded*.

He set up Matahari Books in 2007 to publish non-fiction books and its first title was the popular *Malaysian Politicians Say the Darndest Things (Vol 1)*. He then started another company, *Fixi*, in 2011 for Malay pulp fiction.

His films and documentaries, including *The Last Communist* and *The Big Durian*, have been shown in numerous international film festivals including Sundance and Berlin.

He has served on the jury of several international film festivals such as the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival (France), the Buenos Aires International Independent Film Festival and the Taiwan Documentary Film Festival.

He is also a regular judge for the Finas-sponsored short film script competition, and

this year he judged a student short-film competition organised by Institut Terjemahan Negara Malaysia.

► **Bernice** is a writer, poet, photographer, film-maker and actress who has worked extensively in the arts in Kuala Lumpur for over 20 years. She has also written and directed for the stage and screen.

Her published works include two collections of poems and a collection of short stories. Her latest book, a fictive memoir called *Growing Up with Ghosts*, which chronicles a hundred years of her Punjabi and Chinese family diasporas and stories, will be in bookstores next month.

She is the founder of Readings and Readings@CeritAku, KL's longest-running live literary event, now in its seventh year. She recently organised a literary festival in KL, the Writers Unlimited Tour KL/Makassar, which partnered with the Writers Unlimited International Literary Festival from the Hague, Netherlands.

She has performed in literary festivals all over the world, and her work has appeared in many regional and international anthologies.

► **Daphne** is a writer and editor. She has published six picture books, and her short stories have been included in magazines and anthologies.

She writes a weekly column about children's and young adults (YA) books for a Malaysian daily and is the publishing editor of OneRedFlower Press, which specialises in children's and YA fiction with Malaysian content.

She has also been a judge for the MPH Young Writers Competition 2003; the Scholastic Writers' Award 2009; and the MPH-Alliance Bank National Short Story Prize 2009 (Young Adult Category).

She has edited two anthologies of stories by young writers and, most recently, *Malaysian Tales: Retold and Remixed*.

You can see that the judging will be in good hands. It's now up to you to deliver the entries to challenge the judges.



In conjunction with Merdeka 2011, theSun-1MDB is organising a writing competition open to Malaysians aged between 15 years and 30 years. We are looking for original writings never published before that address the theme 'Malaysia & Me'.

In not more than 1,500 words, express your thoughts and feelings on any aspect of that theme as imaginatively as you can. No clichéd ideas or sermons, please. Or the usual stuff we've all read before. Be fresh and creative.

The best 3 entries will be awarded RM5,000, RM3,000 and RM2,000. There will also be 10 Consolation Prizes worth RM500 each.

The top three entries and any others deemed worthy will be published in theSun's Merdeka supplement on August 29, 2011.

Judging will be done by an independent panel of professional experts.

COMPETITION PRIZES

1ST PRIZE
RM5,000 cash

2ND PRIZE
RM3,000 cash

3RD PRIZE
RM2,000 cash

10 X CONSOLATION PRIZES
RM500 cash each

RULES

- The competition is open only to Malaysian citizens aged between 15 years and 30 years. Staff and family members of theSun and 1MDB are not eligible.
- Entries must be written in English. They must be original and have never been published before. Those that contain plagiarised material wholly or in part will be disqualified.
- Each entry must be typewritten, double-spaced, and must not exceed 1,500 words.
- You can submit up to a maximum of 3 entries, and each entry must be accompanied by an entry form.
- Entry forms are printed in theSun and available online at www.thesundaily.my.

- Fill in all your particulars in the entry form, including the title of your entry.
- **The TITLE of your entry must appear on ALL PAGES of your entry.**
- Make sure that your name does NOT appear on any part of your entry. This is to ensure that the writer's identity is not known to the judges so that the judging will be impartial. If your name appears on the entry, it will be disqualified.
- Copyright of the entry will remain with the author, but theSun and its Competition Sponsor shall have the right to publish in whole or in part any of the entries submitted.
- You are personally responsible for ensuring that your entry

- contains no criminal, libellous or defamatory material. The judges will not consider any entries that may contain such material.
- Proof of mailing or transmission in any manner does not constitute proof of receipt.
- The judges' decision is final. No correspondence will be entertained.
- Submit your entries to: theSun-1MDB Malaysia & Me Writing Competition 2011, c/o The Manager, Sun Media Corporation Sdn Bhd, PO Box 179, Jalan Sultan, 46720 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Or e-mail them to: writingcompetition@thesundaily.com
- All entries must reach us no later than **6pm on July 29, 2011**.

ENTRY FORM theSun-1MDB Writing Competition

Name:

IC No: Age:

Address:

Tel No (Home): (H/Phone):

Gender: Email:

Title of Entry:

I hereby declare that the attached entry is my own original work and that it has never been published before.

(Signature) (Date)

Please attach your entry with this form and send it to:

**theSun-1MDB Malaysia & Me Writing Competition 2011,
c/o The Manager, Sun Media Corporation Sdn Bhd,
PO Box 179, Jalan Sultan, 46720 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan**

Log on to www.thesundaily.my
for more details or for an online entry form.

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Now put Malaysia among world's top 10, says DPM

MALACCA: With Malaysia having been ranked the safest and most peaceful country in Southeast Asia, Malaysians should now strive to position the nation among the world's top 10 in safety ranking.

Malaysia was also ranked the fourth safest in the Asia Pacific behind New Zealand, Japan and Australia in the latest Global Peace Index ranking.

The country ranks 19th safest and most peaceful out of 153 countries in the world, according to the survey by Sydney-based Institute for Economics and Peace. Malaysia ranked 37th and 38th in 2007 and 2008 respectively.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the ranking showed Malaysia was ahead of many countries, including the United States and China.

"We fared much better compared to our neighbours, and we are the most peaceful country in the region," he told reporters after launching the national-level crime

prevention month on Saturday.

"This, to me, is an important finding. Something that will dispel any notion that Malaysia is unsafe," said Muhyiddin, who is the Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation chairman.

"We want to not only maintain peace and security but also strive to place Malaysia, in the not too distant future, among the top 10 most peaceful countries in the world," he said, noting that the latest ranking was a marked improvement from previous ones.

Towards this, he said the government will continue to implement initiatives to enhance peace and security, but the people must do their part to achieve the target.

He was confident that Malaysia would be able to achieve a better ranking in view of the numerous initiatives implemented under the National Key Result Areas.

However, the people must play their role in crime prevention efforts and not leave the matter solely to the police, he said. – Bernama