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**Celebrate Our Nation’s Heritage at PESZTA this 65th Merdeka Day!***A Festival for All Malaysians by PNB Merdeka Ventures and the Local Communities within Merdeka 118 Precinct*

**Kuala Lumpur, August 22, 2022** – Embracing the patriotic spirit of Merdeka, PNB Merdeka Ventures Sdn. Berhad (PMV), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB), in collaboration with Think City, is welcoming people from all walks of life to experience a fun-filled Merdeka weekend with PESZTA! Taking place in the thriving precinct of Merdeka 118 in Kampung Attap, the Merdeka-themed festival will be held on August 27, 2022.

Inspired by Malaysia’s diversity, PESZTA will celebrate our nation’s rich tapestry of arts, music, and heritage. The festival will feature an exciting line-up of programmes, from entertaining performances to a community market, exhibitions, and food trucks, amongst others.

PNB Merdeka Ventures’ Chief Executive Officer, Tengku Dato' Ab. Aziz Tengku Mahmud said, “As a landmark destination, it is crucial for the Merdeka 118 development to integrate seamlessly with our communities. We are happy to commemorate our 65th Merdeka Day celebration with the diverse communities within the Merdeka 118 precinct. As the custodian of Stadium Merdeka, our vision is to bring back the spirit of Merdeka to all Malaysians. PESZTA is testament to one of our many initiatives we support to achieve this objective.”

“PESZTA is also a platform for our Merdeka 118 Community Grant recipients to showcase their works of art, heritage-inspired activities and homemade products. Our aim is to excite Malaysians, celebrate Merdeka together and highlight the historical place where our independence was proclaimed,” he added.

During the festival, visitors can immerse themselves in Malaysia’s history through an interactive Stadium Merdeka showcase by PNB Merdeka Ventures. The showcase will feature historical clips as well as a 360-degree virtual tour of Stadium Merdeka and its restoration efforts. The Merdeka 118 exhibition invites visitors to learn more about the development of the Merdeka 118 precinct. Other exhibitions include a cultural exhibition by Borneo MTV as well as a Literary Exhibition & Talk. The Merdeka 118 exhibition is open to visitors from August 27 to August 28, 2022.

In addition, music lovers will not want to miss thrilling performances by popular local artistes along with up-and-coming indie bands. The line-up includes the likes of Francissca Peter, The Impatient Sisters, SevenCollar T-Shirt, and FUGO all of whom will be performing at the festival. Visitors will also be able to witness the crowning of the K2K Merdeka Idol Talent. This is a singing contest that showcases budding talents from the surrounding PPR communities of Hang Tuah, Sri Sarawak and Loke Yew.

PESZTA is a result of the Merdeka 118 Community Grants Programme which has been running since the first cycle was launched in June 2021. It is organised in partnership with stakeholders from the Government and private sector as well as local artists and communities. This includes the National Department for Culture and Arts, Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), Pentago House, Zhongshan Building, Sam Mansion, and Japan Foundation KL, amongst others.

For more information on PESZTA, check out Merdeka 118’s official social media platforms.

 @merdeka118 @merdeka\_118 @precinct\_118 Merdeka118

**About PNB Merdeka Ventures Sdn. Berhad**

PNB Merdeka Ventures Sdn. Berhad was incorporated in June 2000 and is the land owner and sole custodian of both Stadium Merdeka and Stadium Negara. Both stadiums have been listed as “National Heritage” sites in October 2005 under the National Heritage Act 2005. Thereafter PNB Merdeka Ventures carried out meticulous conservation efforts, earning Stadium Merdeka the UNESCO Award of Excellence for Culture Heritage Conservation Programme (Asia Pacific) in 2008. [www.merdeka118.com](http://www.merdeka118.com)

**Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB)**

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