



MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KL BIENNALE 2017'S AZAM BELAS SYMPOSIUM TO FURTHER UPLIFT MALAYSIA'S VISUAL ARTS SCENE

Kuala Lumpur, 24 February 2018 – In its effort to advance the development of Malaysia's visual arts scene, the National Art Gallery (NAG) will host a two-day Azam Belas Symposium as a platform for sharing, discussing and analyzing various genres and modes of arts showcased at the nation's inaugural, large-scale arts programme – Kuala Lumpur Biennale 2017.

Open to public, the weekend long symposium will take place on 24 and 25 February 2018 at NAG with the aim to cultivate within the general public critical analysis skills and a better understanding of the value of art.

The symposium will provide a more in-depth exploration of the ecological sub-themes of "Love for Nature", "Love for Animals", "Love for Humanity", "Love for Heritage" and "Love for Spirituality" to KL Biennale 2017's overarching theme, "*Alami Belas/ Be Loved*", which highlights a plethora of social issues related to human reactions to, as well as, interactions with nature.

To establish a biennale dialogue of international stature, groups of speakers - including exhibiting artists and academic speakers both internationally and locally renowned – will provide their insights through a series of panels and presentations.

The Azam Belas Symposium will be launched by National Art Gallery Director General, Professor Dato Dr. Mohamed Najib Ahmad Dawa, with special remarks by Head Curator of KL Biennale 2017, Professor Zulkifli B. Yusoff.

Hosted by National Art Gallery, KL Biennale 2017 was officiated by **YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri bin Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture Malaysia** in November 2017, and celebrates the works of 111 individuals from across continents, consisting of 100 artists from Malaysia and 11 international artists that encompass its BELAS theme.

The exhibit's objectives include promoting Malaysia's reputation as a must-visit world city with a competitive global creative industry, one that nurtures and fosters Malaysia's noble cultural values, and inculcates compassion and love in order to create a harmonious, sustainable life.

KL Biennale 2017 is open to the public until 31st March, 2018. The entrance is free.

For more information, please visit www.artgallery.gov.my/KLBiennale.

For any inquiries, please contact:

Issued on behalf of **National Art Gallery** by:

S&L Integrated Public Relations Sdn Bhd

Eunice Wong, Senior Brand Manager

Mobile: +6012 2877 368

Email: eunice@slpr.com.my

Tan Sue Zhen, Associate Brand Manager

Mobile: +6018 218 9660

Email: suezhen@slpr.com.my

National Art Gallery

Norbai'dah Bt Ambak

T: +6019-2209 387

E: norbaidahambak@yahoo.com

Annisa Mohd Noor

T: +60 10-366 0682

E: annisa@artgallery.gov.my

About the National Art Gallery Malaysia

National Art Gallery was established in 1958 by the first Prime Minister of Malaysia, YTM Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj. The National Art Gallery is a renowned and oldest art gallery in the South East Asia, holding the earliest collection of modern art in the South East Asia.

###

**National Art Gallery
No. 2 Jalan Temerloh
Off Tun Razak
53200 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 03-40267122 Fax: 03-40244998
www.artgallery.gov.my**