

## MUKA MALAYSIA: THE PREMIERE OF IMAN RESEARCH'S LATEST PRODUCTION

Kuala Lumpur, September 27, 2020 — IMAN Research is honored to present Muka Malaysia, an initiative of IMAN to celebrate the diversity in culture, practices and beliefs in Malaysia. Echoing the oral history traditions of this country, Muka Malaysia is an online video series that features interviews with individuals from across the country, as a record of the diverse group of people coexisting in this land called Malaysia.

In the first season of the series titled *Muka Malaysia: Sapa Semenanjung*, we focus on people and stories from Peninsular Malaysia. Between June to September 2020, the Muka Malaysia team, of only four individuals, a couple of cameras and a sound recorder, travelled across the peninsular, to hear from the Orang Seletar in Johor, a troubadour in Perlis, Cina Peranakan in Terengganu, and many more. Although we were ill-equipped in terms of production capability, our 'angin' and desire to collect and document these stories have been the main driver, and it is our honor to share a slice of Malaysia with all of you.

Of course, there are many other stories and people that we missed. We do not claim that this series is a full representation of the country. What we hope for instead is that it will motivate us to get to know more of each other, to collapse the spaces that divide us as people of this country, and to kill the suspicions that we have against one another. To quote the late Usman Awang, "Bukankah kecurigaan telah terbunuh ketika kita bersapa?"

As an introduction to the series, we are also very pleased to share a video essay called *Membunuh Curiga*, which can be viewed at this link: <https://youtu.be/VfwPh0Blo34>. The series *Muka Malaysia: Sapa Semenanjung* will be released every Tuesday, and can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY3xTrvc4Vde6PyWN0q3iEQ/featured> as well as on IMAN Research's Facebook page. We would like to thank our collaborator Tukang Cherita, as well as our partners and friends for their support and contributions.

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