



**THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HERITAGE
MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURE**

NATIONAL HERITAGE 2019



Categori : Intangible Cultural Heritage
Field : Performing Arts
Subject : Theater
Heritage Object : MEK MULUNG

BACKGROUND :

Mek Mulung is a blend of traditional arts that combines the elements of acting, singing, dancing, music and comedy as a performance art. It is said to come from Ligor, Siam and was introduced in the state of Kedah when there was a conflict between Kedah and Siam. The place where it was first introduced is in Perit Village, District of Kurung Itam, Kuala Nerang Colony. It was expanded to Belukar Mulung Village, Paya Keladi Village and finally in Wang Tepus Village in Jitra, Kedah.

The origin of “Mek Mulung” name is from the word “mek” which is a call for girls. While the word ‘mulung’ is the name of the forest where this performance begins. Mek Mulung is one of the traditional theaters of the Malay community which is very popular in Wang Tepus, Kedah. It has been the entertainment of the people in the state since ancient times.

The performance of Mek mulung is based on stories that originally had 20 stories, but which are often played are only (5) stories, namely; Lakon Afrit, Batak Putih, Cahaya Bulan, Malim Bongsu and Dewa Muda. Mek Mulung has its own special features due to the variety of movements, music, plays and stories. Although at a glance the performance looks so simple, but it still has a performance structure and high value of uniqueness.

Justification of proposed as National Heritage :

- Endangered;
- Need to be preserved for the knowledge / understanding of future generations; and
- Have a connection to regional art and culture.