

Bau Nyale is a tradition from Sasak, Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara. In Sasak language, Bau means to catch and Nyale means sea worms. As this name suggests, Bau Nyale is a ceremony when people hunt for sea worms. It is an annual event held around February or March in Kuta Beach, south of Lombok.

Bau Nyale holds high sacred values to the Sasak people, the natives of Lombok, and is closely connected to the local legend. It is said that there lived a beautiful princess named Mandalika whom every prince wished to marry. All the princes would propose to her but unfortunately she couldn't choose any of them as she was worried that choosing one would trigger conflicts and war between the kingdoms. The princess then decided to invite all the princes to meet on Kuta Beach before dawn. All the princes appreciated the invitation and came to the beach with all their people who would love to witness

the event. When all invitees gathered, Princess Mandalika arrived with her guards. She stopped by a big rock and said that she would accept all princes and everyone who attended. She then jumped into the water and plunged herself. Everyone was shocked and went to search for her. To their surprise, they could only find colourful sea worms which were believed to be the reincarnation of Princess Mandalika.

The Bau Nyale tradition serves as a reminder of the event Princess Mandalika and all the princes went through.



*Adapted from <http://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nyale>*