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PHOTO: AK AMIRULIZAM PG-HAJI MOHD-AU

# Royal's Brunei Armed Forces celebrate 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary

His Majesty delivers a *titah* highlighting the needs of a strategic thinking approach.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 31** - All efforts to upgrade capability must be planned in more systematic ways, based on the principle of "Raise, Train and Sustain," so that the Forces can carry out its operational responsibilities more effectively and efficiently with more confidence.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, stated that spending and procurements must be carried out wisely, and not by making rushed moves that could incur imprudent spending.

His Majesty made the calls in a *titah* in conjunction with the Royal Brunei Armed Forces' (RBAF) 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary held at the Royal Brunei Air Force Base in Rimba.

His Majesty added that with the RBAF being a large and dynamic institution, it would be appropriate for each of its sections and units to continue to keep

a grasp of their respective planning by adopting a strategic thinking approach.

The Royal Brunei Armed Forces, which has reached the age of 53 years, is the country's foremost pillar of defence.

For this reason the Royal Brunei Armed Forces need to be even more solid and formidable, and be of higher calibre, in terms of being better able to overcome current obstacles, as well as in its role in fostering regional and international cooperation.

This year's RBAF anniversary celebration is organised by the Royal Brunei Air Force. The celebration is held each year in commemoration of the formation of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces on the 31st of May 1961.

On arrival, His Majesty was greeted by the Deputy Minister of Defence, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mustappa bin Haji Sirat and the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Seri Pahlawan Mohammad Tawih bin Abdullah.

His Majesty's sons - His Royal Highness Prince General Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and General of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel were also present at the celebration.

His Majesty consented to receive the Royal Salute, and inspect the Grand Guard of Honour shortly after his arrival at Hangar 'B' of the Royal Brunei Air Force Base.

The guard of honour was led by Lieutenant Colonel Air Force Mohamad Azmi bin Haji Mohamad Hussin and mounted by 1,150 members of the RBAF comprising personnel of the Royal Brunei Land Force, the Royal Brunei Navy, the Royal Brunei Air Force, the RBAF Training Institute, Special Forces Regiment, and Women military personnel.

The inspection of the Grand Guard of Honour was followed by the march-past in a slow pace followed by a quick march by the parade groups, which bore

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## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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## His Majesty receives audience

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received diplomatic credentials from newly appointed non-resident foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam. The ceremony was held on June 5, 2014 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

They were:

- 1 His Excellency Jairam Ronald Gajraj, High Commissioner of the republic of Guyana.
- 2 His Excellency Mourad Belhassen, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tunisia.





PHOTO: HAJI ARIEFIN MOHD. NOOR 7



PHOTO: HERNE SUJANA HAJI OTHMAN 8



PHOTO: HAJI ARIEFIN MOHD. NOOR 9

- 3 His Excellency Thomas D. Kijiner, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republik of the Marshall Island.
- 4 His Excellency Dr Alpha Diallo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republik of Guinea.
- 5 His Excellency Michal Slivovic, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republik of Slovak.
- 6 His Excellency Tarik Bukvic, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Bosnia dan Herzegovina.
- 7 His Excellency Sadegh M.O. Bensadegh, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of State of Libya.
- 8 His Excellency Salah Mohi Eldin Abdelmaged Elwassimy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Egypt.
- 9 His Excellency Rodrigo Guillermo Riofrio Machuca, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ecuador.



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID 1

**His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience on June 26, at the Istana Nurul Iman from:**

- 1 His Excellency Dr. Enrique T. Ona, Secretary of Health at the Department Of Health, Republic of the Philippines.



- ② His Honourable Orang Kaya-Kaya Seri Agar Diraja Tan Sri Dato' Seri Diraja Haji Ramli bin Ngah Talib, Orang Besar Lapan Perak Darul Ridzuan,



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

## His Royal Highness The Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's received in audience His Excellency Mubarak Bunaya Al-Khurainij, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Kuwait, was accompanied by a delegation from members the National Assemle of Kuwait on June 7.

The audience took place at Qashr al-Meezan.

## His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Abdul Fattah El-Sisi after he was sworn in as the new president of Egypt on June 8.
- His Excellency Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III, President of the Philippine as well as the Government and people of the Philippines on the occasion of the republic's 116<sup>th</sup> independence on June 12.
- His Excellency Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federal, as well as the Government and people of the Russia in conjunction with the Russian Federation's National Day on June 12.
- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britian and the Prime Minister of United King- dom, His Excellency Rt. Hon David Cameron MP on the occasion of the anniversary of Her Majesty's Birthday 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 14.





His Majesty inspects the Grand Guard of Honour.

PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID



PHOTO: MOHD. SAHRIZAL HAJI SAID

**\* From frontpage  
(Royal Brunei Armed Forces celebrate 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary)**

the Royal Crest of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Coat of Arms.

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the RBAF carries the theme, "Generasi A-B-D-B Berwawasan" or "RBAF Generation With Vision", which illustrates a generation of Royal Brunei Armed Forces members who are knowledgeable, experienced, highly capable, who are open-minded and possess an extensive vision.

This theme serves as a guide for all personnel of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces in facing and overcoming various challenges which are constantly changing.

It also portrays the tireless efforts of the RBAF towards becoming a professional military force that is capable of planning, driving and mobilising progress and development.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, in the titah, also expressed appreciation to the personnel of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces for their roles and service contributions in safeguarding and preserving the security of the nation.

Throughout the past 53 years, training effectiveness and discipline constituted the vanguard in efforts to make the RBAF a formidable and professional organisation.

These basic foundations are being further strengthened from time to time, especially given that the Royal Brunei Armed Forces has been entrusted with upholding as well as safeguarding the sovereignty of religion, monarchy, nation and country, so as to ensure that the security and prosperity of the motherland continue to be enjoyed by all citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam.



PHOTO: AK. AMIRUNIZAM PG.HAJI MOHDAU

Accompanying His Majesty were his sons, His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel.



PHOTO: HAJI ARIFFIN MOHD. NOOR

Viewing one of the presentations at the RBAF's Anniversary Celebration.



## His Majesty presents house keys to thousands

**Bandar Seri Begawan, May 2** – A total of 1,542 people received the keys to their new homes in a ceremony held at the Indera Samudera Hall of the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, consented to present the house keys to the recipients.

Of the total, 980 are recipients of semi-detached and terrace houses in the National Housing Scheme (RPN) Tanah Jambu and RPN Meragang areas.

Meanwhile under the Land Scheme for the Indigenous Races (STKRJ), 213 residents received semi-detached and terrace houses in the Kampong Katok 'B' area, while another 349 people were awarded semi-detached and terrace houses in the Kampong Lugu area.

As of now, nearly 15,459 housing units have been allocated for applicants under the National Housing Programme and the Indigenous Land Award Scheme.

From this figure, 11,209 housing units are for applicants in the Brunei-Muara District.

The presence of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the ceremony and His Majesty's consenting to present the keys to the recipients demonstrate the high level of care and attention by the monarch towards fulfilling and safeguarding the needs of the citizens and residents in the country. The handing over of house keys also means a higher quality of life for the citizens.

On arrival at the Indera Samudera Hall of the Empire Hotel and Country Club, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by the Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman; the Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman; and the Acting Brunei-Muara District Officer, Awang Mohammad Sunadi bin Haji Buntar.

The ceremony commenced with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah, led by the Brunei-Muara District Lower Syariah Court Judge, Awang Haji Sahrin bin Haji Kadih.

The Acting Brunei-Muara District Officer, Awang Mohammad Sunadi bin Haji Buntar, speaking in his welcoming address on behalf of the recipients, expressed full gratitude and appreciation for the presence of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the ceremony.

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PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

His Majesty consented to present the house key to one of the recipients.-



PHOTO: HAJI ARIFFIN MOHD. NOOR

His Majesty also consented to stop over at one of the houses of the recipients.



PHOTO: HAJI ARIFFIN MOHD. NOOR

Group picture taking opportunity with His Majesty.





PHOTO: DK NUR HAFILAH PG. OSMAN



PHOTO: DK NUR HAFILAH PG. OSMAN

In conjunction with the house keys presentation ceremony His Majesty also consented to visit Institute of Education. Among them are the Sayyidina Husain Secondary School in Jerudong and the Brunei CAE Multi-purpose Training Centre, the Agro Technology Park.

**\* From page 7  
(His Majesty presents house keys)**

He also conveyed the continued undivided loyalty of the people to His Majesty and that they stand firmly in full support of His Majesty's leadership.

For the house key recipients, the key-presentation ceremony was a historic moment and the memory of the event was even more valuable with His Majesty's consenting to visit several houses of the recipients.

His Majesty later consented to visit the Residence of the Ketua of Kampung Lugu and Kampung Katimahar, Awang Salim bin Adi in Mukim Sengkurong.

Nearly 1,400 people live in Kampung Lugu and Kampung Katimahar which are provided with basic facilities including two schools and a mosque.

His Majesty also consented to stop over at the houses of the participants who received the terrace houses for the Kampung Lugu Land Scheme for the Indigenous Races, in Mukim Sengkurong.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his several titah has often underscored raising the standard of national housing as one of the matters of prime importance for His Majesty's Government.

In this regard, the provision of public amenities - especially basic facilities such as housing - is of paramount importance.

Housing projects through various housing schemes have continuously expanded right up till now, and continue to do so in all four districts.

In conjunction with the house keys presentation ceremony, His Majesty paid a close attention to the Institute of Education.

His Majesty also consented to visit the Brunei CAE Multi-purpose Training Centre, the Agro Technology Park and several houses of the key recipients.

As the leader of a nation who pays great attention to the



PHOTO: HAJI ARIFFIN MOHD. NOOR

development of education in the country, His Majesty often spends his time visiting institutions of higher and lower education. The Sayyidina Husain Secondary School in Jerudong became the first focal point of His Majesty's visit.

His Majesty, through the Ministry of Education, is updating the country's education policy and system from time to time in order to meet future requirements of the nation.

The National Education system of the 21st Century launched in 2009, is an initiative in upholding the Ministry of Education's vision to provide quality education for the developing, peaceful and prosperous nation.

His Majesty's Government, through the Ministry of Education, will continuously ensure that the quality of education continues to be the main focus in line with the Nation's Vision 2035, which requires well-educated, skilled and successful citizens.

Towards realising the vision, the nation will continue its effort to develop a first-class education system that provides every citizen and resident the opportunity to fulfil the ever-changing economic demands, and encourages life-long learning.

His Majesty recently consented to the Brunei Technical Education Institute Order 2013 and the Technical and Vocational Transformation White Paper as well as the Plan to upgrade the Brunei Darussalam Technical Education 2013/2018.

Through this transformation, students will acquire the knowledge, skills and other values for conducive life-long learning and training.

Transformation of Technical education is carried out through a holistic approach by developing several key aspects identified for producing quality graduates and accepted by the job market.

The key aspects in the implementation of the transformation include provision of training programmes that are consistent with the needs of the industry and job market; apprenticeship system, skill enhancement, and the teaching staff, conducted through close cooperation with industries with the desire to contribute towards solving the issues of skills-job mismatch and unemployment.



PHOTO: HAJI ARIFFIN MOHD. NOOR



## Crown Prince bestows honorary medals on government officials and employees

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 14 June - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present the Brunei Darussalam Medal of Honor to government officials and employees in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei 67th birthday.

Attending to present the Medals on behalf of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan.

The medal investiture ceremony was held at the Indera Kenchana Throne Hall, Istana Nurul Iman.

A total of 1,810 people received medals during the three-day investiture ceremony that happened on the 10, 12 and 14 June.

Pengiran-Pengiran Cheteria, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Council, Deputy Ministers, Pengiran-Pengiran Peranakan, Pehin-Pehin, MPs, MPs Interior, High Commissioners, Ambassadors, Permanent Secretaries, heads of departments, senior government officials, penghulus and village heads were also present at the ceremony.



PHOTO: AK - AMIRUNZAM PGHAJI MOHD.AU

His Royal Highness Crown Prince, the Deputy Sultan presents Medal of Honour to one of the recipients

## Deputy Sultan opens new Minister of Health Pharmaceutical Services building

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Jun 18 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan, officially opened the new building of the Pharmaceutical Services Department, Ministry of Health (MoH) yesterday.

The \$6.8 million building, which consists of three blocks, accommodates all the divisions under the department.

These include the Drug Registration Division, the Pharmaceutical Enforcement Division and the Drug Quality Control Division.

A few of the divisions are also equipped with its own laboratories such as the Pharmaceutical Laboratory, Microbiology Laboratory and Cosmetic Laboratory.

These laboratories are managed by the Drug Quality Control Division.

Before touring the new facility, HRH signed an inauguration plaque to mark the momentous occasion.

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Adnan, greeted HRH upon his arrival at the Pharmaceutical Services Department.

The building's construction started in 2011 as one of the projects under the National Development Plan.

PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN



His Royal Highness signed an inauguration plaque.



His Royal Highness taking a look at one of the laboratories.



The facade of the MOH Pharmaceutical Service Building.



**JERUDONG, June 22** – The Ministry of Development won the 2014 Inter-Ministries Golf championship at the Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club (RBGCC) in Jerudong.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan, consented to present the championship trophy to Minister of Development, Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Suyoi.

The competition started on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

A total of 122 officers and staff from nine government ministries participated in the event, where they were divided into four categories; team, individuals, VIPs and invitational.

Whilst the Ministry of Development won the team event, Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd. Zaimibin Haji Talip from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) was victorious in the VIP event.

For 'novelty' gifts, nearest to the Pin on Hole 3 was won by Major (U) Zulehram Yakub from the Ministry of Defence, while Mirusin bin Haji Hashim from the Ministry of Development tap nearest to the Pin on Hole 8, followed by the nearest to the Pin - Hole 13 won by Murni bin Haji Ahmad from PMO and Liew Yong Kim from the Ministry of Education winning the nearest to the Pin on Hole 16.

In Division 'C' Nett (10 to 24 Handicap), Abdullah Haji Ahad from the Ministry of Education won the first place. The Division 'B' Nett (12 to 18 Handicap) was won by Khairul bin Hj Bakar from the Ministry of Development and Pg Hj Ahmad Zaki Pg Hj Jambol from the Ministry of Defence won the Division 'A' Nett (0 to 11 Handicap).

Best Nett winner was won by Azmi bin Haji Osmar from the Ministry of Defence, while the Best Gross was won by Hj Kilali Munchit from the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

## Ministry of Development wins Inter-Ministries Golf Competition



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness Crown Prince consented to present the Championship Trophy to the Minister of Development.



## His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah receives in audience Deputy Speaker of Kuwaiti National Assembly

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 7** - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade consented to receive in audience His Excellency Mubarak Bunaya Al-Khurainij, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the State of Kuwait at the Balai Penghadapan Bukit Kayangan.

Both His Royal Highness and His Excellency Mubarak Bunaya Al-Khurainij discussed aspects and developments of current bilateral relations.

It was then followed by mutual exchanges of mementos between His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Excellency Mubarak Bunaya Al-

Khurainij.

His Excellency was in the Sultanate on a five-day official visit and was accompanied by a delegation from the Kuwaiti National Assembly.

This is the first official visit by Kuwait to Brunei Darussalam since bilateral relations between the countries was established in 1990.





## Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attends 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Jeddah, June 18** - The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah attended the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the OIC Foreign Minister's Meeting in Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was held at the Conference Palace and was chaired by Saudi Arabia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah highlighted the importance of Ummah indirection the organisation towards inclusive matters in his statement during the First Closed Session.

He also stressed that any new programme in the OIC should continue to strengthen their faith and hopes for the future.

His Royal Highness then attended an official luncheon hosted by His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal at the Conference Palace.

On the second day of the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, His Royal Highness held a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of Gambia, Dr Aboubacar Senghore in Jeddah.

Upon his arrival at the King Abdul Aziz International Airport, His Royal Highness was greeted by Ambassador Azzam bin Abdul Kareem Al-Gain, Undersecretary for Protocol Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia.



PHOTOS: DK. NUR HAFILAH PG. OSMAN



His Royal Highness held a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of Gambia.





PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness officiated the five-day seminar.

## ‘Be a clean athlete and be a national pride,’ says His Royal Highness Haji Sufri Bolkiah

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 2** - His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the president of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) launched the first Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Seminar for Young Athletes.

The five-day seminar was jointly organized by the BDNOC and the Youth and Sports Department, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

It was held at the Lecture Theatre of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Berakas.

About 30 athletes from National Sports Associations participated in the seminar, which was themed 'Bridging the

Gap: Synergy Towards Success'.

The BDNOC President emphasized the importance of staying away from doping.

He also believes that the seminar will be beneficial to everyone.

"The athletes need to be responsible and committed towards their tasks, abide by the rules and regulations and to stay away from drugs and other prohibited substances," stressed His Royal Highness.

"We take the doping issue seriously and we are trying to remove it through random tests and creating awareness on the dangers and consequences of doping".

"I urge all athletes to instill the Olympic Values in themselves with full responsibility and be an athlete with dignity. Be a clean athlete and be a national pride," added His Royal Highness.

The seminar was in conjunction with the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The participants received their certificates from the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awg Hj Hazair Hj Abdullah.

The youths attending the five-day seminar are expected to represent Brunei Darussalam at future South East Asian or SEA Games and the Asian Games.



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness emphasised the importance of staying away from doping.





PHOTO: AK AMIRUNIZAM PG-HAJI MOHD-AU

His Royal Highness consented to hand over His Majesty personal gift in the form of dates fruit to one of the Village Heads.

## Muslims in Brunei to receive dates in Ramadan

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 25 - His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Malik, as Chairman of the Administrative Board of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) consented to the launch of Dates Distribution of His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the Ramadan 1435 Hijriah / 2014 AD.

On this occasion, His Royal Highness consented to distribute the dates, a personal gift from His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, to the district penghulu (the acting village heads), village Heads, Leaders and commanders of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and formation directors, and commanding officers of the Royal Brunei Police Force.

A total of 155 metric tons of 'Safawi' dates supplied by Al Madinah Dates Company, Saudi Arabia will be distributed to all Muslim citizens and residents in Brunei Darussalam by the month of Ramadan.

Each person, regardless of age, will receive a box (300 grams)

## Princess officiates 10<sup>th</sup> International Nursing and Midwifery Conference

The 10<sup>th</sup> International Nursing and Midwifery conference (INMC) was held at Universiti Brunei Darussalam in June 26, 2014.

More than 300 participants, which consisted of nurses and midwifery practitioners, nursing or midwifery educators, researchers, students and policy makers in nursing and midwifery, as well as public health professionals and medical practitioners, attended the two-day seminar.

The "Advancing Education and Practice to Health Challenges" - theme conference was officiated by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti



PHOTO: HAJI MASWALEH HAJI MOHD. AU

Her Royal Highness officiated the two day conference.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

It consisted of eight plenary session and seven parallel session.

Professor 'Eileen Savage, a Nursing Professor from the School of Nursing and Midwifery at University College Cork in Republic of Ireland, was also invited to deliver a talk on 'Leadership and Professionalism in Nursing and Midwifery: Education, Practice and Research'.

The 10<sup>th</sup> INMC aims to disseminate new developments in education, practice, management and research of global health challenges in the nursing and midwifery profession.

It also enables the participants to

enhance their networks with international speakers and other participants through discussions on evidence-based practices in nursing and midwifery.

The seminar was organised by Universiti Brunei Darussalam's Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Institute of Health Science (PAPRSB HIS), in conjunction with the official opening of the new extended building at UBD.

International parties from the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Laos, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Hong Kong, Singapore, Sierra Leone, Japan and Australia also participated in the conference.



## Importance of archive to nation's development

**Bandar Seri Begawan, June 9** - Records such as written works, unique applications and mechanical inventions can be used in developing new ideas that are more efficient and marketable.

Datin Paduka Hajah Adina Othman, the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, officiating the International Archives Day, highlighted that archive is always related with the past. The word connotes dusty old documents, which are referred to only when one needs to know about history.

She called on all parties to change their way of thinking on archives.

An archive should not only be considered as the nation's property and heritage - referred to only in the historiography aspect - but can and should contribute to the nation's development.

"It raises issues regarding the generation and understanding of innovation and creativity, which is often, brought to attention in the context of development and the nation's competitiveness in facing globalisation challenges", she added.

"Resources from the archive in the form of an architectural building plan can be used to inspire the formation of architecture that is competitive and appropriate for local needs", noted the Deputy Minister.

The Deputy Minister hoped that through the International Archive Day



PHOTO: HAJI ARIFFIN MOHD. NOOR

**Datin Paduka Hajah Adina Othman, the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports officiating the International Archives Day.**

celebration, it will enhance the public's awareness on the importance of the general records for the development, dynamic and competition of the nation as well as to advance alongside developed countries around the world, which is in line with the objective of the Brunei Vision 2035.

The celebration also included an "Architecture and Creativity Exhibition".

The exhibition, participated by nine government institutions, private sector and several organisations, focused on the methods of archive materials, which could become a source of reference and generate the economy.

The exhibition is opened to the public until December 9, every Monday to Thursday and Saturday starting from 8am until 4.30pm.

## Minister of Health reveals new registration system for blood donors



PHOTO: HAJI ARIFFIN MOHD. NOOR

**The Minister of Health presents a certificate to one of the most active coordinators of blood donation campaigns.**

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN June 14** - The Blood Donation Centre introduced a new registration system for blood donors on the World Blood Donors Day at the Ministry of Health's Dewan Al-Afiah.

The Minister of Health revealed

that every blood donor will be given a barcoded identity card to be used during registration.

This will make the registration process for blood donors much easier, more efficient, and time-saving.

The Blood Donation Centre also introduced a new method known as Glycerolisation, which is in line with the regional and global health development in accordance with the sophisticated

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(Minister of Health reveals new registration system for blood donors)

and modern technology.

The minister, Yang Behormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adnan, said that by using the Glycerolisation method, the types of blood donated can now be stored longer for up to ten years and that its safety is guaranteed.

The new method will be extended in

stages to other blood types if necessary and appropriate.

The minister added that this strategy is very important in ensuring that the country will always have the level of blood that is sufficient and safe according to designated international standards and SOP (Standard Operating Procedure).

The theme for this year's ceremony is 'Safe Blood for Saving Mothers.' It focuses on the importance of obtaining blood and blood products during emergencies

when blood is very much needed to avoid complications and deaths among mothers during and after delivery.

The ceremony was concluded by the presentation of certificates to the most active coordinators of blood donation campaigns and blood donors for the government and non-government organisation categories.

A large-scale blood-donation campaign will also be held in conjunction with World Blood Donors Day 2014 throughout the country.



The Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Home Affairs at the 103<sup>rd</sup> International Labour Organisation Conference.

## Brunei Darussalam attends 103<sup>rd</sup> ILO conference

Brunei Darussalam attended the 103<sup>rd</sup> International Labour Organisation (ILO) conference in Geneva, Switzerland from June 9 to 11, 2014.

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Yang Dimulikan Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi led the Brunei Darussalam's delegation at the conference.

In the plenary session at the United

Nation's Assembly Hall Building, the Deputy Minister highlighted Brunei's initiatives in addressing unemployment issues.

"The Government of His Majesty has made initiatives to address the unemployment issues including forming up career weeks (to showcase job vacancies)," the deputy minister said.

"These include opportunities to

work in the Information Technology & Communications, Services, Transportation, Hospitality, Wholesale and Retail, and Oil and Gas sector," he added.

Brunei Darussalam attends the conference annually after it became a member of ILO on January 17, 2007.





PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

The Speaker of Brunei Darussalam's Legislative Council launched the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

The 6th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Meeting was chaired by Yang Berhormat Haji Awang Ahmad Morshidi, a member of the Brunei Darussalam's Legislative Council.

## Sultanate hosts ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 18** - Brunei's Legislative Council hosted the 16th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The assembly was officiated by the Speaker of Brunei's Legislative Council, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa.

The Speaker of Brunei Darussalam's Legislative Council stated that AIPA recognises the importance of close cooperation and collaboration among the member nations for continuous stability as well as peace, prosperity and development in the ASEAN region and the importance of ASEAN Community well-being.

He explained that the AIPA Caucus is the best platform for ASEAN parliamentarians to further extend the

avenues of cooperation among their countries, and to focus its discussions on matters pertinent to issues that will contribute towards the achievement of ASEAN's noble vision.

He further added that the 34th AIPA General Assembly in Bandar Seri Begawan last year touched on the resolutions to amend the AIPA-Caucus terms of reference.

The amendment according to Yang Berhormat Pehin is considered as necessary to meet the conference requirement for a more effective outcome.

The amendment includes changes to the AIPA Caucus meeting regulations, to enable sub-conferences on focused and in-depth discussions of issues.

In addition to reviewing recommendations made during last year's general assembly, Brunei

Darussalam has also tabled another topic for discussion that is cooperation in higher education, technical and vocational education among ASEAN countries.

AIPA is a regional body designed to make legislative recommendations to ASEAN governments.

One of its goals is to promote policy cohesion among the 10-member regional bloc, which aspires to establish a European Union-style economic community by 2015.

This year's caucus was chaired by Yang Berhormat Haji Awang Ahmad Morshidi Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Diraja Dato Laila Utama Hj Awng Abd Rahman, a member of Brunei Darussalam's Legislative Council.

AIPA was established in 1977 to promote solidarity and discuss solutions to problems of common interest. Brunei Darussalam joined the body in 2009.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

Group photo of the ASEAN parliamentarians.





The Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office officiated the 14<sup>th</sup> SOMTC

PHOTOS: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI



The Minister of Energy joined in the group picture.

## ASEAN needs to embrace the right technology to combat crime, urges Minister of Energy

**Bandar Seri Begawan, June 24-** The 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) was held at the Empire Hotel and country Club's Indera Samudra Grand Hall.

Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Berhormat (YB) Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Haji Mohd Yasmin said at the opening that ASEAN countries need to strengthen capacity building to dismantle security threats.

"Personally, I believe adopting the right technology is central to achieving successes in our fight and ability of staying two or more steps ahead of criminal network," he told the delegates from 10 ASEAN countries.

"This is where ASEAN's partnerships with our dialogue partners add leverage to our respective capabilities, he added.

YB Pehin Dato Haji Yasmin also said that in order to strengthen collective action against transnational crime, ASEAN must abolish unnecessary bureaucracy.

"Transnational crime a major challenge to our aspiration to attain on ASEAN Political Security community, one of the three pillars of the ASEAN community 2015," he said.

This year's 14<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) focused on combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, human trafficking and cybercrimes.

"Our region has not escaped unscathed," the minister added. "We increasingly need to deal with many new forms of organised crime that transcend national borders and political sovereignty such as terrorism, new types of drug abuse and trafficking, innovative forms of money laundering, arms smuggling, trafficking in women and children and piracy."

The 14<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) was chaired by Dato Paduka Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office.

Senior officials focused their discussion on the full implementation of the relevant provisions of the ASEAN Political Security Community Blueprint by 2015.

They also discussed the SOMTC Work Program, which lists eight areas of transnational crime including on illegal arms smuggling, money laundering, sea piracy and international economic crimes.

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**(ASEAN needs to embrace the right technology to combat crime, urges Minister of Energy)**

The Meeting commended the headway in programme implementation, the successful convening of the inaugural Working Group on Cybercrime, and the progress being made in the drafting of

the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) and the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (RPA).

The discussion was underlined by an emphasis on capacity building especially for front-line personnel and investigators and the use of technology in addressing transnational crime.

Senior Asean officials at the meeting also proposed the establishment of a regional training centre for investigation procedures as part of efforts to combat cross-border crime.

The meeting also embraced ways forward in achieving the objectives of formulating the next step in the fight against transnational crime post-2015.

## Climate change must be taken seriously, says Minister of Development

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 12** - The government, through the Ministry of Development, has taken mitigating actions to reduce greenhouse gases and address climate change.

"Brunei has realised that climate change must be taken seriously," said the Minister of Development, Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Suyoi.

The Ministry of Development recently released an Energy Efficiency Index (EEI) for primary and secondary schools, in a bid to reduce energy consumption in government-run institutions.

The Public Works Department (PWD) under the Ministry of Development collected data from over 48 government buildings, including 40 schools and eight commercial premises to come up with the benchmark for the EEI.

"The EEI baseline will be used to evaluate energy consumption and will become the benchmark for schools to ensure energy efficiency," said Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Hj Suyoi at the launch of the EEI.

The Public Works Department has also created "Green Building Initiatives" to illustrate how the public can save energy, water and use energy-efficient products and technologies.

The minister said that, the Green Building Initiative is one of the mitigation moves by the Public Works Department in countering climate change.

The positive move is also a major transition in the industrial development by taking into account the «green concept» in the design, implementation and sustainable utilization.

"I believe that these green concepts can be applied and absorbed in government buildings and schools. This has also been extended and applied to private buildings in the future," added the minister.

The PWD has also posted on its website a list of "approved products" that employ energy efficient technology.



PHOTO: HAJI AREFIN MOHD. NOOR

**Minister of Development tours the exhibitions being put up in conjunction with the launching of the Energy Efficiency Index.**

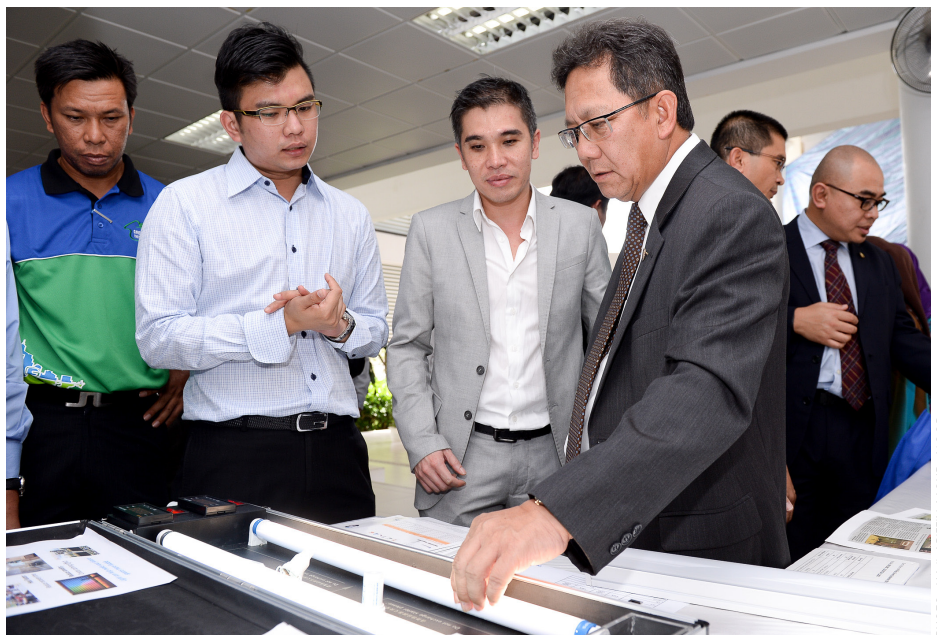


PHOTO: HAJI AREFIN MOHD. NOOR





PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

## Brunei Darussalam – Republic of Korea strengthen ties through youth programme

A ten-member delegation from Brunei Darussalam left for Korea to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Korea Youth Exchange Programme starting June 4, 2014. The ten-day programme was part of the efforts to strengthen ties between the two nations toward fostering greater rapport among youth. The Exchange Program was part of deals under the 2009 Memorandum of Understanding between Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Korea.

## Ministry of Communications to introduce more stable and secure Land Transport System

**Bandar Seri Begawan, June 21** – The Ministry of Communications has prepared a comprehensive to achieve a more sustainable transport system.

At the launch of the Ministry of Communications (MinComm) Safety Week 2014, the minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah, stated that they aim to promote a more stable and secure land transport system as the country move to realise the 2035 National Vision.

The Land Transportation Master Plan project has been prepared by the Centre for Strategy and Policy Studies (CSPS) since July 2012 and it will be officially shared in the near future.

The minister also added similar efforts would be extended to the maritime sector with the establishment of the Brunei Darussalam Maritime and Ports Authority (AMPBD).

In the nearest future, detailed planning would be implemented towards a more organised development of the maritime industry.

In conjunction with the Safety Week, the Minister launched the Ministry's Assets and Safety Unit's website that displays safety aspects in all transport sectors

under the control of the Ministry of Communications.

The Minister of Communication highlighted that in a society inspired by goodness, reminding each other over the needs to maintain safety and security while being sensitive toward the environment are considered laudable.

He further stated that the ruling government has a role in ensuring that the safety of infrastructures is guaranteed

while adhering to international safety standards.

The Minister of Communications also launched the Special Safety Week Exhibition show casing safety aspects from departments under the Ministry of Communications, as well as security and private authorities.

The exhibition took place at the lobby of the ministry's building in Jalan Menteri Besar in Berakas.



PHOTO: AZWAH HAJI AHAD

The Minister of Communications at the launching of the Ministry of Communications Safety Week 2014.





## Ru'yah and Hisab: Marking the start of the month

**P**redicting the first sighting of the new crescent has been attempted since the time of the ancient Babylonians.

The ancient methods of moon sighting depended on the astronomical calculation of the Moon and the time difference between moonset and sunset.

The first sighting of the new crescent moon is used as the basis of various calendars to signal the start of the new month. For instance, Islam requires that the sighting of the new crescent moon should be made with the naked eye.

More modern techniques nowadays among others use the angular separation of the Sun and Moon, altitude difference between the Sun and Moon, as well as their relative azimuths and the width of the crescent.

The determination of the new crescent moon varies in several countries. There are some countries that only used the Ru'yah, while the others use Hisab or both of them.

Despite Muslim countries mastering the advanced technology of astronomy by using the Hisab method, some countries apparently still prefer to use Ru'yah by referring to a hadith (Prophet's tradition) narrated by Imam Bukhari that stated, "Do not fast unless you sight the crescent, and do not break your fast till you sight the (following) crescent."

Brunei Darussalam is one of the countries that follows the hadith narrated by Imam Bukhari as mentioned above and has its own moon sighting hills throughout the country.

The moon sighting locations in Brunei

are Bukit Shahbandar in Jerudong, Bukit Ambok and Padang Tembak Bukit Agok in Tutong, and Bukit Lumut in Belait.

The sightings of the new month will be reported to the authority and announced through radio and television by the high court Syariah judge.

Moon sightings in Brunei Darussalam in the past were conducted at the minaret of Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque in Bandar Seri Begawan as it was considered one of the higher places in the country.

Whether the moon was sighted or not, it will be presented to His Majesty

the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam before it is announced.

Brunei has a community of astronomers who called themselves "Persatuan Astronomi Negara Brunei Darussalam" (The Astronomical Society of Brunei Darussalam).

They diligently conduct observations and give services on the current development of astronomy, including moon sighting, Kiblat direction, schedules of the Sun and the Moon, schedule of the planets, as well as star charts and planet positions.

