



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam speaking to the nation on new year's eve, urging for effort to be continued to ensure that the country's development process run smoothly.

Continue efforts toward ensuring smooth running of development process — Sultan

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has urged for continued effort toward ensuring the smooth implementation of the country's development process.

He said that as the twenty first century approaches, the more intense are the development taking place in the Asia Pacific region to the point that some forecast the next century as being the 'Pacific Century', while

Twenty first century seen as the 'Pacific Century'

the present has been dubbed the 'Atlantic Century'.

By virtue of its location of being right in the centre of a region that is experiencing rapid change and developments, Brunei Darussalam as with other countries, has no alternative other than to prepare itself especially in trade in order to keep abreast of these development and progress, the monarch stressed in his new year address.

For without adequate attention being given to such aspects as trade, development and economic growth as well as technological advancement, professional skills and high productivity which are made priorities by countries around the world, a

country will certainly suffer drawbacks, and even lag behind others.

In this respect, the monarch further said, Brunei Darussalam is somewhat fortunate in that ASEAN member countries possess understanding and the spirit of cooperation and friendship, and they support one another.

"As a member of the association, we have benefited from the effort and project of ASEAN in various fields apart from being able to collectively confront regional and international issues".

His Majesty however, reminded that as it enters the 21st century, Brunei Darussalam must be wary of every change and not to accept those which conflict with noble values and Islamic

teaching.

"We have a history of excellence and nobility which arise from a culture and pure principle of life", he said.

The monarch pointed that the importance of giving due emphasis to moral and religious values is not only being emphasized in the East, but of late also by Western countries.

This is because of the realization that materialistic progress alone will not guarantee the harmony and well-being of their people.

It is the responsibility of all in this country to ensure that the young generation and youth hold firmly to the values for the future of the

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam Newsletter will appear on 31 January 1997. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

• from page 1 (Continue efforts to ensure smooth running of development process)

country and its people.

"The nation-building process and even the destiny of the people largely rest with the young generations and youths", stressed the monarch.

His Majesty expressed confidence that with unity, the prosperity and stability of the country will continue regardless of what the next century may bring.

Earlier in his address, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam spoke of the various events that had taken place in 1996, saying some were bitter, while others more pleasant.

For instance, he said, millions of people of an African country have become refugees in order to escape from political conflicts which have caused the local population to suffer.

"We also see a peace agreement for the Middle East being threatened as a result of a change of government, which has a different view to peace".

But at the same time, the progress made in the peace process of countries in former Yugoslavia are heartening, and likewise within our own region, the peace accord between the Philippine government and the Moro National Liberation Front, all of which marked the positive events of 1996.

Such accord will certainly open the way to prosperity and peace in the Southern Philippines after 20 years of upheavals, he said.

The ruler also cited the economic growth and progress achieved by developing countries as among the pleasant experiences of the past year.

For its part", said the monarch, "Brunei Darussalam has participated in various important meetings throughout 1996. These have included the Asia Europe Meeting in Bangkok, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting in Manila and the ASEAN Informal Summit in Jakarta".

The mainstream issue at those meetings has been finding ways of strengthening cooperation among nations in an increasingly interdependent world.

"Economic excellence has become the most important criteria among

countries which cooperate and work closely with one another - even more than political consideration and accountability", the monarch stressed.

"This is because these countries realise that economic cooperation is the core basis of prosperity and the well-being of the world in general".

His Majesty's address was telecast to the nation over radio and television on new year's eve.

Bandar Seri Begawan — number three in Asia with high quality of life

Bandar Seri Begawan has been recognised as the number three town which has a high quality of life in Asia compared to other towns in the region.

This was disclosed by the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abidin, following a statement by an international body which recently conducted a study on the "Livability of towns in Asia".

Among the criteria which indicate the standard of life quality were educational achievement, housing condition and comfort, crime rate, environmental cleanliness, the standard of public health, communications facilities such as aviation, and public transportation.

It is clear that the public transportation service has to some extent contributed towards achievement of this recognition, he said.

In a speech before he officially launched the Information Guide

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His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, in picture at left, and Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, picture below, lead members of the royal family at the audience they granted to Bruneians who are currently either serving at various Brunei agencies in the United Kingdom or studying and undergoing various training there.

Audiences for Bruneians in United Kingdom

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam along with other members of the royal family have granted an audience to some two thousand Bruneians who are currently in the United Kingdom.

The ceremony, which was held at one of London's leading hotels on 22 December, was attended by Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam.

Granted the audience were Brunei

students, government officials attending various courses as well as officials and staff of the Brunei Darussalam High Commission in the UK, and officials from the Brunei Investment Agency.

Among the other members of the royal household present at the

ceremony were His Majesty's sons, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



• from page2 (Bandar Seri Begawan: third with high quality of life)

System for the Public Transportation Service in the Brunei-Muara district on 23 November, the Minister said that the public transportation service is now facing various forms of changes to meet the need and expectation of members of the public.

However, as a 'service-oriented

department, he said, the Land Transportation Department will continue to face criticism and complaints, toward which they should always be positive and sensitive, and make effort towards improvement.

On the other hand, members of the public should also give their cooperation and support to the

government in its effort to provide public facilities, so that it will not only benefit outsiders and foreign workers, but also enjoyed by the citizens and people of the country.

He further called on entrepreneurs in the public transportation sector to always make effort to further upgrade the quality of service and give due concern to the safety of passengers.

Peace and security remain government's main objective

The Minister of Law has stressed that the peace and security of the country and the well-being of the people will always be the main objective of the government.

Speaking at the opening of the Legal Year on 7 January, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin said that the independence of the judiciary and the respect for the rule of law are the significant factors which contribute to the atmosphere of peace and stability.

"When this condition exists only then can the individual begin to exercise his rights and move about without fear in pursuit of his occupation and leisure. The safeguard and protection of life and property are essential for an orderly society to exist and for it to progress," the minister stressed.

In his speech at the ceremony, the Law Minister who is also the Attorney General further spoke on the judiciary, legal profession, legislation, revised edition of the laws, law reports as well as on crimes.

Judiciary

On judiciary, the minister said that since the beginning of 1993, Brunei Darussalam officially ended the arrangements with Hong Kong whereby their judges took up appointments in the Brunei Supreme Court as Judicial Commissioners.

From 1995 appeals in criminal matters to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council were abolished, although in civil matters they have been retained.

The minister also noted that most of the senior appointments in the judiciary are now held by His Majesty's subjects, and they are gaining valuable experience by sitting in the High Court as additional judges in the trials of capital cases.

Legal Profession

On the legal profession, Pengiran Haji Bahrin referred to certain proposals for the setting up of a body that will incorporate the private practice, the



The Minister of Law and Attorney-General, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin speaking at the opening of the 1997 Legal Year, above. As is customary with the Legal Year opening, the Brunei Chief Justice, Dato Seri Paduka Sir Denys Roberts inspects a guard of honour by men of the Royal Brunei Police Force in front of the High Court building in Bandar Seri Begawan, below.



judiciary and the Attorney General's Chambers, rather like the Academy of Law in Singapore, which would exist alongside, or in the place of, a law society.

The minister also said that there were proposals relating to the conduct and discipline of the legal profession, which is being considered by the committee which has been appointed for this purpose.

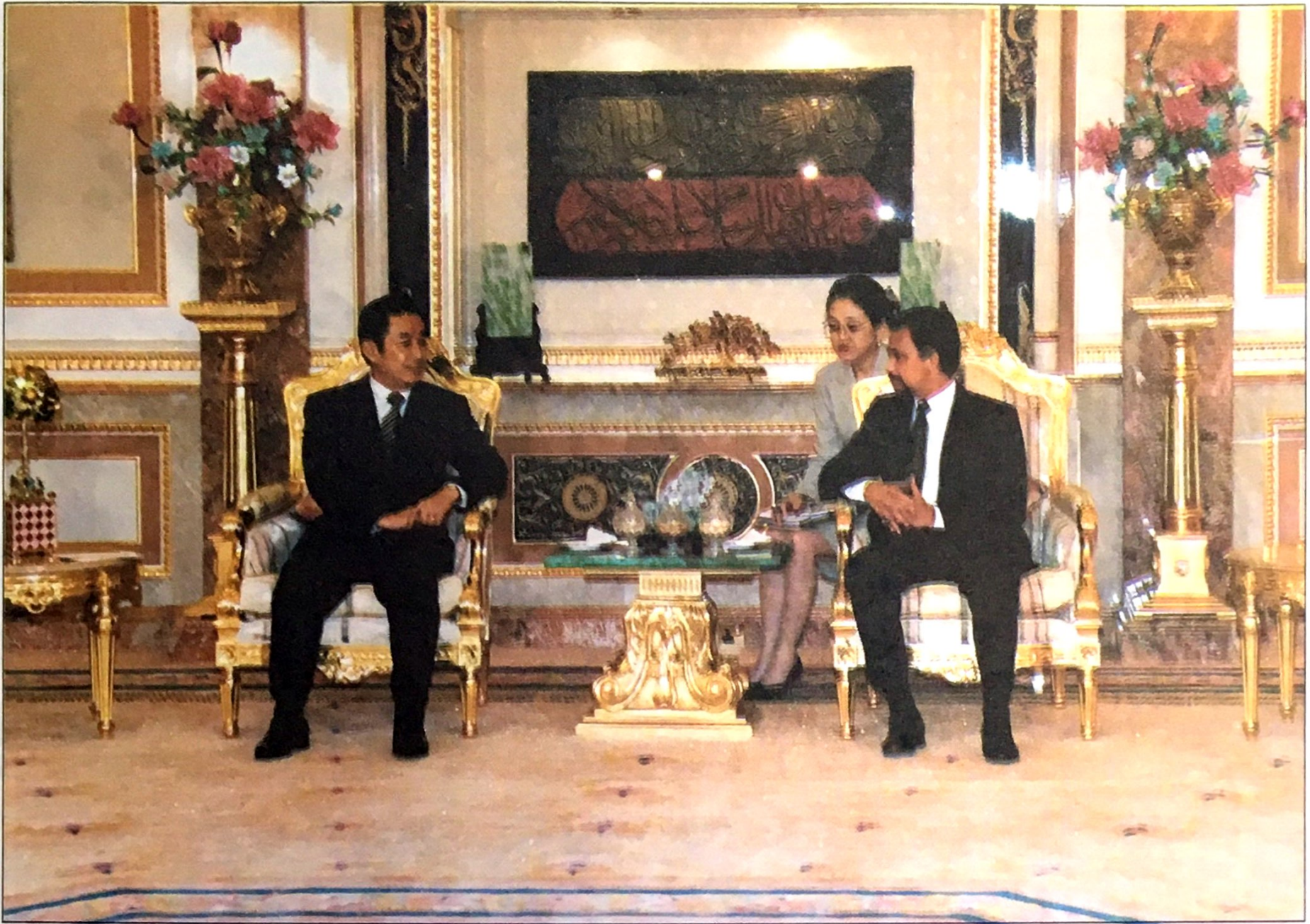
"I am mindful of the urgent need for the introduction of regulations to deal with the conduct and discipline of the legal profession. This is a matter in

which the public interest has to be protected", he said.

"When the committee completed their deliberations, it is my intention to refer these proposals, that is to say, the Law Academy and the disciplinary body to members of the profession, in particular, to those who are Brunei citizens as they should have a greater say in the system which will regulate their practice."

"Our main concern is that whatever solutions we eventually adopt it must

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Japanese Prime Minister His Excellency Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto in the midst of discussion during the Japanese leader's audience with the Brunei monarch at Istana Nurul Iman in Bandar Seri Begawan on 7 January.

Brunei Darussalam and Japan enjoy warm, friendly relations

Brunei Darussalam and Japan have developed a strong working relationship, underpinned by the warm and friendly relations they have been enjoying. Such relations have broadened since they established diplomatic ties in 1984, which have led to the further enhancement of cooperation in various areas, not least two-way trade.

These were highlighted by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam while speaking at a dinner he hosted at Istana Nurul Iman on 7 January in honour of Japanese Prime Minister His Excellency Mr. Ryutaro

Hashimoto, who was making a two-day official visit to the Sultanate.

"Japan is Brunei Darussalam's top trading partner, accounting for 40 percent of our total trade", said His Majesty in stressing the strong economic ties between the two countries, while adding: "Most of our oil and gas are exported to Japan through Japanese firms. This has given strength to our economy".

The Brunei monarch further said that the strong working relationship which the two countries had developed has also seen an increase in people-to-people contact besides trade, such as through the participation of Brunei youths in friendship programmes organised by the Japanese

Government and through various cultural exchanges.

The two countries have also established direct air links, the ruler added. His Majesty called on the businessmen of the two countries to work together to develop more opportunities in the Sultanate. He said the Japanese business-sectors were already investing in a number of infrastructure development projects in Brunei Darussalam and he said they would also be welcome to invest in other sectors of Brunei Darussalam's economy, and participate in its economic diversification programme

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, picture above, and Japanese Prime Minister His Excellency Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, picture left both spoke of the close, friendly relations between their two countries at a dinner held in honour of the Japanese leader. Both stressed that the good Brunei Darussalam-Japan working relationship avails room to further cooperation.

• from page 5 (Brunei Darussalam and Japan enjoy warm, friendly relations)

into high-technology industries, manufacturing, services and tourism.

His Majesty said the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) is a promising sub-region and he hoped more Japanese companies will send missions to explore the prospects for investment in this growth area.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam felt confident that the Japanese Prime Minister's visit will provide opportunities for Brunei Darussalam and Japan to expand bilateral cooperation and strengthen their links.

"We have benefited greatly from the technical assistance extended to us by the Government of Japan.

"Such assistance will continue to be important in developing a highly-

trained and skilled workforce in Brunei Darussalam. My Government looks forward to continued cooperation with the Japanese Government as our partners for progress", His Majesty stressed.

Brunei Darussalam, the ruler continued, shares with Japan the common goal in upholding peace and prosperity in the fast-growing Asia

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Accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah as personal representative of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto takes the salute during a guard of honour at his official welcoming ceremony, left, and below, the Japanese Prime Minister inspecting the guard of honour contingent.



• from page 6 (Brunei Darussalam and Japan enjoy warm, friendly relations)

Pacific region.

He described the recent reaffirmation of Japan's security alliance with the United States as a particularly significant and positive development.

"Brunei Darussalam, like other regional countries, recognises the importance of constructive relations between major powers in the Asia Pacific, the US, Japan and China to maintain stability in the region".

He pointed that Brunei Darussalam's participation in various regional and international fora such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) will help to maintain a climate conducive to regional peace, stability and prosperity.

For his part, the Japanese Prime Minister in his own speech also reiterated the close and friendly relations between Brunei Darussalam and Japan.

He said, "In recent years, on the basis of mutually beneficial economic ties, our two countries have developed a wide scope of close and friendly cooperative relations, not only in the economic field but also in the exchanges of youth and vari-

ous cultural activities".

He was confident that the two countries will be able to develop these relations even further, as neighbours in Asia and as partners in regional development.

He commended Brunei Darussalam for its leadership while holding the ASEAN Chairmanship two years ago, and the role it played in achieving political stability and economic development in the ASEAN

region.

The Japanese leader added that he was impressed with Brunei Darussalam which maintains a high economic standard and enjoys peace and prosperity while respecting tradition.

"I have also been deeply impressed with the palace and mosques which radiate against the background of beautiful forests, epitomising harmony between nature and modernisation", he said.

• from page 4 (*Peace and security remain government's main objective*)

be appropriate to our circumstances in Brunei", the minister pointed.

Legislation

On Legislation, the minister pointed that in 1996, Brunei for the first time introduced legislation which provides for the confiscation of proceeds of crime.

The Emergency (Drug Trafficking) (Recovery of Proceeds) Order, he said, although confined to the proceeds of drug trafficking offences, provides a procedure which could be used as a model to provide for the confiscation of proceeds of other crimes such as money laundering.

The new legislation also makes extensive provisions for mutual assistance between overseas law enforcement agencies and their Bruneian counterparts.

The minister also pointed that changes to the Immigration Act now allows the immigration authority to compound minor immigration offences by imposing fines on offenders rather than the courts imposing imprisonment sentences. In this way, minor infringements of the immigration law can be quickly and humanely dealt with.

The Emergency (Admiralty Jurisdiction) Order defines the jurisdiction of the High Court in admiralty matters. There were also amendments to the High Court Rules as well as the Magistrates Courts (Civil Procedure) Rules.

Minor amendments were made to the Internal Security Act, the Poisons Act and the Emergency (Intoxicating Substances) Order.

The Emergency (Reciprocal Enforcement of Foreign Judgements) Order and the Emergency (Reciprocal Enforcements of Maintenance Orders) Order are now in force. In order to have reciprocity of enforcement, His Majesty's Government has approached certain overseas jurisdictions with the view to declaring them as reciprocating countries for the purposes of these two pieces of legislation.

As a party to the TRIPS Agreement (Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) in April

1994, Brunei, said the minister, is obliged to apply the provisions of the agreement which include the requirement for legislation on copyright, trade marks, patents and other related rights.

These are specialised subjects which require particular expertise for their implementation. We have been fortunate in obtaining assistance from WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation) on some of the draft legislation on these subjects which has been prepared by the Attorney General's Chambers.

Comprehensive drafts for new Trade Marks and Patents laws have already been prepared and are under consideration. A comprehensive copyright law and new Trade Marks Rules are being drafted.

"As a developing country Brunei is entitled to delay the date of application of the Agreement to 1st January 2000. However as a result of undertakings given within APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation), it would be necessary for Brunei to accelerate the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement to 1st January 1999."

Revised Edition of the Laws

The minister said the computerisation project relating to the Laws of Brunei is now being implemented in the Attorney General's Chambers.

He said the project called the BRULAW Textbase involves initially the loading of volumes I to XI of the Laws of Brunei.

With the assistance of specialist consultants, the Government Printing Department technical staff are now developing a comprehensive Search and Retrieval facility to access the Laws from individual personal computers connected to the Ministry of Law's Server Computer.

Services to be provided by the system will include a new Revised edition of the Laws of Brunei while further development is underway to have available by mid-1997 complete textbases of the judgements of the Courts of Brunei Darussalam from 1987 and the Brunei Law Reports.

Law Reports

Pengiran Haji Bahrin noted that the

publication of the Judgements of the Courts of Brunei Darussalam is up to date and that it is helpful to the courts as well as the profession.

He went on to say that the preparation of law reports is a specialist task and unfortunately the necessary expertise is not available in his Chambers. However, arrangements have been made for the services of such a specialist to prepare an index for the judgements which have already been published.

With regard to the Brunei Law Report series, said the minister, the same specialist has been engaged to prepare an index and headnotes in continuation of the series.

Crime statistics

Pengiran Haji Bahrin noted that there were 3152 reported cases in 1996 compared to 3038 cases in 1995. Offences against the person reduced from 352 cases in 1995 to 351 in 1996, while offences against property increased from 1479 in 1995 to 1663 in 1996.

Last year there were 180 people convicted for offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act compared to 222 in 1995. The cases were mostly concerned with soft drugs and offences under the Poisons Act, said the minister.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau received 192 information by the end of November 1996 compared to 232 the previous year. He said 10 persons appeared in court to face charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

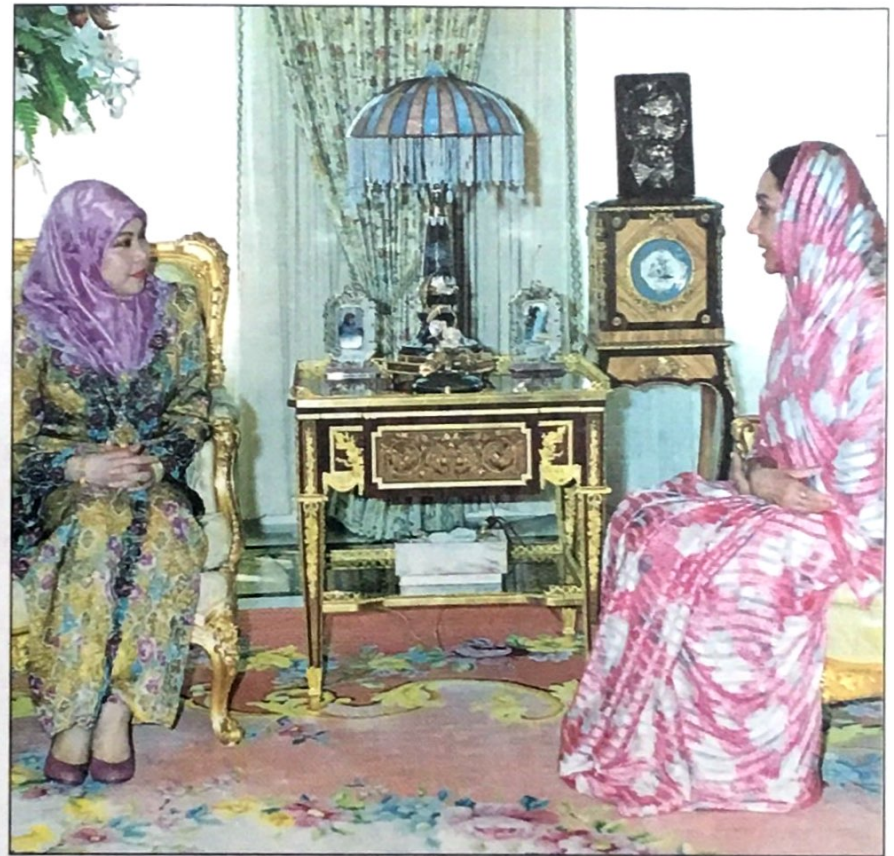
The Royal Customs and Excise made 161 arrests for offences under the Customs Act. Eighty eight persons were brought to court.

The Immigration authority prosecuted 506 cases last year, while the Municipal Board Bandar Seri Begawan referred 86 criminal and civil matters to the courts through the Attorney General's Chambers.

On traffic offences, the minister said there were 2472 cases last year compared to 2834 in 1995. Fatal accidents increased resulting in 60 deaths compared to 58 in 1995.

The Chief Justice, Dato Seri Paduka Sir Denys Roberts also spoke at the ceremony.

India's out-going High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Brigadier Sawai Bahawani Singh having a farewell audience with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman prior to ending his posting in Bandar Seri Begawan. The Indian diplomat's wife, Mrs. Pedmini Devi also had farewell audiences separately with Her Majesty The Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha, left below, and Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, right below, at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah respectively.



Monarch grants audience to out-going Indian diplomat

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted an audience to the Indian High Commissioner, who will end his diplomatic assignment to the Sultanate at the end of this month.

His Excellency Brigadier Sawai Bahawani Singh was received by His Majesty at Istana Nurul Iman on 8 January.

The Indian envoy took up his diplomatic posting to Brunei Darussalam in 1993.

Meanwhile, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran

Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam also granted separate audiences to Mrs. Pedmini Devi, the wife of the out-going Indian High Commissioner.

The audiences were held at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah respectively.

Sultanate serious in developing tourism industry

Brunei Darussalam is seriously developing its tourism although the sector is new in the country, said the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman made the remark at a culture night presented by Brunei Darussalam during the Informal Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum, AFT 1997, held in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur from 4 - 10 January.

In his speech, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman also stressed that the Sultanate welcomed and supported the idea to make ASEAN a single tourist destination.

"In this regard," he said, "we will certainly play our role towards making this idea a reality."

The Minister further pointed that this was the Sultanate's first attempt to bring itself to such an international audience since it joined the AFT two years ago.

He said: "Some of you may know Brunei Darussalam as a Land of Peace and some prosperity. However, we would like you to know that Brunei Darussalam is also a land of great prospects and opportunities."

"We are rich in our culture and tradition. We have an abundance of flora and fauna which are yet to be discovered and explored."

At the culture night, a troupe of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports performed traditional dances, songs and music.

The informal meeting of the ASEAN Tourism Ministers was attended by all ASEAN member countries, as well as Laos and Cambodia as observers. It was chaired by the Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism of Malaysia.

At the end of the meeting, the ministers agreed to enhance cooperation in tourism among the ASEAN countries.



The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman says Brunei Darussalam is working to develop its tourism industry.

Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman in his statement stressed that tourism is a major sector towards creating foreign currency exchange and employment resource.

In this regard, he said, it would be profitable to all sectors if the ASEAN countries are collectively offered as a single tourist destination.

On effort to enhance the intra-ASEAN tourism, the ministers discussed a proposal to create an ASEAN passage at airports of the ASEAN member countries so as to

smoothen the process of passports of visitors from the member countries.

He added that due to the importance of the tourism industry to ASEAN as well as the industry's development in the Asia-Pacific region, the ministers have agreed to hold its first official meeting convenient to the internal processes of respective countries.

While in Kuala Lumpur, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman attended the launching of AFT '97, visited a tourism exhibition or TRAVEX at the Kuala Lumpur World Trade Centre.

At the exhibition, the Tourism Unit of the Brunei Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and representatives of the private sector promoted tourist packages to visit Brunei Darussalam.

The minister also had a meeting with representatives of the private sector attending the AFT. At the meeting, he urged the private sector to enhance effort to diversify tourist packages and products in order to attract more tourists to the country.

The minister stated that his ministry will give advice and assistance to those involved in developing the tourism sector.

The AFT is an annual activity of ASEAN for tourism industry. It comprises of Informal Meeting of Tourism Ministers, Meeting of National Tourism Organisations (NTO's), Tourism Exhibition (TRAVEX), ASEAN Tourism Conferences and ASEAN Tourism Association Meeting (ASEANTA).

Support small firms as suppliers, sub-contractors

Large firms with managerial and financial resources should be able to support small firms as suppliers and sub-contractors in order to strengthen and develop the business network and opportunity, said the Minister of Development.

Small firms have the 'niche' and can do their work more cost-effectively, he said.

He reminded that besides making profit, the construction industry as with other industries, should take into account the quality, customers' confidence and the creation of a network and strategic alliance based on trust, mutual support and strong friendship.

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• from page 10 (Support small firms as suppliers, sub-contractors)

This is important because close cooperation and commitment from all involved are needed in order to produce a quality project within a specific period, he said.

In a speech before he presented the ISO 9001 Certificate to the Mashhor Group Company and officially opened their new headquarters and warehouse on 7 December, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Wijaya Pengiran Dr. Hj. Ismail, however, pointed out the problem of high initial expenditure, which small firms often experience, particularly those without experience.

Such a problem, he said, may create a 'vicious-circle' and becomes a major obstacle to the growth of a quality construction industry, because without the recognition such as the ISO 9000, the business opportunity will be limited and this jeopardises their potential to develop.

He called for an innovative mechanism in which large firms in the country could support small firms not only in finance but also in training, management and technical aspects in order to achieve a quality management.

The support, said the minister, is both a healthy cooperation and far-sighted business strategy which can make the construction industry more competitive, and help to strengthen the business network and spirit of friendship.

Besides vision and far-sightedness, entrepreneurs also need the necessary



The Minister of Development, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Wijaya Pengiran Dr. Haji Ismail, right in picture above, called for creation of mechanisms to enable large firms assist their smaller counterparts toward achieving quality management shortly before he presented the ISO 9001 Certificate to a local company.

support and assistance from all sectors, both government and private.

He highlighted earlier that Brunei Darussalam needs to have more local entrepreneurs with vision who can identify the business potentials of the 21st century.

They need to move faster so as not to lose their opportunity to more aggressive foreign entrepreneurs, he stressed.

It has been the objective of His Majesty's Government to ensure that citizens not only enjoy the benefits of the country's development through basic facilities and infrastructures, but also by grabbing the business opportu-

nities offered by the fast-paced development process.

The country's economic development and physical growth during the past several decades have enabled local entrepreneurs to develop and progress. However, the minister stressed, within the same period, the number of local entrepreneurs successful at international level has not met the expectation.

We, therefore, need more local entrepreneurs who are progressive and successful not only within the country, but are also capable to step outside the country and grab the business opportunities available, he urged.

High-quality services for SHuTT

The Permanent Secretary of the Communications Ministry has been speaking on the needs for internationally-standard services for the implementation of the country's vision to become a service hub for trade and tourism or 'SHuTT' by the year 2003.

Dato Paduka Malai Haji Ali made the remark in his speech during a briefing to heads of departments and officials of the Ministry of Communications pertaining to ISO

9000 presented by an invited consultant from overseas, on 14 January.

The official said his ministry will play a major role on the effort to upgrade quality in order to achieve competitive services through various mechanisms such as facility committees at the international airport, the port and at the border control centres.

Towards this end, the Communications Ministry has used

the ISO 9000 (International Standard Organisation 9000) especially ISO 9004 as a guideline to speed up and enhance the quality of services, Dato Malai Haji Ali said.

At the briefing, Mr. Hugh Kelly, a senior consultant from Malaysia among others explained what ISO 9000 is, the purpose of using it and who uses it. It ended with a discussion and a question-and-answer session.

Traditional food galore at Ramadan stalls and open market

The fasting month of Ramadan brings to life what are now fondly known as the 'Ramadan food stalls', where one is likely to see the widest range of traditional Brunei Malay cuisine at any single time.

During the month of Ramadan, Muslims practise the daily dawn-to-dusk fasts for 30 days, and it is these stalls, which also offer modern cooking, that they would frequent to buy whatever delicatessen their palate desire.

Each year these open markets are put up at various locations throughout the country, and business is usually most brisk between three in the afternoon till about six in the evening - shortly before the time for breaking the fast.

Indeed, none can be more enticing and appetising than the delicious, sweet traditional cakes or 'kueh', and spicy meat and sea-food dishes and other sizzling Brunei Malay cuisine which one can get from the Ramadan stalls to satisfy the palate after a long day's fast.



Pictures show a few of the Ramadan stalls with their wide range of food selection. As the day progresses and the time for breaking the fast draws closer, crowds begin to fill the area.



Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 267,800 (Mid-1992)

Official Language : Malay

Official Religion : Islam

December rainfall : 315.5 mm

(annual 2,818mm)

Brunei Malay in a minute

In each edition of the Brunei Darussalam Newsletter, we introduce our readers to a Brunei Malay word that is used only in the country. We have chosen the word **sungkai** for this edition.

Sungkai is the word used to describe the breaking of the fast by Muslims at sunset during the fasting month of Ramadan, the ninth

month in the Muslim calendar. The standard Malay word would be 'berbuka puasa.'

Let us use the word in a sentence: Masa dahulu beduk beberapa kali untuk menanda waktu **sungkai**.

In the past, the beduk (large drum) was struck several times to mark the time for breaking the fast.

THE TRAFFICKING IN AND THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS ARE VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AND THE PENALTY FOR SUCH OFFENCES IS DEATH.