



# برونى دارالسلام Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam news letter

Published by the Department of Information  
Prime Minister's Office

**JANUARY, 2018**  
**VOLUME 33 ISSUE 01**

## His Majesty announces Cabinet Reshuffle



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 deliver his *titah* during the reshuffle the current Cabinet Ministers and deputy ministers.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 30** - 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, in a *titah* (royal speech), announced a reshuffle of the Council of Cabinet Ministers which involved the appointment of several new members and several Deputy Ministers.

Following are the names of the newly-appointed Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

1. 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 holds the portfolios of Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Minister of Finance and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
2. His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah as Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.
3. Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Di-Raja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Manteri Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Ibrahim as Special Advisor

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## ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit and 69th Republic Day of India Celebration



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 in a group photo with His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Republic of India and other ASEAN Leaders after the unveiling of the 11 commemorative stamps in conjunction with the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN.

**NEW DELHI, January 25** - 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, attended the Plenary Session of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit; and a cultural banquet which were held at Taj Diplomatic Enclave Hotel, New Delhi.

Before the Plenary Session, His Majesty, together with His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Republic of India and other Heads of State and Government of ASEAN proceeded to Shahjehan Hall to officially unveil the 11 commemorative stamps in conjunction with the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN and India Dialogue Partnership.

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1. ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit and 69th Republic Day of India Celebration



3. His Majesty receives audiences



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JANUARY 2018 - VOLUME 33 ISSUE 01

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

is published monthly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars (BND), unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated. For free subscription (excluding postage) please write to the Distribution Unit, Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office, Old Airport, Berakas BB 3510, Brunei Darussalam.

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## His Majesty receives audiences

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 received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:



1. His Excellency Don Pramudwinai, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand on January 16.
2. His Excellency General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Gatot Nurmantyo of the Tentara Nasional Indonesia, TNI on January 30.
3. Brigadier General Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, the new Commander of RBAF, and Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Tawih bin Abdullah, former Commander of RBAF on January 31.
4. Newly-appointed Ambassadors of Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Pengiran Haji Mustapa bin Pengiran Haji Aliuddin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency Haji Harun bin Haji Junid, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam

- to the United Arab Emirates, His Excellency Haji Ahmad bin Haji Jumat, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Kuwait, and His Excellency Mohd Shafiee bin Haji Kassim, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Turkey on January 18.
5. Newly-appointed envoy to Brunei Darussalam; Her Excellency Caterina Ventura, High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam on January 18.
6. Newly-appointed envoy to Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Christian Ramage, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam on January 18.

## Her Majesty receives audiences

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:



1. Yang Mulia Ibu Datin Enny Trimurti, spouse of His Excellency General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Gatot Nurmantyo of the Tentara Nasional Indonesia, TNI on January 18.
2. Spouse of the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dayang Nor'aisah binti Dato Haji Ishak; spouse of the newly-appointed

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the United Arab Emirates, Dayang Hajah Sarimah binti Haji Abu Bakar; spouse of the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Kuwait, Dayang Hajah Rosita binti Haji Mohammad; and spouse of the newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Turkey Dayang Elma Darlini binti Haji Sulaiman on January 18.

## His Royal Highness the Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezan:



Newly-appointed Ambassadors of Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Pengiran Haji Mustapa bin Pengiran Haji Aliuddin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Arab Republic of Egypt; His Excellency Haji Harun bin Haji Junid, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the United Arab Emirates; His Excellency Haji Ahmad bin Haji Jumat, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Kuwait; AND His Excellency Mohd Shafiee bin Haji Kassim, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Turkey on January 22.



Newly-appointed envoy to Brunei Darussalam; Her Excellency Caterina Ventura, High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam on January 22.



Newly-appointed envoy to Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Christian Ramage, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam on January 22.

## Presentation of Rank Insignia

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 31** - 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, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) consented to present the rank insignia of Major General to the new Commander of RBAF, Brigadier General Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud and announced his appointment as the 10th Commander of RBAF.

The ceremony was held at Istana Nurul Iman.



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, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) presenting the rank insignia of Major General to Brigadier General Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, and appointed him as the 10th Commander of the RBAF.



Reading of *Doa Selamat* by Head of RBAF Religious Department, Commander Haji Ainolnizam bin Haji Ibrahim.

## His Majesty presents and receives Letters of Credence

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 18** – 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 presented Letters of Credence to Brunei Darussalam's newly-appointed ambassadors and received Letters of Credence from the newly-appointed envoys to Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty first presented Letters of Credence to His Excellency Pengiran Haji Mustapa bin Pengiran Haji Aliuddin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Arab Republic of Egypt who formerly held the post of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam

to Kuwait; His Excellency Haji Harun bin Haji Junid, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the United Arab Emirates who was previously the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs; His Excellency Haji Ahmad bin Haji Jumat, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Kuwait who formerly held the post of

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His Majesty presenting the Letters of Credence to His Excellency Pengiran Haji Mustapa bin Pengiran Haji Aliuddin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Arab Republic of Egypt (left) and to His Excellency Haji Harun bin Haji Junid, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the United Arab Emirates (right).

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## His Majesty Presents and Receives Letters of Credence (Continued)

Acting Deputy Director of the Department of Protocol and Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and, His Excellency Mohd Shafiee bin Haji Kassim, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Turkey who previously assigned as Acting Director of the Department of International Organisations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

Trade.

His Majesty then received Letters of Credence from Her Excellency Caterina Ventura, High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam who formerly served as the Senior Advisor to the Partnership for Development Innovation Branch of Global Affairs Canada; and His Excellency Christian Ramage, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the

Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam who previously was the Head of Diplomatic Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of France.

Following the ceremony, His Majesty received in audience Brunei Darussalam's newly-appointed ambassadors.

His Majesty then received in separate audiences the newly-appointed envoys to Brunei Darussalam.



His Majesty presenting Letters of Credence to His Excellency Haji Ahmad bin Haji Jumat, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Kuwait (left) and to His Excellency Mohd Shafiee bin Haji Kassim, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Turkey (right).



His Majesty receives Letters of Credence from Her Excellency Caterina Ventura, High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam (left) and from His Excellency Christian Ramage, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam (right).

## His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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 send congratulatory messages to :

- His Excellency U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Her Excellency Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as well as the Government and People of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 70th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on January 4.
- His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK MC (Retired), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Honourable Malcolm Turnbull, MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia as well as the Government and the people of Australia on the occasion of Australia Day on January 26.
- His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of the Republic of India and His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India as well as to the Government and people of the Republic of India on the occasion of the Republic Day of India on January 26.

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## His Majesty announces Cabinet Reshuffle (Continued)

to His Majesty and Minister at the Prime Minister's Office. The appointment as Special Advisor carries the status of a minister.

4. Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong as Minister of Home Affairs.

5. Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman as Minister of Religious Affairs.

6. Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong as Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

7. Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusof as Second Minister of Defence.

8. Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Doctor Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Jaafar as Minister of Health.

9. Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud as Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

10. Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Doctor Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah as Second Minister of Finance.

11. Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof as Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

12. Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar as Minister of Development.

13. Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Doctor Awang Haji Mat Suny bin Haji Mohd. Hussein as Minister of Energy and Industry.

14. Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamzah bin Sulaiman as Minister of Education.

15. Yang Berhormat Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yusof as Minister of Communications.

16. Yang Berhormat Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin as Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

17. Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar as Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs.

18. Yang Mulia Datin Dayang Hajah Elinda binti C.A. Mohamed as Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

19. Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman as Deputy Minister of Finance.

20. Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Mohd Salleh as Deputy Minister of Education.

21. Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw as Deputy Minister of Energy and Industry.

In the *titah*, His Majesty was also pleased to declare that the post of the State Mufti and the Attorney General are also posts that are of ministerial rank.

The reshuffle and appointments are effective from Tuesday, January 30, 2018 for the duration of five years.

From frontpage

## ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit and 69th Republic Day of India Celebration (Continued)

The Plenary Session commenced with a welcoming speech by His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Republic of India followed by opening remarks from His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, as Chairman of ASEAN.

During the Plenary Session, His Majesty delivered a *titah*, where His Majesty appreciates His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Republic of India's emphasis on strengthening ASEAN-India relations through its "Act East Policy".

His Majesty then highlighted ASEAN and India's collective potential through their vibrant economies and educated young population. His Majesty noted the long history of exchanges that fostered friendship and support people-to-people ties through greater interaction. His Majesty also encouraged collaboration in education and ICT among the youth.

His Majesty appreciates India and ASEAN's rapid economic growth and that RCEP is an important initiative which will spur growth in the region and beyond. His Majesty looks forward to India's strong support to finalise the RCEP in 2018.

His Majesty called to strengthen cooperation in addressing regional security challenges such as terrorism and violent extremism through information / intelligence sharing.

His Majesty noted the changing regional and global outlook and that India has much to contribute to the prosperity and security of the region. In this regard, His Majesty emphasises

the importance of strengthening ASEAN and India cooperation.

During the Plenary Session, the leaders also discussed issues of cooperation and exchanged views on regional and international matters, as well as the future course of ASEAN-India relations which was closely linked with the theme of the commemorative summit.

At the end of the Plenary Session, His Majesty, together with His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Republic of India and other ASEAN Leaders, endorsed the Delhi Declaration.

After the plenary session, His Majesty, together with His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Republic of India and other ASEAN Heads of State and Government proceeded to Mumtaz Hall to view the Exhibition of 20 Paintings of the ASEAN-India Artists' Camp on display.

After the exhibition, His Majesty then proceeded to Durbar Hall to attend the Cultural Banquet. The Cultural Banquet also featured a number of cultural performances from Republic of India and the ASEAN countries.

## Their Majesties grace ISB Musical Performance

**SUNGAI AKAR, January 12** – 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 together with Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to grace the opening night of the International School Brunei (ISB) musical Production.

Accompanying Their Majesties was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel.

Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah was involved in the musical adaptation of Sir Ben Elton's highly acclaimed 'We Will Rock You'.

The annual production serves as a platform for students to showcase their talents and creativity.



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; Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel, accompanied by Dr. Steven Geraghty, the Principal of ISB during the event.



Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah taking part in the musical performance.

## Preparation in facing upcoming national disasters

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 27** – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, as Chairman of the National Disaster Council in a *sabda* (royal speech) emphasised the importance of collecting disaster management data regularly as a realistic base to know whether the Disaster Management Council is on the right platform to reach the aspired target.

It can measure the effectiveness of relevant action plans, said His Royal Highness in his *sabda* at the first meeting of the National Disaster Council for this year, held at the Prime Minister's Office.

Under the wise and blessed leadership of His



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office delivering his *sabda* (royal speech) at the first meeting of the National Disaster Council.

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## Preparation in facing upcoming national disasters (Continued)



The first meeting of the National Disaster Council for this year held at the Prime Minister's Office.

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 government has introduced meaningful changes to ensure sustainability of development and improve quality of life for all the people in the country.

Brunei Darussalam continues to see progress in various areas which will contribute to the country's economic sustainability as well as strengthen security and enhance prosperity towards achieving the goals of Brunei Vision 2035.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, in his *sabda* also said, it is while we are enjoying such peace and prosperity, that we should be prepared in facing any unexpected large scale disaster. His Royal Highness is of the opinion that the council's role is timely with the context of preparing and ensuring intervention actions before, during and after the occurrence of disasters, guided by planning and action plans which are organised and directed.

The meeting heard a briefing on the latest development for the Multi-Agency Implementation Actions in the Strategic National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction 2012-2025, SNAP; a briefing on the laws related to disaster management as well as a briefing on gaps in the National Standing Operating Procedures, NaSOP and the report on findings on public awareness and preparedness level in facing disasters and a briefing on the link between the National Security Coordination Centre, NSCC and the National Disaster Council. The National Disaster Council Meeting convened to discuss efforts towards upholding the disaster risk reduction strategic framework and increasing national capacity as well as sustainability in facing disasters.

## Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony to mark YSHHB 25th anniversary



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) during the *Doa Kesyukuran* ceremony to mark the 25th anniversary of establishment of YSHHB. Also present were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Chairman of Yayasan Board of Directors; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Vice Chairman 1 of Yayasan Board of Directors and members of the board.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 10** – His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) graced the *Doa Kesyukuran* Ceremony to mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of YSHHB which was held at the Multi-Purpose Hall of the YSHHB Complex.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, the Minister of Education as Chairman of the Yayasan Board of Directors; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri

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## Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony to mark YSHHB 25th anniversary (Continued)

Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports as First Deputy Chairman of the Yayasan Board of Director; and Dato Paduka Eddie bin Dato Paduka Haji Sunny, the Managing Director of Yayasan.

The ceremony commenced with a Mass Fardu Maghrib prayer and the reading of *Surah Yasin* and *Doa Kesyukuran*.

YSHHB was established on the 5th of October 1992 as the foundation of charitable deeds and contribution of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty's



Mass Fardu Maghrib prayer led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Awang Haji Salim bin Haji Besar.

family. It is the symbol of the Monarch's love and care towards the people, and

acts as a facilitator for creating a peaceful and prosperous community.

## Tahlil ceremony in conjunction with YSHHB 25th anniversary



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) pouring the 'aying asah-asahan' on the tomb of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam, the late father of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

### BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 11

– His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) attended a *Tahlil* ceremony in conjunction with the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of YSHHB. The ceremony took place at the Royal Mausoleum.

The reading of the *Surah Yasin* and *Tahlil* was led by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Setia Raja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Suhaili bin Haji Mohiddin, Judge of the Syariah Court of Appeals.

His Royal Highness then poured the 'aying asah-asahan' (scented water) on the tombs of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman, the late parents of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, the Minister of Education as the Chairman of the YSHHB Board of Directors; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohammad Yussof, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, as the 1st Deputy Chairman of the YSHHB Board of Directors. Also present at the ceremony were Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, Vice Chairman II of the YSHHB Committee of Governors; Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, member of YSHHB Committee of Governors.

# 'Eco Garden' Special Assembly Celebration

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 26** – The International School Brunei (ISB) held a Special Assembly Celebration for the work done on the 'Eco Garden' project by the Eco Environmental Team of ISB students.

Among the students involved in the assembly was the daughter of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.

Also in-attendance were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah's son and daughter, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah.

More than 100 students participated in the project. The two-year project was conducted in collaboration with AgromeIQ, a local start-up company specialising in agriculture which aimed at providing a better understanding on growing methods. Doctor Steven Geraghty, ISB's Executive Principal, in his closing remarks, commented on his pride in the efforts of the school including the staffs, students, and sponsors and in fact, all stakeholders, are doing their bit in trying to highlight areas where they can help to conserve resources and more specifically, Brunei's natural beauty.



Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim ibni Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah binti Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah in a group photo during the 'Sprout IQ Farm-to-School' programme.

## Speaker of the Legislative Council receives courtesy call

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 15 and January 25** – The Speaker of the Legislative Council, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib received courtesy calls on two separate occasions; the British High Commissioner, His Excellency Richard Lindsay on January 15 and His Excellency Air Vice Marshal Mahmud Hussain, the High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam on January 25.

During the British High Commissioner's visit, both parties exchanged views regarding the measures that could be made to establish cooperation between Yang Berhormat and His Excellency in this country as well as the cooperation between the Legislative Council and the United Kingdom Parliament. Furthermore, His Excellency also showed interest in the



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, the Speaker of the Legislative Council, and His Excellency Richard Lindsay, the British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam during the courtesy call.

development of the Legislative Council meeting.

During the Air Vice Marshal's visit, both parties discussed the strengthening of ties, education system in both countries, trade and exchange of visits for delegations from both countries.

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh through its High Commission extended its appreciation to the Government of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei

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## Speaker of the Legislative Council receives courtesy call (Continued)

Darussalam, for the support and cooperation and cordial ties extended to the Bangladeshi community who are working in the country.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) with Air Vice Marshal Mahmud Hussain, the High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam.

## Committed in royal birthday celebration preparations

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 22** – All committee members are urged to continuously play their roles with full dedication and high commitment in the early preparations in order to ensure the smooth running of this year's royal birthday celebration.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Home Affairs voiced the matter while chairing the First Meeting of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 72nd Birthday Celebration National Committee held at Prime Minister's Office building.

Yang Berhormat also said that he is confident that the committee members would strive to enliven and give perfection to the royal birthday festivities.

The First Meeting discussed the dates of the main events and the organising of the 72nd royal birthday celebration. Among the agenda discussed included the attendance of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Get-Together (*Junjung Ziarah*) Ceremony at the four districts; knowledge convention and exhibition; installation of decorations, arches, lights and banners.



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, the Yang Di-Pertua of Adat Istiadat Negara (left), Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Penggawa Laila Bentara Istiadat Diraja Dalam Istana Pengiran Haji Alauddin bin Pengiran Paduka Tuan Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, the Grand Chamberlain (right) and Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar Bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs (second, left), during the meeting.



The First Meeting of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 72nd Birthday Celebration National Committee held at the Prime Minister's Office building.

# Make Brunei cities vibrant, enhance economic growth

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 10** – There are three main elements in His Majesty's *titah* (royal speech) delivered on the occasion of the New Year 2018 must be given utmost attention to. Firstly, the glorious occasion of Golden Jubilee of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne was enjoyed by all levels of society, which reflected the harmonious life in the country which must be upheld so that the country will always be in peace and prosperity for the generations to come.

Secondly, the Brunei Vision 2035 must be kept on the right track towards the aim 'Developed Brunei'.

Thirdly, close cooperation from all parties is necessary in order to create a pro-business climate and ease business, at the same time transforming the country to be more attractive to foreign investors.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Home Affairs highlighted these three elements during a dialogue session with chairmen and members of the municipal boards of Bandar Seri Begawan, Tutong, and Kuala Belait and Seria; those who have been appointed for a period of two years (2017 to 2019) with the consent of 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 meeting was held at the Brunei-Muara District Office in Old Airport, Berakas.

The Minister of Home Affairs urged municipal boards in the country to formulate plans to make cities more vibrant, cheerful and capable of attracting more visitors. At the same time, the cities must initiate steps to enhance economic growth, especially by supporting micro, small and medium enterprises.

The Minister also stressed on the importance of keeping the city clean, saying that it is the best way to raise its status. Everyone including owners of commercial premises, shops and business stalls has a responsibility in ensuring cleanliness in their areas.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Home Affairs during the dialogue session.

The Minister also mentioned Bandar Seri Begawan's achievement in the international arena. According to studies by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Bandar Seri Begawan is ranked 100 in the 'Global Ranking of Most Liveable Cities' and 'Southeast Asia's Third Most Liveable City' after Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.



Dialogue session with chairmen and members of the municipal boards of Bandar Seri Begawan, Tutong, and Kuala Belait and Seria at the Brunei-Muara District Office in Old Airport, Berakas.

# Doa Kesyukuran in conjunction with AMBD's 7th Anniversary

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 4 –** The Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) held a *Doa Kesyukuran* at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah, to mark the 7th anniversary of its establishment.

In attendance were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Home Affairs as the Deputy Chairman of the AMBD Board of Directors; Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Mohamad Roselan bin Haji Mohamad Daud, the Acting Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Hisham bin Haji Mohd Hanifah, the Acting Minister of Finance II.

The reading of *Surah Yasin, Tahlil* and *Doa Kesyukuran* was led by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Haji Mustafa bin Haji Murad, the Imam of Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Home Affairs as Deputy Chairman of the Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam Board of Directors during the *Doa Kesyukuran* to mark the 7th anniversary of its establishment.

# Minister of Education receives courtesy call



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, the Minister of Education (right) with Professor Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific based in Jakarta, who is also the UNESCO representative for Brunei Darussalam (left).

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 17 –** Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, the Minister of Education received a courtesy call from Professor Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific based in Jakarta. He is also the UNESCO representative for Brunei Darussalam.

Professor Shahbaz Khan is in the country from January 16-19 as part of a series of visits to a number of UNESCO member countries. Through this visit, he aims to strengthen the existing future partnership between the UNESCO Office in Jakarta and the Government of Brunei.

Matters discussed during the courtesy call were possible areas of collaboration on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the effort to promote Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) – Quality Education.

During the meeting, Professor Khan emphasised on the promotion of culture and heritage, especially Brunei's tangible and intangible heritage such as foods, textiles and historical sites. The UNESCO official also wished to explore cooperation in other areas such as research in science and technology, agriculture, and early childhood.

After the courtesy call, Professor Khan delivered a lecture titled 'UNESCO Initiatives to Promote Sustainable Tourism and World Heritage' at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) which shared UNESCO's plan for tourism and heritage management where cultural assets are valued and protected.

Professor Khan also mentioned that UNESCO Office Jakarta has embarked on a project on sustainable tourism management in its effort to protect and conserve unique and authentic heritage values in Southeast Asia.

# Parents encouraged to participate in child's learning

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 20** - The government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has always given high priority to education for the people in all walks of life and calls for the involvement of parents in this process.

This is in accordance with the philosophy of the Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB), the implementation of which relies heavily on teamwork and loyalty, firmness of faith and depth of knowledge among leaders and people.

"Without the knowledge (including knowledge of the world and the hereafter), the country will not be able to be managed and developed well and balanced, while Brunei Vision 2035 that we undertook during this time is unlikely to be realised successfully."

This matter was explained by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, the Minister of Education at the Parents' Care for Education Convention, which took place in Musyawarah Hall, International Convention Centre, Berakas.

The Minister also pointed out that what parents are saying to their children is also important because children who often hear conversations about numbers or counting at home will have better knowledge of math when they are in school.

In this convention, he explained, we would also like to invite all parents to equally support any initiative or effort by the Ministry of Education in our efforts



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, the Minister of Education giving his speech at the Parents Concerned Education Convention.

to improve the quality of education and student achievement.

While Dayang Marina Chek binti Abdullah, Acting Special Duties Officer (Professional), Department of Schools in her welcoming speech, pointed out, there is no denying that the identity and success of society and the nation is dictated and based on the identity, quality and personality of individuals who make up the family, the parent itself.

Data from schools shows the percentage of parents and guardians involved in the activities of the Parents and Teachers'

Association (PIBG) activities at the school which is in urgent need of improvements, as well as the percentage of attendance of parents and guardians during each session of parents meeting with class teachers.

The main purpose of the convention is to disseminate the initiatives of the Ministry of Education, the Primary Education Initiative and the Secondary Education Initiative to parents and communities in order to equally assist the education ministry in developing the national education system.

## Delegation from the Ministry of Education visits schools

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 3 – 4, 9** - In conjunction with the new school term of 2018, which began on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, the Minister of Education made a series of working visits to schools in Brunei Muara as well as Temburong.

In Brunei Muara, the Minister visited five schools; Rimba Secondary School, Rimba III Primary School, Katok 'B' Primary School, Sultan Sharif Ali Secondary School and Mentiri Primary School.

During the visit to Rimba Secondary School, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, the



The Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman during his visit and observation of one of the classrooms.

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## Delegation from the Ministry of Education visits schools (Continued)



The Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman during his visit to the classrooms



Minister of Education, observed the registration and orientation for the school's new intake of Year 7 students, which was held at the Collaborative Hall, Rimba Secondary School.

The Minister then visited Rimba III Primary School and observed the Mathematics and English Language classes for Year 2 and 3 students. The delegation also visited the library, computer lab and several other classes, while interacting with the students.

Afterwards, the Minister visited Katok 'B' Primary School and visited the Special Educational Needs Assistance (SENA) Room, an English Language class in session, and the Science lab. The Minister was pleased with the school's planning and preparation methods, stating that it is capable of producing outstanding exam results.

The visits were aimed at inspecting the enrolment of students for the new school term of 2018, while providing them with motivation and encouragement.

The next day, the Minister continued his series of visits to Sultan Sharif Ali Secondary School and Mentiri Primary School. Joining the Minister was Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar, the Deputy Minister of Education.

Among the items discussed and brought up during the visit at Sultan Sharif Ali Secondary School were GCE 'O' Levels

examination results and bus services for school students. The Minister also emphasised the importance of parents and teachers in educating the students.

The Minister also highlighted the application of the Malay Islamic Monarchy philosophy especially the practice of reading Al-Quran and five-time daily prayers, was also noted as important in bringing success to the students. Improving the students' literacy and numeracy ability were highlighted as well.

The delegation next made a visit to Mentiri Primary School, toured several classrooms and computer labs, the library, and the school's English room. A briefing and a discussion on the direction of the school concluded the delegation's visit.

On January 9, the Minister and delegation visited Abdul Rashid Tanjong Maya Primary School and Kampung Menengah Primary School, in Tutong District and took the opportunity to take a closer look at the learning environment and infrastructure provided by the school.

The Minister and delegation then proceeded to Kampung Menengah Primary School and visited the classes of pre-school, Year 5 and Year 6 to get a closer look at the learning environment of the school, which has been operating since 1961.

## International Conference on Research in Islamic Education and Arabic Language (ICRIALE) 2018 strive to empower Islamic education

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 24** – Islamic education and the Arabic Language are important elements in Brunei's education framework, components which need to be continuously empowered by conducting relevant research.

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Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs along with other senior officials during the event.

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## International Conference on Research in Islamic Education and Arabic Language (ICRIALE) 2018 strive to empower Islamic education (Continued)

Since the Compulsory Religious Education Order 2012, religious and Arabic education have been further strengthened and placed in the mainstream of the national education system. In addition, Islamic Religious Knowledge (IRK) subjects are one of the core subject components at public schools.

The guest of honour, Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs highlighted the matter during the launching of 5th International Conference on Research in Islamic Education and

Arabic Language 2018 (ICRIALE 2018) at Tarbiyah Hall of the Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama Seri Begawan (KUPU SB).

The Minister then stated that Brunei needs to continuously strive to empower Islamic education including the Arabic Language as a learning medium and source of reference for core Islamic education, within the scope of the national education system in Brunei, where from the beginning it had been intended to educate the people on religious matters and the Arabic Language while meshing seamlessly with modern education.

The three-day conference will see talks delivered by 130 presenters and

the attendance of 220 participants from various educational backgrounds, including scholars, experts, academics, researchers, government officials and postgraduate students.

With the theme 'Transformation of Islamic Education in the Industrial Era 4.0', the conference will emphasise current automation and data exchange trends in manufacturing technology, including cyber-physical systems, internet, and cloud computing. Industry 4.0, meanwhile, depicts the 'smart factory' concept, which involves promoting the role of Islamic education in building the ummah in the context of the Islamic community.

## Minister of Religious Affairs visits schools

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 3 – 4, 6** – Adapting and practising the Arabic language in everyday use remains a challenge for the Ministry of Religious Affairs. In our country, other than Malay and English, the use of Arabic language is also increasing.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs made a series of visit to a number of schools.

On January 3, the Minister made a visit to the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha Girls Arabic Secondary School at Kampung Katok where he took a closer look at the Year 7 'Sanah' class and interacted with the students. The school has achieved an encouraging achievement in curriculum, such as 95 point 89 percent pass in the Brunei Religious Certificate Education Examinations 2017.

On January 4, the Minister visited Pengiran Anak Puteri Majeedah Nurul Bolqiah Religious School in Kampung Kilanas and highlighted that since the Compulsory Religious Education System was enforced in 2012, there has been a significant development in the number of students entering religious schools.

The Minister then continued his visit to two Arabic schools: Bandar Seri Begawan Arabic Preparatory School and Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit Girls Arabic Religious Secondary School on January 6.

The Minister expressed his satisfaction with the achievement of students from



Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs interacting with students during the visit to Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha Girls Arabic Religious Secondary School in Kampung Katok.

Arabic schools in major examinations which exceeded the national target, where the number of students who attained five A's at the Primary School Assessment (PSR) examination last year was a total of 187 students achieving five A's.

The visit aimed to observe the enrolment of new students to the religious school as well as to monitor the fresh batch of pre-school students who have started their religious education for the academic year 2018.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs interacting with a student during his visit to Pengiran Anak Puteri Majeedah Nurul Bolqiah Religious School in Kampung Kilanas.

# ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan 2016-2025: 15 Key Activities under 2016-2017 Work Plan completed

**CHIANG MAI, January 26** - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, attended the 21st ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting, 17th ASEAN Plus Three Tourism Ministers Meeting and the Sixth ASEAN – India Tourism Ministers Meeting from January 25th to 26th in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2018 (ATF).

The meetings were preceded by the 47th Meeting of ASEAN National Tourism Organisations (NTOs), the 32th Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three (APT) NTOs, Sixth ASEAN- India Tourism Working Group Meeting and related meetings with dialogue partners from the 22nd – 24th January 2018.

During the forum, the Ministers noted the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan (ATSP) 2016-2025 where 15 key activities under the Work Plan for 2016-2017 have been completed. In ensuring continued implementation of the programme, the Ministers adopted the two-year Work Plan (2018-2019), translating identified activities within ATSP 2016-2025 into concrete detailed plans with clear milestones to be achieved for the next two years.

The Ministers appreciated the active role of the lead countries in leading the implementation of ATSP activities and encouraged their continued support to sustain ASEAN tourism's contribution towards the realisation of ASEAN



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, in a group photo with tourism ministers from Asean member countries.

integration goals in 2025.

The Ministers reached some agreements, namely Expanding the ASEAN regional destination-marketing programme; Further Developing Cruise Tourism; Developing ASEAN Tourism Products; Driving Investments in Infrastructure to Keep Pace with Tourism Growth; Moving Forward toward "Accessible Tourism for All"; Tourism Standards; Enhancing Quality of Tourism Professionals; Enhancing connectivity for tourism; ASEAN Plus Three; ASEAN India

Cooperation; Travex ASEAN Tourism Forum; and ATF 2019 and ATF 2020.

During the forum, Brunei Darussalam received several awards. ASEAN Green Hotel Award was given to Ulu-Ulu Resort and Radisson Hotel, the ASEAN MICE Venue Award was awarded to Radisson Hotel, V-Plaza Hotel and The Empire Hotel and Country Club and ASEAN Clean Tourist City Award was given to Bandar Seri Begawan.

## New committee for Brunei-China Friendship Association

**JERUDONG, January 31** – The Brunei - China Friendship Association held an Oath Swearing Ceremony for New Executive Committee Members 2018 - 2020 at Tarindak d'Polo Restaurant, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

Present as guest of honour was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

The event began with the signing of certificates for 23 new executive committee members of the 5th Brunei - China Friendship Association 2018 – 2020, followed by a group photo session with the guest of honour.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism receiving appointment certificates of the 25 new executive committee members.

# The number of tourist arrivals 2017 increases

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 2** - Year 2017 is a stunning year for the Brunei Darussalam tourism sector, according to data from the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) data, by the end of 2017, tourist arrivals to this country increased by ten percent as compared to a 0.3 percent increase in 2016.

This was stated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism at Appreciation Night for

the Brunei December Festival 2017 on December 31.

Statistics from Tourism Development Department, MPRT, Brunei Darussalam recorded a total of 154,980 international tourist arrivals via the Brunei International Airport from January to July 2017 where January recorded the highest number of 25,625 followed by 23,934 in April and 22,670 in May the same year.

Meanwhile, Malaysia is the top country with the highest number of tourist arrivals in the country from January to July 2017, with 35,364 tourists, followed by the People's Republic of China with 27,857, Republic of Indonesia with 14,858, Republic of the Philippines with 14,731 and Republic of Singapore of 8,519 tourists.

The Tourism Development

Department, MPRT will continue to increase towards achieving its mission which is to promote the growth of the number of tourists by focusing on strengthening the attractiveness and diversity of tourism products as well as improve the quality of tourism services in the country.

Among the strategic objectives of the department is to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 218,000 tourists in 2015 to 451,000 tourists by 2020 and to enhance tourism-related services in the country can contribute significantly to the growth of Gross Domestic Product through cooperation with stakeholders, including government agencies, travel agents, tour guides, airlines, transport and accommodation operators as well as legal regulations, standards, guidelines, exercise of training programs and others.

# Air traffic management careers highly in demand

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 17** – As the public aviation sector is growing from time to time and is an important sector towards contributing to the nation's economy, it is without a doubt that the country needs more workforces in the field of air traffic management.

This was stated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, the Minister of Communications at The Scholarship Award Ceremony which took place at Dewan Amar Pahlawan, Ministry of Communications.

Touching on the job opportunities in the field of air traffic management, the Minister hoped that more parents will encourage their children to be involved in the said field, as it is one of the careers that are highly in demand not only within the country, but also overseas.

The event saw the Government of 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 award scholarships to eight students to undergo Air Traffic Officer training in Malaysia in an effort to generate more employment-ready local youth.

The scholarship awards and certificates were presented by the Minister of Communications.

The special scholarship programme is implemented under a collaboration of the Department of Civil Aviation, the Ministry of Communications and the Scholarship Division at the Ministry of Education. This scheme is also part of the steps taken by the Department of Civil Aviation in ensuring safe and efficient air transport services in Brunei Darussalam.

The first batch of students ever to

receive this scholarship will undergo a one-year training programme in two phases with six months in the Malaysia Aviation Academy (MAvA) and six months in Brunei Darussalam.

Participants who are able to obtain their licence within the specified period will be offered positions at the Air Traffic Controller Services Division, Department of Civil Aviation.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, the Minister of Communications presenting a scholarship award to recipients (above & below).



Recipients of the scholarship award.

## Brunei-Korea improves cooperation in cultural exchange

**JERUDONG, January 15** - The Korean Modern Art Festival 2018, which is being held for three days at The Empire Hotel and Country Club will showcase unique artworks by more than 100 artists from the Republic of Korea.

The event also witnessed the Signing of Memorandum of Understanding Ceremony between the Brunei Arts Forum and The Korean Fine Arts Association for cooperation in cultural exchange.

Present as the guest of honour and witnessing the signing of the memorandum was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Signing on behalf of the Brunei Arts Forum was the President himself, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Shofry bin Haji Abdul Ghafor and signing on behalf of The Korean Fine Arts Association was its President, Lee Bum-Hun.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports (third, left), witnessing the signing of MoU.

The festival organised by The Korean Fine Arts Association is also managed by Sinar Tour Sdn. Bhd. together with the Brunei Arts Forum, Creative Space Brunei and The Korean Embassy in Brunei Darussalam.

More than 100 artists attended the exhibition including Koo Jae-seung, Kim Bo-yeon and Jin-Kwan Hui, representing the Korean contemporary art.

## Minster of Health receives courtesy call

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 31** - The Head of Mission and World Health Organization (WHO) Representative for Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, Doctor Ying-Ru Jacqueline Lo, who was in the Sultanate on a two days visit, paid a Courtesy Call to Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Doctor Haji Md. Isham bin Jaafar, Minister of Health at the Ministry of Health Headquarters on January 30.

The Minister of Health welcomed Doctor Ying-Ru Jacqueline Lo to Brunei Darussalam and congratulated her on her new appointment as Head of Mission and WHO Representative for Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore.

The Minister of Health expressed his appreciation for the support and technical assistances that have been engaged by WHO to the Ministry of Health, Brunei Darussalam and is honoured to have more future engagements.

During the two days visit, Doctor Ying-Ru Jaqueline Lo attended few discussion sessions with various departments under the Ministry of Health. The areas of health issues discussed included the overall health system of Brunei Darussalam, Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) status and activities, as well



Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr Haji Mohd Isham bin Jaafar, the Minister of Health in a group photo with Dr Ying-Ru Jacqueline Lo, the Head of Mission and World Health Organization (WHO) representative for Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, and other officials.

as public health topics such as Communicable Diseases. Doctor Ying-Ru Jacqueline Lo also visited some facilities and services under the Ministry of Health to experience and learn more about the current healthcare system.

## Rapid development in oncology field

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 21** - Genomics is the most powerful tool available for use in understanding of diseases especially in cancer.

"We are now witnessing rapid development in the field of precision oncology whereby the availability of highly personalized diagnostic, prognostic and pharmacogenomics biomarkers are helping to improve the identification, treatment, planning and survival of cancer patients," Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Doktor Haji Md. Isham bin Jaafar, the Minister of Health stated this during the 3rd National Scientific Symposium which took place at the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiyah Institute of Health Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

In his opening remarks, Yang Berhormat also said that the theme for this symposium is 'Innovating Precision Medicine for Patient Care' which focuses on three important areas: cancer, lifestyle diseases and infectious diseases which are certainly



The Minister of Health officiating the launch of the symposium.

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## Rapid development in oncology field (Continued)

very relevant in today's era of dynamic changes with health complexities and challenges.

The 3-day event had 200 participants comprising of medical laboratory professionals, healthcare professionals, academics, postgraduates and undergraduates. The symposium was jointly organised by the Brunei Darussalam Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists and the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Saadatul Bolkihah Institute of Health Sciences, UBD.



Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Doktor Haji Md. Isham bin Jaafar, the Minister of Health presenting prizes to the winners of the poster designing competition held in conjunction with the symposium.



During the ceremony, the Minister of Health also presented prizes to the winners of the poster designing competition held in conjunction with the symposium.

## AGC receives courtesy call

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 24** - Attorney General Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Hayati binti Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohd. Salleh received a courtesy call from On Hung Zheng, President of the Law Society of Brunei Darussalam, at the Law Building.

Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Hayati and On discussed areas of mutual interest, particularly to consider ways to enhance further the quality of legal services in Brunei Darussalam and consider possible areas of cooperation. They also discussed ways to ensure people of limited financial means would have access to legal advice in which the Attorney General welcomed the Law Society's plans to conduct a legal advice clinic for these people.



Attorney General Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Hayati binti Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohd. Salleh and On Hung Zheng, President of the Law Society of Brunei Darussalam, at the Law Building during the courtesy call.

## Commander of the RBAF Change of Command Ceremony

**BOLKIAH GARRISON, January 31** - With the consent of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Major General Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud has been appointed as the new Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

A handover and takeover ceremony took place at Bolkiah Garrison between Yang Dimulikan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Seri Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah and the new Commander of RBAF, Major General Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud.

Upon arrival at the Parade Square, the outgoing Commander of RBAF, Yang Dimulikan Pehin received Honourary Salute and later inspected the Guard of Honour.

As the 9th Commander of the RBAF, Yang Dimulikan Pehin delivered his

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The outgoing commander of the RBAF, Yang Dimulikan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Seri Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah and the new Commander of RBAF, Major General Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud during the signing ceremony of the Handing Over Certificate.

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## Commander of the RBAF Change of Command Ceremony (Continued)

final speech where he expressed his appreciation to all members of the RBAF, whether in-service or retired, for all their support and cooperation throughout his service.

Yang Dimuliakan Pehin remarked that, to this day, “the RBAF have always shown the ability to carry out its responsibility and mandates in preserving and defending the sovereignty of the Monarch, religion, race and nation.”

He reminded that “all the achievements so far illustrate that the RBAF is able to continuously move forward and progress,”

and emphasised that “such efforts must be sustained by constantly adapting to current developments.”

Yang Dimuliakan Pehin also highlighted the need to enhance close collaboration between local and foreign agencies, as “the role of Royal Brunei Armed Forces is not limited to warfighting or warfare,” but also, “plays a part in supporting development especially in addressing wider security issues with challenges generated and catalysed by the era of globalisation.”

Marking the new duty placement, the

new Commander of RBAF, Major General Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Aminan received the Honourary Salute and later proceeded to inspect the Guard of Honour. This was followed by his inaugural speech as the 10th Commander of RBAF.

A signing ceremony of the Handing Over Certificate was also held to mark the official handover of duty of the Commander of RBAF. A thanksgiving prayer was recited to bless the ceremony.

In his final parade as the outgoing Commander of RBAF, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin was escorted onto the march-past vehicle. The procession ceremony saw officers and personnel in convoy, represented by all the military services in attendance.

## RBAF 8th Command and Staff Course launch

**TANAH JAMBU, January 11** – The 8th Command and Staff Course, hosted by the Defence Academy Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) was launched today by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Tawih bin Abdullah, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), in a ceremony held at the Defence Academy RBAF in Kampung Tanah Jambu.

The RBAF Commander in his speech said that diversity in the learning environment is very important in line with the lifelong learning policy of the Defence Academy. Different perspectives provide room to listen and learn from each other, to acquire understanding, new skills and information that would help in facing challenges.

The course was participated by officers from the RBAF, the Royal Brunei Police Force, the Internal Security Department (ISD), and officers from the International Military from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Sultanate of Oman, Pakistan, the Republic of Philippines, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the



Officers from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, the Royal Brunei Police Force, the Internal security Department (ISD), and officers from the International Military during the 8th Command and Staff Course.

United States of America.

The 40-week course delivered in partnership with New Zealand’s Massey University, aims to broaden the

professional and academic knowledge, while developing the leadership, analytical and communication skills of mid-level officers to prepare them for higher command and staff appointments.

## Muhd. Nazrul Hadi receives ‘Honorary Policeman’ certificate

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 20** – The Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) has once again touched the hearts of many with the handing over of a recognition certificate to a young boy who has always dreamed of becoming a Police Officer.

Eight year old Muhd. Nazrul Hadi, who is a Year 3 student at Panglima Barudin Primary School in Kampung Limau Manis, and suffering from eye cancer, received the certificate as an appreciation to realise his dream of becoming a RBPF personnel.

The special ceremony to award the recognition was coordinated by the Public Relations Unit of the RBPF with consent of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal

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Dato Paduka Seri Haji Mohd. Jammy bin Haji Muhd. Shah Al Islam, the Commissioner of Police presenting Muhd. Nazrul Hadi with the ‘Honorary Policeman’ certificate.

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**Muhd. Nazrul Hadi receives 'Honorary Policeman' certificate (Continued)**

Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

At the ceremony, Dato Paduka Seri Haji Mohd. Jammy bin Haji Muhd. Shah Al Islam, the Commissioner of Police

presented Muhd. Nazrul Hadi with the 'Honorary Policeman' certificate.

With a custom made police uniform tailored especially for him, Muhd. Nazrul Hadi saluted the Commissioner of Police before receiving his certificate.

Muhd. Nazrul Hadi is a member of the

Children's Cancer Foundation, YASKA. It was in December 2013 the family was struck by news that Muhd. Nazrul Hadi was diagnosed with eye cancer stage 4. His left eye had to be removed and replaced with an artificial glass eye.

**The Royal Brunei Police Force turns 97 years old**

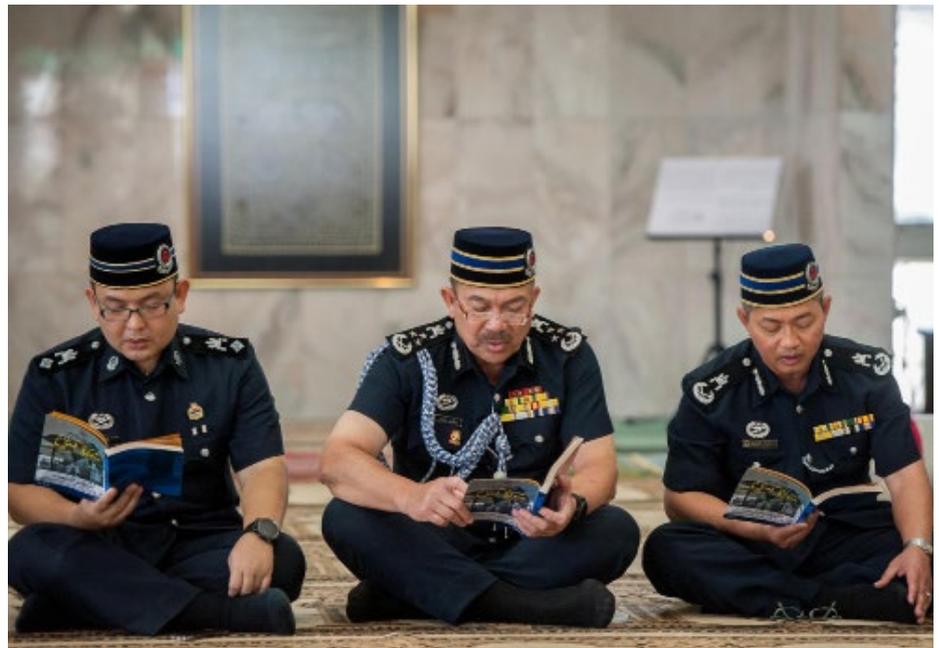
**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 2**

- The Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) held the reading of *Surah Yasin, Tahليل* and *Doa Kesyukuran* to mark the 97th occasion of Police Day at RBPF Surau, Gadong Headquarters.

Present as the guest of honour was Dato Paduka Seri Haji Mohd Jammy bin Haji Muhd Shah Al-Islam, the Commissioner of Police.

The ceremony aimed to seek blessings from Allah the Almighty for all police personnel to be protected while carrying out their duties, aside from fostering closer relations between police force personnel and members of the neighbourhood watch.

Also in attendance was Deputy Commissioner of Police, Haji Mohammad Hassan bin Pehin Penyurat Haji Ahmad, the Chairman of the Islamic Religious Bodies of RBPF and Yang Berhormat Pengiran Haji Mohammed bin Pengiran Haji Osman @ Othman, Member of the Legislative Council.

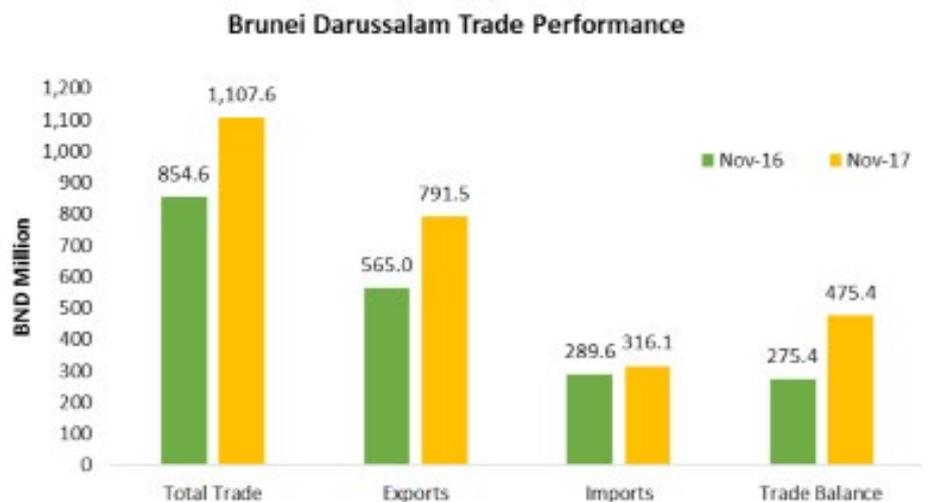


Guest of honour, Dato Paduka Seri Haji Mohd Jammy bin Haji Muhd Shah Al-Islam, the Commissioner of Police during the ceremony.

**INCREASE IN TRADE BALANCE IN NOVEMBER 2017**

Total Trade increased by 29.6 per cent year-on-year to BND1,107.6 million; consisting of exports (BND791.5 million) and imports (BND316.1 million), compared to BND854.6 million in November 2016. Trade balance also increased by 72.6 per cent year-on-year to BND475.4 million from BND275.4 million in November 2016.

Exports for the month of November 2017 increased by 40.1 per cent year-on-year from BND565.0 million (November 2016) to BND791.5 million (November 2017). Exports of Mineral fuels recorded the highest contribution of 73.9 per cent of total exports, comprising of Crude Oil (BND261.9 million) and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) (BND321.3 million).



In November 2017, imports of goods increased by 9.2 per cent year-on-year from BND289.6 million (November 2016) to BND316.1 million. Meanwhile, the top five contributions of imports by commodity were Machinery and Transport Equipment

(29.9 per cent), Manufactured Goods (23.7 per cent), Food (13.7 per cent), Chemicals (12.1 per cent) and Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles (10.1 per cent).

## Launching of BruTRACK App

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 25** – In the efforts of improving the methods of channelling information, detecting and tracking posts for more transparency, as well as to enhance the public's confidence on the services provided by its department, the Postal Services Department launched its BruTRACK v1.0 Application

Currently, there are around 500 parcels or packages dating back to 2016, which are yet to be claimed by their owners and are still being kept within the Mail Processing Centre (MPC) storage, Berakas.

The unclaimed items will result in the loss of revenue for the Postal Services Department and become a liability for the department, as the department will need to ask the senders if the items should be shipped back, with the costs incurred by the Postal Services.

Present as the guest of honour was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, the Minister of Communications.

BruTRACK allows customers to easily detect and track their registered posts as well as EMS posts from overseas as soon as the posts have arrived and processed at the MPC. For customers who send their registered post within and outside the country or those using the Pos Laju Service, BruTRACK can also detect and track the items until they are processed at



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, Minister of Communication launching the BruTRACK Version 1.0 application at MPC, Berakas.

the MPC.

Customers are also able to detect and track their posts from the MPC to overseas destinations using the tracking system.

BruTRACK also has additional functions, namely providing post code

information for each address, and provides information on areas, districts, mukim and kampung for any known postcode.

## 20th Consumer Fair offers variety of products and services

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 24** – The 20th Consumer Fair (CF20) which takes place January 24th until 28th at the International Convention Centre (ICC) Berakas offers a variety of products and services.

The fair was launched by the guest of honour, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The launch ran concurrently with the presentation of awards by the guest of honour to long-term exhibitors who have participated in over ten instalments of the consumer fair series of expos.

Jackson Ting, the Managing Director of D'Sunlit Sdn. Bhd., in his welcoming address said that the fair was inspired by current consumer trends for convenience,



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Lailaraja Retired Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, officiating the launch of the 20th Consumer Fair.

such as shopping for a wide range of products while enjoying a line-up of family-friendly activities under one roof.

He highlighted that CF20 strives to provide a platform for local talents while assisting youth-driven industries to grow

and develop.

With the theme of 'Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Present, and Envisioning the Future', CF20 invites the public for a trip down memory lane and relive their childhood.