



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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## *Confidence in national philosophy and policies brings about stability*



*His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam says: "Be grateful to Allah, God the Almighty for the peace and security we have been enjoying."*

**B**runei Darussalam has always been prosperous and secure without having to experience any disturbance or disorderliness, and for this we should be grateful, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has said.

Such a situation has reaffirmed our confidence in the philosophy and policies which we have held firmly all these while are indeed a strong basis for creating a stable society and nation.

The Brunei monarch was

speaking in his new year titah (address) which was broadcast to the nation over radio and television on new year's eve.

He said the situation in Brunei Darussalam is far different from that in some other countries where crises never end, thus jeopardising the wellbeing of a majority of the human race.

Lamented His Majesty: "The end of the cold war had at first led the International Community to believe that world situation would be more peaceful and harmonious, thus enabling cooperation among nations to

be fostered without obstacles. But it is clear that such a belief is wrong for on the contrary, conflicts and wars continue in various parts of the world such as in Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda and Afghanistan.

### **Toll on UN resources**

The Brunei ruler said conflicts such as these have taken their toll on the United Nations, which has had to spend a lot of money, time and manpower towards attempting to resolve them.

**Less attention given to promotion of economic**

### **cooperation**

"And it is also because of these issues that the world body has been giving less attention to promoting economic cooperation through trade and investment".

His Majesty said these were among some of the issues he had raised in his address to the United Nations General Assembly last October, while adding that he had also cited ASEAN as an ideal example of an organisation which possesses vision for regional cooperation and development.

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## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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### YOUR TURN

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• From page 1

### Emulate ASEAN in cooperation, development pursuit

"Should the ASEAN mould for cooperation and development be emulated, then I truly believe that peace and stability will not only be enjoyed in regional terms but also by the whole world in general".

On Brunei's role in joining in the efforts towards achieving trade and investment liberalisation, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said this was not done solely for the interest of the ASEAN region, but also for the Asia Pacific which accounts for some 40 percent of world trade.

"Our genuineness in these efforts are reflected in our agreeing to the establishment of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and through the Asia Pacific

Economic Cooperation (APEC), which recently held its conference in Bogor, Indonesia", said the ruler.

### Be diligent, determined

His Majesty urged his subjects and people of Brunei Darussalam regardless of whether they are working in the Government or private sector or just as ordinary members of the public to be diligent, determined and possess the desire to progress.

His said no matter how far the country's involvement is in the regional and international issues, efforts towards internal development must also be carried out more actively in order to fulfill the needs of the nation.

The key to such internal development and progress, pointed His Majesty, lies with the diligence and determination of the people in carrying out various eco-

conomic activities.

### Natural resources not measure of economic development

The monarch also pointed out that benefits from natural resources were not the final measure of economic development, rather a high level economy is more dependent on efforts devoted to such fields as agriculture and industry.

This is evident in that many countries, although richly endowed in natural resources, are still categorised as developing nations, whereas there are countries with no natural resources but have elevated themselves to become industrialised or developed nations, His Majesty explained.

"This can only mean that progress and excellence come from diligence, determination and the will to develop".

## *Technology : prime movers of developments if utilised properly and not misused, says Minister*

The contribution of technology, if utilised properly, to the developments of a country has been stressed by the Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail - describing technology as one of the prime movers of both the physical and economic development of a country anywhere.

Speaking during the Fourth Convocation of the Institute of Technology of Brunei Darussalam on 8

December at which he presented diplomas and certificates, the Minister stressed such is the importance of technology that among the major differences of developed, developing and less-developed countries are the levels of their ability to master and manage the technology they have.

He said there are views, however, that technology brings badness and obliteration of cultures.

"This would be true if we misuse the technology

we possess, whereas if used with sincerity and properly, such technology can also be beneficial for improving the quality of life of the people, both economically and from aspect of physical comfort".

The developed countries, the Minister went on, which are the creators and producers of technology can manipulate technology for all their needs and it is this capability in technology that has enabled them to pro-

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# Prince calls for upgrading of mosque activities

**H**is Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan, said activities of mosques in the country should be enhanced from time to time.

Such activities include conducting courses on marriage and family affairs and those which can help maintain public education, such as extra classes in Arabic, English and Mathematics.

## Activities to involve everyone

Mosques should also carry out activities which involved all parties, particularly youths, by getting together in cleaning the mosque's area, cemeteries and surroundings, said His Royal Highness.

Facilities to encourage prayers should also be further upgraded, by adding more topics of library books and always maintaining the cleanliness and beauty of the mosque and its surroundings, he added.

In a sabda (speech) during a celebration marking the Isra' Me'raj (Prophet Muhammad's, peace be upon him, journey to

heaven) at the International Convention Centre on December 31, His Royal Highness also stressed the need to upgrade the management of mosques in relevance to the need of time and modern administration.

Mosque committees, he pointed out, should ensure that the financial fund of mosques is always maintained so that various welfare programmes could be carried out.

## New department established to further promote Islam in the country

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, he said, has consented to the establishment of the Department of Mosque Affairs under the Ministry of Religious Affairs in order to ensure that the management of a mosque is carried out effectively, and functions as a centre for pious activity, learning and Islamic education, as well as a symbol of unity and religion in the country.

Towards these objectives, the Department of Mosque Affairs is now car-

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His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah, above, urging a stepping up of mosque activities, in his speech during recent Isra' Me'raj celebration.



The imam (senior mosque official) of one of the winning mosques receiving the award from His Royal Highness which was the highlight of the celebration, attended by dignitaries including pengiran-pengiran cheteria, above right.

Right: Cabinet ministers and their deputies, members of councils also attended the Isra' Me'raj celebration.



Permanent Secretaries, foreign diplomats, senior Government officials and members of the public, above left and above right, were also present at the celebration which commemorates Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) ascension to heaven.

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rying out a programme of holding religious activities such as classes on 'fardhu ain', the management of corpses, Quran reading and talks for all levels of Muslim society.

Several courses have also been conducted to upgrade the working performance of mosque officials. These include studying the reading and summon to prayer (azan) as well as revision.

By doing so, it is hoped that their role as mosque officials, leaders of the community and model figure in a society would always be effective, His Royal Highness said.

His Royal Highness, however, reminded members of the public not to be satisfied and feel sufficient with the existing level of

piety, and he called for further stepping-up of acts of libadat (worship) among Muslims.

His Royal Highness earlier noted the significance of commemorating the Isra' Me'raj, through which the five-times daily prayer became obligatory to Muslims.

Prayer is a pillar of Islam. Muslims who pray uphold the religion, while those who ignore the obligation spoil the religion, he said.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkihah also highlighted the importance of congregational prayers as they bring about good impression to individuals and community and the reward is more compared to a prayer done alone at home.

**Building of mosques to be continued**

In order to encourage congregational prayers, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has continued to build many more mosques in the country, he pointed out.

His Royal Highness hoped that efforts made by the Department of Mosque Affairs would help in the welfare efforts, upgrading the existing intellect, leadership and further studying the piety on 'fardhu ain' as well as in making a mosque as a centre of knowledge and culture founded on the teachings of Islam.

**Speech by Minister of Religious Affairs**

In his welcoming speech, the Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan

Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Awang Haji Md. Zain bin Haji Serudin highlighted efforts of "ta'amir" (matters related to the maintenance, administration, management and activities of a mosque).

These include discussions and guidance on matters related to "ibadat" (acts of worship) for youths during school holidays, and religious talks aimed at strengthening their understanding, upgrading their skill in performing the ibadat, and bringing them closer to the mosque.

Other efforts include conducting two important subjects particularly the explanation and interpretation of the verses from the Quran, and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him.



Above: The Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail presents diploma to one of Institute of Technology of Brunei Darussalam's latest graduates, while one of the six outstanding students in the sixth and seventh intakes (1990-1993 session) receives the "outstanding students' award" from the Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, right.



• From page 2 (Technology)

duce various equipment and consumer commodities such as computers, motor cars, electronic goods and processed foods, while the developing and less-developed countries enjoy the benefits of this technology only as a 'consumer society.

The Minister pointed that we will suffer losses if we continue to be weak and remain as mere consumers of technology and its products, and not their makers. Because a lot is spent on purchasing, maintaining and spare parts for which we still depend on other countries.

He said that the use of technology in Brunei Darussalam, however, has increased in the past few years, especially in the construction industry in which we have been able to master and manage the relevant technology step by step.

The construction industry is one of three main in-

dustries besides the services and manufacturing industries, in which the country's hopes rest highly after the oil and gas industry, he disclosed.

The use of latest and appropriate technology obtained from both within and outside the country has resulted in intensive development in the country as can be seen in that whereby a project would usually take up to two years to complete in the 1960s, can now be completed between eight and nine months.

The construction industry, he added, has also brought by-products in that we have not only produced many local professionals and consultants, but are now also capable of designing, building and maintaining the physical infrastructures of the country.

The same goes for the oil and gas industry, in which our capability in the related technology has not only ensured steady production, but locals are master-

ing and managing the technology, hence, enabling them to play a bigger role in the industry.

The employment of science and technology in the services industry is still not as extensive as in the construction industry, and the oil and gas industry but nonetheless the contribution of this sector to the economy is growing and the involvement of locals therein is more apparent.

One of the reasons for progress in all these three sectors and for the success of locals in them is the so-called 'pull and push' factor. The pull factor, explained the Minister, exists because the oil and gas, construction and services industries which have been established with huge investments have been able to provide employment opportunities and markets, while the push factor exist because of the positive policies of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei

Darussalam in, for example, giving relevant education in these sectors and encouraging locals to engage in them.

"I am confident that with this pull and push factor, the oil and gas, construction and services industries will further develop", said the Minister.

In his speech, the Development Minister went on to say that the manufacturing industry, such as computer, television, electronic and food productions, is still non-existent, and if so, still very dismal. He said this was because there is no pull factor in the manufacturing industry in this country as yet compared to the other three sectors, but the push factor has been there for some years.

"The country has no concrete opportunity in the manufacturing industry that serves as a convincing attraction to our technical workers. At the same time, our market is an open one

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*This year's winners of the National Koran Reading Competition, Awang Haji Rosli bin Haji Bolaji, men's section and Pengiran Hajjah Salbiah binti Pengiran Haji Mohd Salleh, women's section, are presented their trophies by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisua Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan.*

## *Eradicate illiteracy in reading of the Al-Qur'an*

**B**runei Darussalam through the appropriate government agencies, particularly the Religious Affairs Ministry has continued efforts to eradicate illiteracy in the reading of the Al-Qur'an (Koran) among the country's Muslims.

Speaking at the final of the annual National Al-Qur'an reading Competition, His Royal Highness

Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisua Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan urged the people to make a success of every effort of the government in eradicating illiteracy. They must make their competence in the reading, learning and observance of the teachings of the Al-Qur'an a culture.

In his 'sabda' (address)

at the ceremony held at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan on 18 December, His Royal Highness also called on parents in particular, to seize the opportunity provided by the government in the learning of the Al-Qur'an.

His Royal Highness said that His Majesty's Government is consistently continuing the effort to ensure that

the love of the Brunei people of the Al-Qur'an; their diligence to learn, understand and observe its teachings be further enhanced.

He pointed out that one such effort is in ensuring the continuous progress and development of the Islamic religious school system.

His Royal Highness commended the encouraging response of the people towards the religious school system, which indicates the people's awareness on the importance of observing the teachings of the Al-Qur'an. He pointed to the need to learn and master the Arabic language so as to enable Muslims to understand the content of the holy book.

His Royal Highness noted that the learning of the language is progressing well due to the dedicated effort of government agencies.



*Some of the women including wives of state dignitaries who attended the competition at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, telecast live over the two nights by Radio Television Brunei.*

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The Deputy Sultan, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah on the dais with pengiran-pengiran cheteria, cabinet ministers and other dignitaries during the competition. To his right - 3rd from left is Yang Amat Mula Pengiran Maharaja Lela Sahibul Kahar Pengiran Anak Haji Mohd Yusof ibni Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohd Alam who officially opened the competition the previous night.

• From page 6 (Al-Qur'an)

"Our own Institute of Islamic Studies is among the higher Islamic learning centres in the region that uses Arabic - the language of the Al-Qur'an as the language of conveyance.

Muslim intellectuals abroad are impressed to see the diligent effort of the Government in teaching and spreading the usage of the language of the Al-Qur'an,

said His Royal Highness.

In order to further enhance the efforts towards ensuring the purity and genuineness of the Al-Qur'an from any deviation, His Majesty's Government through the Religious Affairs Ministry has successfully produced specially hand-written edition of the Al-Qur'an, the Mushaf Brunei Darussalam, and this was followed by efforts towards encouraging

the people to memorize the holy book.

#### Religious Affairs Minister's welcome speech

Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Mohd. Zain, the Religious Affairs Minister in his speech, among others, hoped that the competition would influence Muslims to always obey the teachings

of the Al-Qur'an and to hold firmly to the values enjoined by the Al-Qur'an towards creating noble identity values.

The minister said that without firm and high identity values that are based on the teachings of the Al-Qur'an, it is difficult for Muslims to become a strong community, rather they will always be down-graded and disunited.

The annual competition was officially declared underway the previous

• Continued on page 9



Above left and above right: Some of the foreign diplomats and permanent secretaries who were among thousands watching the competition.

• From page 5 (Technology) where, as consumers, we are too complacent to the point of regarding that there is no need to design and manufacture consumer goods of our own as we are already flooded with imported ones”, he said.

“This lack of interest and demand cause entrepreneurs to become unwilling to take the risks in setting up consumer goods manufacturing industry.”

In the face of the lack of the pull factor as well as job opportunities, it is hardly surprising that locals tend to go to the Government for employment, said the Minister, while adding that to be realistic, the Government cannot forever provide jobs for graduates.

“In order to overcome

this problem, there must exist the pull factor in the manufacturing industry alongside the push factor which has already existed through positive Government policies which encourage industrial activities in the country”, he further said.

The Minister called for more companies and factories to be established so as to provide job opportunities to locals and for them to progress in the field of technology.

The Minister stressed that this should not only cater for the domestic market but regionally to take advantage of more open markets offered by the ASEAN Free Trade Area, AFTA, and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, APEC.

“The private sector”, he said “can play a role in creating this pull factor”.

It is here that the private sector and the Government need to think together and discuss about the type of area in the manufacturing industry entrepreneurs and workers should venture into.

He pointed that with a small population, Brunei Darussalam needs to train the people in absolutely relevant areas by indentifying the market niche in which it has a clear competitive advantage, as for example, in capital intensive and automation-based industries.

The Minister urged that courses undertaken by the Institute of Technology of Brunei Darussalam must be geared to the demand of current markets.

“What we need are not only trained and skilled workforce, but those fully dedicated and committed to their work and ever-prepared to equip themselves with the latest - technology know-how even years after leaving formal education, because technology is always changing”, he concluded.

At the ceremony, The Minister presented 157 graduates of the sixth and seventh intakes their Higher National Diplomas in commerce and finance, and in computer, engineering and electronics studies; and Higher National Certificates in commerce and finance. Six graduates - three from each intake, were also presented the ‘outstanding students’ awards.

## *Private sector needs to be active and skillful*

The private sector in the country needs to be active and skillful in the implementation of economic activities which could be pioneered and become a ground for a rapid economic development.

The prospect of the economic diversification growth in the country and international trade is very bright. These wide opportunities could only be enjoyed through the involvement of local entrepreneurs, said the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.

“We are confident that the country’s involvement in the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines - East ASEAN Growth Area - (BIMP-EAGA) will become a stepping-stone to our engagement in the international economy,” he added.

Speaking before he declared open the Centrepont Complex at Gadong on January 10, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman said that, based on the current economic situation and the rapid development in world economy, particularly in the region, the country’s economic achievement would be more encouraging in years to come.

“Developed and developing countries both in the Atlantic and Asia Pacific regions are now moving towards freer and open economy,” said the Minister.

He further spoke about the country’s membership in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which opens



*The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman urging entrepreneurs to be more active in business as there are now wide economic opportunities both domestically and internationally.*

the way to a more stable and fair world trade and the formation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) in the

region.

In March last year, he said, we have made commitment in the East ASEAN economy, (BIMP-EAGA) with Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Such development would certainly contribute to the economic development of the country, he added.

In the cooperation to develop BIMP-EAGA, he said, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the BIMP-EAGA National Committee, has established several working committees for projects which could be developed together, by involving private firm representatives.

The Minister hoped that

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(private sectors)

such mechanism could become an interaction between private firms and the Government in identifying necessary efforts for the success of the BIMP-EAGA.

The Minister earlier pointed out that the development of a dynamic economy is always going through a specific transition. In order to continue to be dynamic, the important role of specific sectors in an economy will continue to experience changes in accordance with the influence

of local and global economic condition.

He also spoke about the business sector involving development in services and land property, a development of which is important for the growth of other sectors. The development of various sectors, the Minister added, will provide more entrepreneurship opportunities and encourage more investment.

"It is hoped that besides encouraging foreign investments, we would also like to see the existing local entrepreneurs, particularly citizens, to together develop

a more productive entrepreneurship sectors," the Minister stressed.

Only with such effort, citizens who are engaged in entrepreneurship in the country would become more progressive and competitive, and become leaders of the business community in the country, he added.

Business and entrepreneurship chambers, therefore, play an important role to encourage entrepreneurs to become united, having similar mission and strong will to create a progressive

and dynamic leadership.

Through advanced leadership perspective, business chambers would easily face the challenges of the country's and world dynamic economic growth, that could become a basis for the economic development of the country.

This ceremony reflects the country's rapid economic growth, said the Minister. Gadong is among several main areas in the country that are experiencing rapid changes resulting from infrastructural progress carried out both by the Government and the private sector.

• From page 7 (Al-Qur'an)



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Maharaja Lela Sahibul Kahar Pengiran Anak Haji Mohd Yusof ibni Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam calling for the strengthening of the family institution in the wake of multifarious global challenges.

evening by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Maharaja Lela Sahibul Kahar Pengiran Anak Haji Mohd Yusof ibni Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, Chief of the Adat Istiadat Negara.

He called for the strengthening of the family institution as well as other

social institutions as a means of facing up to the challenges of globalisation.

He said "The family institution is the smallest social institution in the community. But nevertheless, it is the most important basis for bringing rise the strength of the community and nation".

He added that the harmony, peacefulness and happiness within a family is a reflection of a harmonious, strong and peaceful community.

He stressed that there is the need to consolidate the family institution "because we are constantly having to confront the challenges of globalisation which are in many forms and come from all corners and directions".

He pointed: "The more advanced the world becomes, the more there are complications brought by the tide of progress".

One of the main threats is to the family institution as a result of the preoccupation of parents in various activities such work com-

mitment that leaves them no time to keep watch over their families.

This situation, he further pointed, can cause rifts in the relationships between parents and their children.

The children may resort to finding substitutes to the parental role. We then hear often of children involved in drugs and other scourges as the result of the breaking-down of the family institution.

In the light of this development, he urged parents to divide time wisely between the family and other preoccupations.

He also spoke about the importance of the role starting in the home of the family in producing well-educated, pious, moral and dependable generations, especially so for a developing country.

Such generations are born from families built upon the foundations of

Islam. They are the assets and continuer for development, he said, and urged parents to keep watch on their children so as to keep them away from undesirable doings.

### Ceremony

The recitation of the Al-Qur'an by an invited reader from the Islamic Republic of Iran started the closing ceremony. It was followed by a special religious talk by the Director of the Pusat Da'wah Islamiah on the competition's theme of "Towards Inculcating Islamic Values in Management."

### Winners

The competition was won by Awang Haji Rosli bin Haji Bolaji in the men's section, while Pengiran Hajjah Salbiah binti Pengiran Haji Mohd. Salleh won the women's section. His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkia presented prizes to the winners, each receiving cash prize of B\$5,000, challenge trophy and other prizes.

# Concerted efforts undertaken to help primary school children with learning difficulties

Children in primary schools with learning difficulties may find it easier to understand their school subjects in the very near future, stated the Deputy Minister of Education, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad bin Haji Jumat recently.

He was speaking on 4 January when he officially launched a 14-month long certificate course for teachers especially designed to help children with learning difficulties understand their school subjects.

Attended initially by 59 teachers, the course is being conducted by lecturers from Universiti Brunei Darussalam, UBD.

## Education provided to all students to maximum potentials

He said although the number of children with learning difficulties is quite low - on average between

10 and 15 percent per every primary school, it is one of the efforts of the Government through the Ministry of Education to up-date and improve the learning process of every student to the top of his/her potential at schools.

He said the setting up a Special Education Unit of the Ministry of Education is one such effort.

## Education is most important national asset

The Deputy Minister also stated that education is the country's most important investment, hence, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the Education Ministry has and will continue to further consolidate the infrastructure of education so that it will cater not only to schoolchildren but all levels of the society.

To improve the quality of education is the responsibility of all, he stressed, and the role of the family institution and school institution in this matter cannot be viewed lightly.

"Teachers are the ones who will determine the economic and social goals of the country and they should be in the forefront at making the Bruneian society progressive and capable", he further stressed,

The Deputy Minister explained that special education in broad terms means the provision of short-term assistance through a school learning system successfully to every student with learning difficulties.

He further reminded, however, that the presence of learning assistance teachers did not mean the responsibility of the class teachers is lighter towards the progress and development of their students.

"The learning assistance

teachers are there", he said "to give advice on what ought to be done and what approaches should be taken for each student, especially those who find it difficult to keep up with their classmates".

## Guidance of school heads must be effective

He urged headmasters and other leaders of the school institution to give effective guidance for the successful implementation of educational projects in their respective school.

The Deputy Education Minister disclosed that in the initial stage, at least one teacher in each school would be trained as learning assistance teacher by the Universiti Brunei Darussalam/Education Ministry's special education unit programme, and such a teacher would be released of other duties either fully or partially.



Dato Seri Laila Jasa Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad bin Haji Jumat, Deputy Minister of Education (second from left) hopes the problem of primary school children having difficulties to understand their school subjects would be overcome in the near future.

# *Public Service has pivotal role in achieving the objectives of economic and industrial development of the country*

**P**ublic service has the pivotal role in achieving the objectives of economic and industrial development in the country. It also has a positive role and serious responsibility to preserve religious values and civilisation.

For this reason, the Public Service, particularly the Prime Minister's Office, should always be willing to organise and carry out relevant measures in order to obtain economic development that is balanced in aspects of physical and spiritual obligation.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the Isra' Me'raj celebration for the Prime Minister's Office and departments under it on January 8, the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Alimin further stressed that any activity which does not take into account physical and spiritual obligations would only bring about repercussions, which are not beneficial in the long term.

"'Reverses' that will exist would not only bring about losses but are also dangerous to the process of other development," he pointed out.

The Permanent Secretary further highlighted that the economic development is motivated by and relies upon the progress and growth of the private sector, in which the public service should act as a catalyst or supporter.

"But we also need to understand that the working attitude and ethics in the public service, purposely or not, may influence and shape the development and credibility of private sector," he pointed out.

The Public Service is one of the established institutions with its own 'mannerism' and traditional values, while the private sector we are now identifying with is one that is new and young, and changes rapidly in its needs and nature.

The Permanent Secretary outlined measures that need to be considered in order to fulfill the responsibility of the Public Service as a facilitator and supporter. These include identifying matters such as old rules and by-laws which may be out dated and making relevant efforts to change and revise them, and legislating new rules which are relevant to the present aspiration, without affecting the values of Islamic civilisation.

In a speech at the Islamic Dakwah Centre, the Permanent Secretary earlier stressed the main factors that influence and colour the Islamic progress and civilisation at present, and probably in the future. These are the economic and trade development in the region and the rise of Islamic awareness all over the world.

"Both factors could be viewed as being antagonistic to one another, as there is the possibility that negative

elements pursue economic activities only for the sake of economic development," he stressed.

On the contrary, he added, in a planned and controlled situation, the process of economic growth should be able to help achieve its objectives, by emphasising consideration on the values of Islamic discipline and mankind.

"At the same time, economic activities could, on the other hand, help further uphold and strengthen the development of Islam in the country," the Permanent Secretary stressed.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Alimin later touched on the rapid growth of the Asia Pacific economies with countries in the ASEAN region in the front line, though they lag slightly behind the New Industrial Economies (NIEs).

Since the achievement of peace in Kampuchea and the settlement of nuclear issue in North Korea, the main issues are in the form of economic competition and trade relations, said the Permanent Secretary. The general framework of (GATT/WTO) lays down the practice on cooperation and development among ASEAN countries and APEC, which is considered as part of 'peace dividend' since the end of Cold War in Europe, he noted.

Within the ASEAN Free Trade Area Agreement (AFTA) and understandings achieved under APEC,

ASEAN is a mechanism for the development of economic cooperation and trade liberalisation, he said, while adding that these main regional efforts are further strengthened by the economic cooperation at primary regional level, such as the Singapore-Johore-Riau Growth Triangle (SIJORI), Indoneisa-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), and the recently established Brunei-Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines - East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

Efforts such as these, he pointed out, bring together the regional areas under small regional organisations. It is also hoped that these would enable the areas to be opened for local and foreign investments and for the increase of trade and economic growth.

Economic growth is, therefore, viewed in these countries a positive process, which is beneficial and encouraging for positive developments, such as peace and security which finally contribute towards peace and harmony of the people, he said.

Earlier in his speech, the Permanent Secretary spoke about several incidents to which we should give concern and from which we should learn a lesson. These include the deterioration of Soviet Bloc that reveals the development of Islam all over the world, and the problem in Bosnia Herzegovina.

**W**ith the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the Department of Forestry allocating some B\$5 million into its development that includes infrastructure and public amenities, the national park at ulu (interior) Temburong district will surely be yet another major attraction in the country -



*A national recreational park not to be missed!*

for tourists and locals alike in future. The development of the national park, accessible only by boats, comes under the current Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan to encourage ecotourism as part of the on-going economic diversification efforts. Situated not far from the now-renowned Kuala Belalong Rainforest Research Centre, the national park covers some 50 hectares of tropical rainforests rich in flora and fauna, some unique only to the area. Already various facilities are being constructed to enable visitors to have close looks and enjoy the environmental surroundings of the park.



## *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 : 316.1mm  
 (annual 2,818mm)

### **PRIME LENDING RATE**

December 5.75%

(quoted by Bankers' Association)

## *Brunei Malay in a minute*

**E**ach edition of this Brunei Darussalam Newsletter introduces readers to a Brunei Malay word, which is particularly peculiar only to the country.

We have selected the word **kalangan** for this edition. **Kalangan** is fed up or bored,

and in standard Malay it is bosan or jemu.

In a sentence..... 'Pesakit itu **kalangan** makan ubat setiap hari'.

The patient is fed up of taking medicines everyday.

**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.**