



Enhance commitment towards development

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 22 - 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 highlighted that the currency crisis that is happening in Asia and the prediction of a weak economy should be treated as a lesson so that everyone would not take for granted the prosperity that has been enjoyed all these while.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated the matter in his *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 14th National Day Celebration, which was broadcasted across the country through Radio and Television Brunei (RTB).

This matter, His Majesty continued, should enhance our commitment towards development efforts that are currently being implemented, or will be implemented by the government from time to time.

According to the Monarch, peace is known as the basis of everything, and an asset that determines the state of living. Hence, every nation that realises this would sacrifice anything to preserve their state of peace.

His Majesty thus emphasised his hope that the people of the country would also be willing to do so.

His Majesty also added that there is nothing that is more meaningful, as we enter a new millennium, than being endowed with a state of peace, for it is only with peace that we are able to attain our aspirations.

This matter can be observed through current situations, said His Majesty: that is, whenever peace cannot be established in a country, the country will then experience various crises which will cause a lot of sufferings.

Talking about the currency and economic crisis that are happening in Asia, the Monarch advised the need to learn from how the situations can change drastically



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 delivering *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 14th National Day Celebration.

and cause unpleasantness in countries that are badly affected. His Majesty also described the crisis as being the most serious since World War II.

"These suggested actions not only have to do with savings, but they also include the nation's production and revenue," said the Monarch.

His Majesty further mentioned that in the interest of the citizens and the people, development programmes in the form of government plans including defence, construction, housing, educational facilities and medical services, basic infrastructure, transportation as well as communications will continue to receive proper attention.

In addition, His Majesty also stressed that it is important for the people to develop skills as valuable contributions to the country. In his *titah*, His Majesty mentioned that the lack of interest towards the private sector needs to be improved

as it will result in losses, not only to the individuals but also to the country.

For the locals, stressed the Monarch, it is important to understand that even though we are using human resources from outside the country, the available opportunities need to be seized first by the locals and residents of the country.

"We would be even more proud if a career field, whether it is in the government or private sector, is being held by the local youths. It is time for us to make this matter as part of the country's visions. Let us give birth to a love-to-work culture without choosing the employers, be it the government or the private sector," said His Majesty.

The Monarch then urged for the mentality to be practiced from now on for the future generations to follow.



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His Majesty grants 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 consented to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:



His Excellency General Richard B. Myers, General of the United States of America Pacific Air Forces on February 11.



Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar, Minister of Defence, Malaysia on February 12.

Audience with Her Majesty

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



Datin Seri Syarifah Aziah binti Syed Zainal Abidin, spouse of the Minister of Defence, Malaysia, on February 12.



Kamariah binti Yusof, spouse of the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam on February 16.



Kaniz Fateema Hussain, spouse of the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam on February 18.

His Royal Highness receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs consented to receive in audience at the Balai Penghadapan Bukit Kayangan:



His Excellency General Richard B. Myers, General of the United States of America Pacific Air Forces on February 11.



Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Minister of Education, Malaysia on February 19.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah 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 deliver congratulatory messages to:

- The Honourable Sir Michael Hardie-Boys, Governor of New Zealand and The Honourable Miss Jenny Shipley, Prime Minister of New Zealand on the occasion of Waitangi Day on February 6.
- His Majesty Sheikh Jaber Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait and His Majesty Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al Sabah, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait on the occasion of Kuwait National Day on February 25.

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His Majesty also touched on the existence of a group of people among the locals and residents who are unemployed due to their lack of qualifications, especially for the private sector.

"In regards to this, several appropriate programmes that are currently available need to be enhanced to help them attain the qualifications and skills," His Majesty suggested.

His Majesty then continued his *titah* by stating the need for a resolution to be a free nation that prioritises unity; in order to guarantee a long-term future bolstered by a unified

force and spirit, without giving any opportunity to other unwanted factors.

The Monarch further mentioned the need to protect and develop the country with the support of prayers, in the hopes that the nation will be sheltered by Allah, as well as prosper with steady blessings, comfort and sustenance.

His Majesty also hoped for the people to uphold the concept of progressing while praying, as the nation would not be able to stand on its own without the help of Allah.

Brunei celebrates 14th National Day



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 during the *Majlis Kesyukuran* (Thanksgiving Ceremony) held in conjunction with the 14th National Day Celebration. Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

BERAKAS, February 23 - 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 14th National Day Celebration held at the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Indoor Sports Complex.

The theme for this year's National Day is '*Membina Insan Yang Sempurna Dengan Pendidikan Bersepadu*' (Developing excellent individuals with integrated education).

Upon arrival at the Indoor Stadium, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hussain bin Pehin Orang Kaya Di-Gadong Seri Di-Raja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports as the Chairman of Brunei Darussalam's 14th National Day Celebration Committee, as well as the members of the committee.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; as well as other members of the royal family.

The event began with a series of march-past parades by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, the Royal Brunei Police Force, and the Royal Brunei Police Cadet Force.

The celebration then continued with choir and arts performances by students organised by the Department of Co-curriculum Education and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being greeted by members of the 14th National Day Celebration Committee upon arrival.

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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 at the 14th National Day Celebration. Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen. (right and below).



The highlight of the event was the formation of the 14th National Day logo by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, the Royal Brunei Police Force, the Brunei Fire and Rescue Department and the Royal Brunei Police Cadet Force; followed by a parade of flags and logos of the previous National Day events.

The state pledge was also read at the event by Awang Khusairi bin Haji Abdul Kahar, a student from the University of Brunei Darussalam.

This year's National Day Celebration was held at a different venue compared to the past years, where the celebrations were held at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

Prior to the event, His Majesty also attended a *Majlis Kesyukuran* (Thanksgiving Ceremony) in conjunction with the 14th National Day Celebration on February 22 at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

At the ceremony, His Majesty and the royal family members performed a mass Maghrib Prayer led by Yang Dimulikan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia

Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya bin Haji Ibrahim.

Following the prayer, a recitation of *Surah Yaa Siin* was led by Yang Dimulikan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office while the recitation of *Doa Kesyukuran* was led by Yang Dimulikan Lagi Dihormati Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti.

A mass Isyak prayer was then conducted, led by Yang Dimulikan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya.

Tahlil Ceremony held at the Royal Brunei Mausoleum



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 at the *Tahlil* ceremony conducted for His Majesty Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam II, the late Monarch and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit binti Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 7 - 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 attend a *Tahlil* Ceremony at the Royal Brunei Mausoleum, Jalan Tutong.

The *Tahlil* Ceremony was conducted especially for His Majesty Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam II, the late Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit binti Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman.

Present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Also in attendance were State Dignitaries, Cabinet Ministers, Legislative Council members, Permanent Secretaries and senior government officials.

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His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah at the *Tahlil* ceremony.

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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 and other members of the royal family during the recitation of *Surah Al-Fatihah* and *Tahlil* at the ceremony.

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Upon arrival at the Royal Brunei Mausoleum, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the royal family members were welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Md. Zain bin Haji Serudin, Minister of Religious Affairs.

The *Tahlil* Ceremony began with a mass recitation of *Surah Al-Fatihah* followed by a recitation of *Tahlil* led by Yang Dimuliakan Lagi Dihormati Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti.

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His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at the *Tahlil* ceremony.



Other members of the royal family who were also present at the *Tahlii* ceremony His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkih (top); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik (middle); and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (bottom).

Over 61,000 visit the palace



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 along with His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah during the the *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) session at Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 2 – 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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; along with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz consented to receive a total of 61,780 visitors in conjunction with this year's Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration.

At the celebration, which was held at the Istana Nurul Iman on the second, third and fourth day of Hari Raya, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received audiences and the *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) greetings from the male visitors consisting of government officials and staff, uniformed forces such as the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, the Royal Brunei Police Force, the Brunei Fire and Rescue Department, the Brunei Prison Department, as well as individuals and visitors from all over the country.

Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; His Royal Highness

Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and other members of the royal family.

Meanwhile in another section of the palace, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam also received audiences and *junjung ziarah* greetings from female visitors.

Joining Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri were the daughters and sisters of His Majesty, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Nor'ain; Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Norhayati; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam as well as other royal members.

A total of 21,187 visitors went to the Istana Nurul Iman on the first day the palace was opened for the Hari Raya celebration; followed by another 25,578 visitors on the second day; and 15,015 visitors on the third.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam (left); along with other members of the royal family during the *junjung ziarah* session at the Istana Nurul Iman (above).

His Majesty hosts Royal Banquet



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 and Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia during the audience and the Royal Banquet.

JERUDONG, February 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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; along with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz consented to receive in audience Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Dr. Siti Hasmah binti Mohd. Ali at the Royal Golf and Country Club.

During the session, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held a discussion with

the Prime Minister of Malaysia on regional affairs and the current economic situation in South-East Asia.

Afterwards, Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam invited Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Mahathir and Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Dr. Siti Hasmah to a Royal Banquet in the evening.

Also present during the Royal Banquet was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia was on a one-day working visit to Brunei Darussalam, as part of his visiting programme to ASEAN countries.

Hari Raya celebration for the less fortunate

JERUDONG, February 6 - 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 and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz hosted a Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration for the country's less fortunate population.

The event, which was held at the Istana Nurul Izzah, Jerudong, commenced with a recitation of *Doa Selamat* by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Khatib Haji Awang Hamidon bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Abdul Hamid.

Also in attendance at the event was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah.

Apart from orphans across the country, the Hari Raya celebration was also attended by members of the Paraplegic and Physically Disabled Association of Brunei Darussalam (PAPDA) and the Association of Disabled Children (KACA).

At the celebration, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam received *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) greetings from over 7,000 attendees, including families.

PAPDA and KACA were established to help improve and upgrade the living standards and welfare of those who are disabled.

In addition, the associations also play their parts in raising awareness and understanding for the various problems and difficulties faced by the disabled.

The government through relevant departments, has been and will continue to improve their care towards the disabled and those in need of mental and physical assistance and guidance.

Every year during Hari Raya Aidilfitri, the less fortunate of the country are never forgotten. The hosting of these celebrations have given them opportunities to present their Hari Raya and *junjung ziarah* greetings to His Majesty and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, as well as other members of the royal family.

Discussing regional economic and political affairs



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 audience from Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia during his working visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 February - 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 Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia at one of the most renowned hotels in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

During the session, the two country leaders discussed about regional economic and political affairs, particularly on matters arising from the current financial crisis that are affecting ASEAN country members.

Both leaders also discussed bilateral issues, especially those relating to efforts in strengthening cooperation in the fields of economy and investment opportunities in Malaysia.

Also in attendance during the session was His Royal Highness Prince Jefri Bolkiah and His Excellency Tun Abdul Daim bin Zainuddin.

After the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam then attended a luncheon hosted by the Prime Minister of Malaysia. His Majesty was on a working visit to Malaysia for two days.

Exchanging views on matters of mutual interest

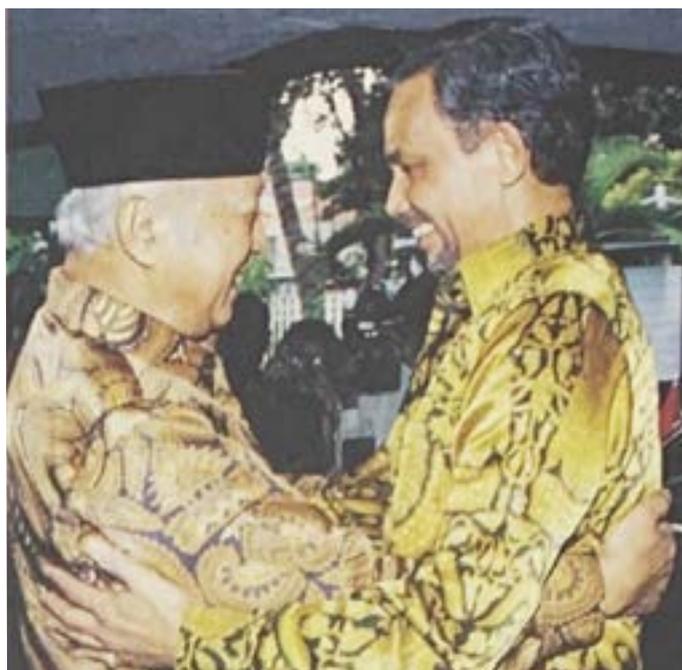
JAKARTA, February 5 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended an informal meeting with His Excellency President Suharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia at His Excellency's residence in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia.

During the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, including the current financial and economic status of both neighbouring countries, as well as the entire region.

Attending the informal meeting alongside His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and His Excellency Pengiran Setia Jaya Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin bin Pengiran Haji Othman, Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia.

Also present was His Excellency Mr. Moerdiono, Minister of the State Secretariat, Republic of Indonesia.

The meeting was then followed by a courtesy visit to His Excellency Mr. Try Sutrisno, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, at His Excellency's official residence in Jakarta. His Majesty was in the capital of the Republic of Indonesia for a courtesy visit in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidilfitri 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 with His Excellency President Suharto, President of the Republic of Indonesia in Jakarta.

NAM CSSTC : Enhancing technical co-operation



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 with His Excellency President Suharto, the President of the Republic of Indonesia during the officiation ceremony for the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) building.

JAKARTA, February 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, consented to officiate the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM CSSTC) building with His Excellency President Suharto, the President of the Republic of Indonesia.

The project was jointly funded by Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Indonesia in the aim of enhancing the technical co-operation between developing countries in order to meet the Non-Aligned Movement's (NAM) long-term objectives in the technical field.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

At the event, His Excellency Mr. Nana Sutresna, Ambassador-at-Large of the Republic of Indonesia in his capacity

as the Chief Executive of NAM, presented an opening speech where he provided an explanation for the centre's background.

Afterwards, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to press the push-button and sign the plaque indicating the officiation of the NAM CSSTC building together with the President of the Republic of Indonesia.

His Majesty and His Excellency President Suharto then watched a video presentation on the role of the centre.

The establishment of the centre was an inspiration of His Excellency President Suharto during his time as the Chairman of NAM between the years of 1992 and 1995.

It was approved during the 11th NAM Summit in Cartagena, Colombia in 1995.

The centre is equipped with a conference hall, which can host up to 500 people; a seminar room; a library; sports facilities; a business centre; and 68 accommodation rooms.

Women's Council hosts Hari Raya Celebration

BERAKAS, February 15 - Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz attended a get-together ceremony in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations hosted by the Women's Council of Brunei Darussalam.

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam were greeted upon arrival at the International Conference Centre by the members of the council's Governing Board Committee, which was led by Datin Hajjah Edah binti Haji Mohd Noor, President of the Women's Council of Brunei Darussalam.

Also in attendance were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Nor'ain; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

In her welcoming speech Datin Hajjah Edah revealed several developments that have been achieved by the Women's Council to date, aside from the admission of two new women's associations as new members of the council.

According to her, the two new associations – which is the Badan Kebajikan Pegawai-Pegawai Wanita, Isteri-Isteri, Anak-Anak dan Kakitangan Wanita Jabatan Penjara (Female Officers, Wives,



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam being welcomed upon arrival at the get-together ceremony in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration hosted by the Women's Council of Brunei Darussalam.

Children and Prison Department Female Staff Welfare Association – PELITA) and the Women Graduates Association of Brunei Darussalam (PSW) – have added the council's membership to eleven. Before the celebration's performance began, Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, as patrons of the council, consented to receive a bouquet of flowers respectively as souvenirs presented by the President of the Women's Council.

Several performances in conjunction with the Aidilfitri celebrations were presented by a collaboration of women associations in the country, including medleys, poetry, comedy and nasyid performances.

At this event Her Majesty, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam and the other members of the royal family received *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) greetings.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam at the get-together ceremony in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration along with other members of the royal family.

Develop more efficient programmes and activities



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah in a group photo with the members of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) during the 33rd SEAMEO Council Conference (SEAMEC).

JERUDONG, February 16 – In conjunction with the 33rd Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Council Conference (SEAMEC), His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah hosted a banquet for the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education at the Polo Club, Jerudong.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah received a warm welcome from Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz Begawan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Umar, Minister of Education and Her Excellency Dr. Elina C. Pefianco, President of SEAMEO.

Previously, on February 15, His Royal Highness officiated the Opening Ceremony for the 33rd SEAMEC at the Brunei International Conference Centre.

At the event, His Royal Highness delivered a *sabda* (royal speech), stating that the current global crisis emphasises the need for a change towards self-reliance through globally oriented systematic strategies that ensure regional distribution, in establishing a better quality of life for all.

Looking at the current economic crisis, integrated efforts should be directed towards developing more efficient programmes and activities, while also pursuing more effective approaches, His Royal Highness continued.

His Royal Highness also expressed his confidence in SEAMEO's new vision. The organisation is expected to receive international recognition, and enhance regional understanding as well as cooperation in science and culture for better standards of living.

"The new vision underlines, among others, an intellectual forum for specialists and policy makers as well as the formation of regional centres to promote human development," His Royal Highness added.

According to His Royal Highness, the SEAMEO centres' good work in addressing human resources over the past three year has been successful. However, it needs to be continued and strengthened in preparation for future crisis.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah viewing the exhibition on the development of the SEAMEO countries.

During the ceremony His Royal Highness also observed up-close the event's exhibitions, which were related to the development of SEAMEO countries.

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Develop more efficient programmes and activities

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His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by Yang Berhormat the Minister of Education and Her Excellency the President of SEAMEO.

The opening ceremony commenced with a recitation of Al-Quran verses by a student of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Tahfiz Al-Quran Institute, followed by a welcoming speech by the Minister of Education. The President of SEAMEO also presented her opening remarks at the event.

Over 200 representatives of SEAMEO country members attended the three-day conference. The event was also attended by associate countries, which are Australia, Canada, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Germany.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the Opening Ceremony of the 33rd Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Council Conference (SEAMEC).



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah during the banquet for the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education.

Working towards an integrated educational curriculum



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Umar, Minister of Education, during the Opening Ceremony for the '98 Malaysian Education Exhibition at the International Conference Centre.

BERAKAS, February 19 – Brunei Darussalam is working on developing an integrated educational curriculum that incorporates divine information into several syllabus said Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Umar, Minister of Education.

The incorporation of this integration into geography, biology and history syllabuses will further guarantee our success in producing balanced individuals, including scientists who are *muttaqin* (believers) and scientifically minded scholars such as those who were produced during the Islamic Golden Age, he continued.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz explained the matter during the Opening Ceremony for the '98 Malaysian Education Exhibition at the International Conference Centre.

According to the Minister, religious subjects are often seen to be taught in opposition with secular subjects. The integration between the curriculum contents of the two subject categories is yet to be evident.

Touching on the higher institutions in the country, Yang Berhormat clarified that the institutions are also open for students from other countries.

"In this situation of economic difficulty, several students from our associate countries have been affected and were forced to return home before completing their studies. Nevertheless, we are ready to offer placements to them if the courses that they are taking are in line with the ones here," the Minister added.

Yang Berhormat further stated that the government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has offered a number of scholarships through several schemes for students from ASEAN, Commonwealth and OIC countries; apart from bilateral scholarships.

The education exhibition, which was conducted for the first time in Brunei and will also be held in other ASEAN countries, among other objectives, aimed to promote educational institutions in Malaysia to other nations.