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36th National Day: Piety is the best policy



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 delivers a *titah* in conjunction with the 36th National Day of Brunei Darussalam.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 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 highlighted in a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the 36th National Day of Brunei Darussalam's celebration on February 22 said that '*takwa*' or piety is the best policy that acts as a platform which can bring us to success. It ensures that specific groups are defended and protected.

His Majesty stressed that human resource or manpower is undoubtedly the country's most valuable asset as they will strive to shape life, in line with the needs. His Majesty emphasised the importance to pursue higher education in order to produce skilled resources.

On February 23, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to join all levels of society to celebrate the 36th National Day of Brunei Darussalam which took place at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin.

Also gracing the event were His Majesty's sons and brothers, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The Grand Assembly began with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspecting the Guard of Honour Parade comprising personnel of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF).

The Grand Assembly proceeded with the march past by 161 teams involving more than 25,000 participants led by the giant-size national flag bearers. This was followed by the Pledge Reading Team, bearers of the national flag and 36th National Day logo flag, as well as other teams according to their clusters.

Taking part in the march past were His Majesty's daughters, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah as members of the National Contingent at the 30th Southeast Asian Games in the Philippines.

The National Day Pledge reading comprised of 36 representatives led by Muhammad Fatin Abdul Rahman bin Kifli, a teacher at the Co-curriculum Education Department. Meanwhile, Pengiran Ahmad Faris Ramadhani bin Pengiran Haji Sellahhuddin, Mosque Affairs Officer of the Ministry of Religious Affairs led the three calls of 'Allahu Akbar'.

Further enlivening the celebration, 'Alun Genderang' was performed by 936 participants comprised of the RBAF Cadet Band, RBPF Cadet Band, youths, primary and secondary school students as well as PKBN trainees.

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His Majesty signs the Exchange of Letters

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, February 4 - 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 bilateral meeting with The Right Honourable Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland held at No. 10, Downing Street, London.

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18. 1,500 participate in Walk, Run and Cycle event



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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 audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



His Excellency Sirojiddin Muhridin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan on February 10.



His Excellency General To Lam, Minister of Public Security of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on February 15.

His Majesty sends message of condolences

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 a message of condolences to His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China and to His Excellency Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, the government as well as the people of the People's Republic of China on the outbreak of coronavirus (2019-nCoV) that started in Hubei province on February 8.



Senator The Honourable Marise Payne, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women, Australia on February 19.

Their Majesties receive audience

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 received audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Mohd. Shafie bin Haji Apdal, Chief Minister of Sabah and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Panglima Hajah Shuryani binti Datuk Shuaib on February 12.



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 Dr. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the government and the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of its National Day on February 10.

- His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, Emperor of Japan and His

Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan as well as to the government and the people of Japan on the occasion of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, Emperor of Japan's birthday anniversary on February 23.

- His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait and His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, as well as to the government and the people of the State of Kuwait on the occasion of its National Day on February 25.

His Majesty signs the Exchange of Letters



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and The Right Honourable Boris Johnson in front of No. 10, Downing Street, London.

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Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

During the meeting, His Majesty and The



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 The Right Honourable Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the signing of Exchange of Letters. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Right Honourable discussed on issues of mutual interest such as defence, trade, climate change, and ASEAN-UK relationship as well as other bilateral cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the United Kingdom.

His Majesty also extended an invitation to The Right Honourable to visit Brunei Darussalam. Both leaders reaffirmed existing bilateral relationships and are committed to strengthening existing and future cooperation. The leaders also discussed other matters that are beneficial to both countries.

His Majesty also consented to sign the Exchange of Letters in the Field of Defence with The Right Honourable.

Both countries have long-established cooperation in the field of defence, and the exchange of notes is intended to strengthen defence relations by fostering closer collaboration between the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and the British Armed Forces in areas of mutual interest such as training, operations and disaster relief, as well as sharing professional expertise including security concerns.

Chinese New Year Get-Together celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 15 - 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 graced the Chinese New Year Get-Together celebration organised by the Tiongghua community in the country. The event took place at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

Upon arrival, Their Majesties and other members of the royal family joined a group photo session with the organising committee.



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 graces the Chinese New Year Get-Together celebration.

The get-together celebration was enlivened with several dances and singing performances, performed by Tiongghua dancers, Studio Eleve, students from Chung Hua School Kuala Belait, Brunei Darussalam Wushu Association and dancers from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

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UBD need to produce generation of great quality



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 delivers a *titah* during an unscheduled visit to Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

TUNGKU LINK, February 18 – Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) is recognised

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Among those, joining the performance was His Majesty's granddaughter, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah binti His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

Before leaving, Their Majesties and other members of royal family mingled with the Tiongghua community and received *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet).

Their Majesties together with His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office in a group photo.



Their Majesties and other members of royal family in a group photo during the Chinese New Year Get-Together celebration.

as a renowned institution of higher learning in Asia. It was established in 1985, with its first intake of just over 100 students, and the number continues to grow over the years.

"I was made to understand that UBD is guided by five core values, namely people, expertise, aptitude, relevance and leadership. I see that such goals are commendable, as character is a measure of status or quality. Those with outstanding character normally possess great quality. This is the quality that we want UBD to produce in a generation of great quality".

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 delivered the *titah* (royal speech) during an unscheduled visit to UBD.

His Majesty added, "The quality that we seek is not fame, but possess values such as faith, obedience,

knowledge, trust and justice. This is our culture, we should strive to avoid deferring to or imitating other cultures, although the culture comes from places with great names. Having a great name alone is insignificant, if the inner elements are defective. I would like UBD to become the foundation for protecting the identity, of the Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB)".

"MIB is also accommodating towards the rest of the world, as we respect those who respect us. This is where UBD should play its role in promoting the MIB through its character and lifestyle, including social and academic activities such as community activities, talks, writings, studies, and so on," said His Majesty.

"These are among the significant challenges that we face, especially in this era, where external influences that surround us persistently. All this requires caution from all parties, especially those who are in charge of education," said His Majesty.

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UBD need to produce generation of great quality



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam tours Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

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His Majesty also touched on the importance of identity, where identity must be preserved. "Identity is not meant to be merely a slogan, but to be used in terms of demeanour."

Earlier, His Majesty toured several campuses at UBD, including the UBD School of Business and Economics; and the male and female students' hostels.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visits the students' hostels.



His Majesty interacting with the students.

Their Majesties attend Wedding Reception



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia at the event.

KOTA KINABALU, SABAH, February 20 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin 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 attended a Wedding Reception of the son of Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Mohammad Shafie bin Haji Apdal, Chief Minister of Sabah and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Panglima Datuk Hajah Shuryani binti Datuk Haji Shuaib. The reception took place at The Magellan Sutura Resort, Kota Kinabalu.

Upon arrival, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were greeted by the Chief Minister of Sabah and spouse. Their Majesties were then introduced to the groom, Mohd. Shahmi bin Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Mohammad Shafie and bride, Nurtasha Jayos binti Ahmad Johar, whose marriage was solemnised on Sunday, February 16. The solemnisation was held at Marriott Hotel, Putrajaya.

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The Wedding Reception was further enlivened with the 'Merenjis Ceremony' for the newlyweds and followed with a banquet.

Among the distinguished guests at the reception were His Majesty the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia; Their Royal Highnesses the Raja of Perlis and the Raja Perempuan of Perlis; His Excellencies the Yang Di-Pertua Negeri and respective spouses; and Yang Amat Berhormat the Menteri-Menteri Besar.

The presence of His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri at the ceremony reflects the warm and close ties that have long existed between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia in general, and Sabah in particular.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin 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 during the 'Merenjis Ceremony'.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri during the Wedding Reception of the son of Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Mohammad Shafie bin Haji Apdal, Chief Minister of Sabah, Mohd. Shahmi bin Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Mohammad Shafie, held at The Magellan Sutura Resort.



Their Majesties together with distinguished guests in a group photo with the bride and groom at the reception.



36th National Day: Piety is the best policy



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With the theme, 'Menjayakan Wawasan Negara', the field performance involved 7,338 participants from various sectors and national development agencies,

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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 attending the *Doa Kesyukuran* ceremony in conjunction with the 36th National Day celebration at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque. Also in attendance were His Majesty's sons and brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah during the Grand Assembly.



An aerial view of the field performance showing the participants forming 'Allahu Akbar'.



Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah as members of the National Contingent at the 30th Southeast Asian Games in the Philippines taking part at the march past.



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 inspects the Guard of Honour Parade comprising personnel of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and Royal Brunei Police Force.

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portraying unity and solidarity in instilling the sovereignty of the monarch and country as well as in upholding the objective of Brunei Vision 2035. The performance depicted the country's development efforts by evaluating sustainable development aspects, bringing the younger generation to be prepared to defend the country and at the same time answering the challenge from the explosion of technology, communication and Fourth Industrial Revolution.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) with the participants of the national day celebration .



The National Day Pledge reading led by Muhammad Fatin Abdul Rahman bin Kifi, a teacher at the Co-curriculum Education Department.



The march past during the Grand Assembly.

Achieve target to meet self-sufficiency

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 26 – “In a strategic plan, the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism has targeted an increase of primary resources’ gross product from \$511 million in 2015 to \$1.8 billion by 2020, an average increase of 28.8 per cent per annum. Meanwhile, for the tourism sector, the ministry aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 218,000 in 2015 to 450,000 in 2020, an average increase of 5.9 per cent per annum.”

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 stated the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) during an unscheduled visit to the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT).

In this regard, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam emphasised that target must be provided with data, especially in the agricultural and fisheries sector. Similarly, the existence of job opportunities in these sectors are unknown, apart from citing figures on targeted job opportunities.

“For instance, we managed to attain 5 per cent of self-sufficiency for rice production in 2017, while in 2020, the ministry is targeting rice production to 11 per cent. When the target is set at 11 per cent, then all attention must be centred on that figure. We should not reminisce the 5 per cent figure but look forward to achieving the 11 per cent target. This is how people climb to reach their desired target,” said His Majesty.

His Majesty also advised all MPRT personnel not to be anxious with

motivational terms, such as the self-sufficient term, which serves the purpose of meeting one's needs. Its usage should be used continuously for as long as the objective of self-sufficiency has not been achieved.

In implementing the ministry's vision and mission, His Majesty stressed that leadership is the pillar, and therefore, leadership should be upright and cannot be bent. In handling requests or complaints, a leader should not be provincial or family-centred, but to manage it equitably, by following the specified rules.

“Leaders need to evaluate before making any decisions. All matters must be considered in-depth,” said His Majesty.

His Majesty in a *titah* also said that the weakness or defect is when a leader does not trust his subordinates or unwilling to accept the views of other people even though the suggestion is good. Such an attitude goes against the concept of the convention.

For instance, the desire to privatise agricultural areas is viewed as beneficial and capable of boosting production. However, deciding on who should manage it requires deep consideration.

“The ministry should not assume wealth is the only factor eligible for a project to be awarded to the private sector. If this happens, then all the projects will be monopolised by the affluent or big companies. Privatisation is not intended to diminish the structure of government, nor should the government be merely content with the achievements or high output of the private sector, while the government is a spectator. This is



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 delivers a *titah* during an unscheduled visit to the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism.

important for policymakers and policy-holders to understand,” His Majesty said.

His Majesty also highlighted on the current major challenge that is the large-scale commercial paddy planting project at Kandol, Belait District, with an allocation of 500 hectares of land. Therefore, His Majesty hoped the relevant agencies for the project to be engaged in determining its success, and ensure that it functions appropriately and be prepared to tackle problems that arise.

His Majesty added, we should continue to study and carry out research on sites, rivers, fields and the risk of using pesticides. Apart from that, they should be ready for the second phase of the project, which will be more challenging, as the area is hilly and not conducive for excavation and levelling work. This is also the right time to see the effective role of the appointed consultant.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam tours several units during an unscheduled visit to the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism.



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 being briefed during an unscheduled visit to the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism.

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In a *titah*, His Majesty expressed frustration at the failure to meet the goals for Bio-Innovation Corridor in Tungku, which cost over \$20 million. Despite efforts to make it into an agricultural site, the response is not favourable. However, it has been offered to domestic and foreign investors to undertake the cultivation of fruits and vegetables.

His Majesty emphasised that the matter should not be taken lightly, which is sure to happen because of the planner's weakness and inefficiency.

His Majesty also touched on the issues of agriculture where products and prices from abroad are far cheaper compared to the local. As a result, foreign produce has better sales and is affecting local farmers and cultivators.

“Market plots are also an issue, which the locals lease some of the stalls to foreigners, such as Pasar Tani Selayun, Mukim Sengkurong 'B', where foreign tenants are monopolising the stalls. Unfortunately, they are raising and lowering the products' prices without being monitored or controlled by the relevant parties,” His Majesty further stated that the weaknesses and inefficiencies also occur in current regulatory matters.

His Majesty further expressed concern about the regulation of goods such as fruits, vegetables, and fish before being sold to the public, which means ensuring that these goods are free from harmful insecticides and sprayed excessively. The same applies to fish brought from abroad.

“We are aware that the agricultural sector still faces several challenges and



problems. Among those challenges is how to instil interest in farming among farmers and how to increase the number of people to venture into this field. Currently, the interest and numbers of farmers are still low. Some farmers are retirees who do not work full-time, but to fill their free time”.

In this regard, His Majesty is doubtful whether the growth and progress of the agricultural sector can flourish and urged to make changes if the situation persists.

In regards to the fisheries, His Majesty further stated that the country is not able to meet the nation's requirement and is still heavily dependent on the production of fish from neighbouring countries.

“Local entrepreneurs are unstable. When being observed at the Fish Landing Complex, Fisheries Department in Serasa, most of the fishing trawlers are monopolised by locals. However, their production is incapable of competing with fish brought in from other countries”.

His Majesty stressed the relevant agencies not to overlook the issue of vessels being sub-contracted to foreigners without any regulation. It would not be surprising if their catch were still being sold to restaurants in the country.

Marine resources are among the industry that is capable of boosting the nation's revenue. However, initiating it requires a workforce, asset and expertise. Towards this, the industry needs innovative and organised planning. It is high time for the country to possess great supremacy of entrepreneurship.

His Majesty also touched on the importance of forest resources as Brunei Darussalam is renowned for its high-quality agarwood (*kayu gaharu*).

“However, the monitoring and regulation are questionable as illegal logging activities at the border continue to be heard. If the situation continues, our assets will be greatly diminished,” said His Majesty.

In the *titah*, His Majesty stated his desire to make Brunei Darussalam into an attractive tourist destination. In the meantime, Brunei Darussalam still lacks of exciting places and facilities, but this can be overcome gradually through future development plans.

“What is important now is to preserve and maintain existing facilities, and make them attractive and clean instead of neglecting them. There are grievances that many tourist attractions are not properly maintained, and some are abandoned. If this is true, then it is an embarrassment,” said His Majesty.

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New Shell V-Power fuels launched

JERUDONG, February 10 - The Shell V-Power fuels will not replace any existing products at Brunei Shell Marketing (BSM) retail stations. The Shell V-Power Petrol and Diesel will be two additional fuels to the existing product range to offer more choices to customers.

The prices of the V-Power fuels will be reviewed regularly to ensure they remain competitive regionally. Both

V-Power Petrol and Diesel will be sold at 82 cents per litre and will be available at 14 retail stations starting from February 16.

Muhammad Norshafiee bin Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil, Managing Director of BSM, announced the matter in his welcoming speech at the launching event of the Shell V-Power Fuels held at The Empire Brunei.

Launching the Shell V-Power Fuels was 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, in his capacity as Chairman of the BSM Board of Directors.

New Shell V-Power fuels launched



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, in his capacity as Chairman of Brunei Shell Marketing Company Sdn. Bhd. (BSM) Board of Directors in a group photo.

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The Managing Director added, Shell V-Power is a premium fuel, and it enables car engines to operate at their optimal best and more effective in providing fuel efficiency and power. It has been tested through extensive research and development between Shell and Ferrari. It has also been extensively tested over three million kilometres in various road conditions on over 250 different cars.

To complement the Shell V-Power fuels, BSM also introduced a lubricant co-engineered for the ultimate engine power and performance, the Shell Helix Power lubricant.

"BSM is exploring ways to innovate our business and improve our customers' experience. We are looking into offering alternative energy solutions such as EV charging, as well as bringing customised non-fuel products while leveraging on digitalisation, all geared towards offering convenience to our customers," said the Managing Director.

Following the official launch, His Royal Highness witnessed a video showcasing the evolvement of Shell fuel over the years. The event included short briefing on the benefits of Shell V-Power and how it allows car engines to perform at its peak delivered by Mr. Colin Chin, Shell's Fuel Scientists.

His Royal Highness then took a closer look at the exhibition which includes a display of BSM's 60-year journey, product information

on Shell V-Power benefits, an interactive booth, Taste-and-Feel corner and merchandise booth.

Founded in 1959, BSM is the country's sole fuel supplier for the past 60 years. BSM also has the vision to expand its presence and adopt the rapidly changing demands of customers and technologies, while preserving its stable relationship with all partners.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah being greeted by staff members of the Brunei Shell Marketing Company Sdn. Bhd.



His Royal Highness tours the exhibition at the launching event.



99th Police Day: Maintaining the country's peace, sovereignty



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 and Her Royal Highness Princes Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commandant of the Women's Police at the event.

GADONG, February 25 - Undivided loyalty towards the Monarch as well as honesty, trustworthiness and responsibility to the leader is the core of the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF), in together defending the purity of the religion, people's solidarity as well as maintaining the country's peace and sovereignty.

As a result, the challenges are now more complex for criminal cases involving terrorist threats and conflicting ideologies, including behaviours among the community that are sometimes unpredictable.

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 made the *sabda* (royal speech) at the 99th Police Day Parade held at the Police Training Centre's Parade Ground in Gadong.

His Royal Highness said in a *sabda* that

sophisticated info-communication and cyber technology has also transformed the social communication landscape and its potential threat to security.

This development, said His Royal Highness, require the police force to be ever vigilant in managing and resolving the side-effects of change which can disrupt social harmony and unity. To achieve this is by enhancing the capabilities and sense of preparedness of all police personnel, through compatible competency-building.

"In this regard, I call on all police personnel to have a sense of purpose and urgency through work culture with sustained goals and quick action, in upholding the trust of the RBPF," said His Royal Highness.

On the global front, His Royal Highness was pleased to hear that the RBPF is continually striving to expand collaborative networks with its regional and international counterparts, which includes peacekeeping missions in a

specific place of conflict. Such endeavours help to further enhance the capability and reputation of the RBAF in line with international standards.

His Royal Highness added, all police personnel must consistently be well-informed of the current security landscape by keeping up with regional and international policy, while being prepared to learn and adapt best practices, based on their perspective and positive impact to the country.

At the parade, His Royal Highness received the royal salute and inspected the guard of honour comprised of 1,021 RBPF personnel. His Royal Highness then proceeded to the new building of the Police Headquarters to view an exhibition.

His Royal Highness then headed to the Banquet Hall for breakfast, and the ceremony concluded with *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) with the officers and

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His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah delivers a *sabda* at the 99th Police Day Parade.



His Royal Highness tours an exhibition at the new building of the Police Headquarters.

99th Police Day: Maintaining the country's peace, sovereignty



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 inspects the guard of honour comprising of the Royal Brunei Police Forces personnel.

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personnel of the RBPF.

In the evening, His Royal Highness attended a ceremonial dinner to mark the RBPF's 99th anniversary held at the Banquet Hall of the Officers' Mess.

Prior to the dinner, His Royal Highness mingled with RBPF officers and personnel.

Also present at the parade and the ceremonial dinner was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commandant of the Women's Police.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah mingles with Royal Brunei Police Forces officers and personnel.



The Royal Brunei Police Force Band at the Banquet Hall of the Officers' Mess in Gadong.

SEA Games athletes receive incentive



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen receives Sports Incentive Excellence Scheme (SPKS) reward.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 17 - A total of 36 athletes, seven coaches, two assistant coaches and six national sports association representative received the Sports Incentive Excellence Scheme (SPKS) reward held at the Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex.

The recipients are medallist who participated in Polo, Netball, Wushu, Lawn Bowling, Pencak Silat and Karate events at the 30th Southeast Asian Games (30th SEA Games) on November 30 to December 11, 2019 in the Philippines.

Present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince

'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC); His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah.

Also present were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The total amount of SPKS reward received for the SEA Games was \$76,100.

The recipients included His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar, as part of the Brunei polo team.

Meanwhile, Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah received the SPKS reward in the Netball event.

The national Wushu team that bagged one gold, three silver and two bronze medals at the SEA Games received \$34,700.

Mohammad Adi Salihin bin Roslan received \$10,000 for winning a gold medal in the combined Men's Nandao and Men's Nangun events. Both Wushu coaches, Zhao Chunjie and Li Hui received \$3,600 each; and Assistant Coach Ang Lu received \$900.

The Wushu Federation of Brunei Darussalam received \$3,600. Basma Lachkar received \$5,000 for the silver medal in Taijiquan and bronze medal in Taijijian. While, Hosea Wong Zheng Yu who won silver medal in the Men's Taijiquan and bronze medal in Men's Taijijian; and Majdurano Joel Majallah Sain and Mohammad Safiee Shayferan Roslan each received \$1,500 for winning silver in the Men's Duijian.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah in a group photo with Brunei Darussalam athletes who participated in the 30th Southeast Asian Games.

Exhibition highlights the dangers of plastic pollution



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, Yang Di-Pertua of Adat Istiadat Negara tours the exhibition.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 1 - About eight million tonnes of plastic waste goes to the oceans every year, and about 79 per cent of the plastic waste is disposed of in a landfill or natural environment, while only 9 per cent is recycled.

His Excellency Mehmet Suat Akgun,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkey to Brunei Darussalam also explained in his welcoming address that up to 80 per cent of the plastic in the oceans comes from inland sources and 90 per cent of the pollution from plastics are carried by streams from 10 rivers.

At the launching of the Marine Awareness Pollution 2020 Exhibition, His Excellency said that millions of animals were killed by plastics every year, from birds to fish to other marine organisms. Nearly 700 species, including endangered ones, are known to have been affected by plastics.

Attending to officiate the exhibition was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Also present was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, Yang Di-Pertua of Adat Istiadat Negara.

The exhibition displayed underwater photos by Ms. Cecilia Lee, a certified commercial diver since 1991.

During the exhibition, Ms. Cecilia Lee shared her experiences throughout her diving activities and showed pictures taken in the Indian Ocean and the Asia-Pacific seas.

Certainly, such collaboration will enhance our awareness of the dangers of environmental pollution, including animals and marine life.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna tours the underwater photo exhibition by Ms. Cecilia Lee.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna listens to His Excellency Mehmet Suat Akgun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkey to Brunei Darussalam's explanation.

1,500 participate in Walk, Run and Cycle event



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health as well as other Cabinet Ministers in a group photo.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 9 - In an effort to unite the world in a collective voice to raise awareness on cancer and to encourage its prevention, early detection and treatment, Pantai Jerudong Specialist Centre (PJSC) and Health Promotion Centre (HPC), Ministry of Health co-organised a Walk, Run and Cycle event in conjunction with World Cancer Day 2020 at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin.

The World Cancer Day is celebrated annually on February 4, led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). The theme from the year 2019 to 2021 is 'I Am and I Will'.

Present as the guest of honour was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health.

Joining the 2-kilometre walk were Cabinet Ministers including Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister

of Home Affairs; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusoff, Second Minister of Defence; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusoff, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Ir. Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusoff, Minister of Transportation and Infocommunications; Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Also in attendance were Minister's

spouses, senior officials from the Ministry of Health and His Excellency Ministers' British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

During the event, several activities were organised to engage the public, not limited to Health Booths showcasing various cancer awareness initiatives from partners such as the Brunei Breast Cancer Support Group (BBCSG), Majlis Kesejahteraan Masyarakat (MKM), Yayasan Kanak-Kanak Kanser (YASKA), Jerudong Park Medical Centre and Gleneagles JPMC; Coffee with Doctor - an avenue for the public to chat with PJSC's specialist doctors about cancer; a Tai Chi session for those who prefer an alternative exercise to walk run and cycle; fitness activitchallenges, games, quizzes and many more.

Over 1,500 participants registered to participate in several walk run cycle categories namely the 2km Fun Walk for Cancer Survivors, 3km Fun Walk, 10-km Cycling and 11km Competitive Run.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs flag off the 10-km Cycling.

Brunei – Japan relationship flourish



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs and spouse, Datin Paduka Hajah Jahrah binti Haji Mohamad with His Excellency Yamamoto Eiji, Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam at the event.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 18 - Brunei Darussalam has contributed to Japan's energy security for decades with shipments of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to Japan, and last year celebrated the golden jubilee of the establishment of

Brunei LNG (BLNG).

The relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Japan advances with the launch of the Global Hydrogen Supply Chain Demonstration Project in Brunei whereby Hydrogen was produced and transported to Japan last November.

This was highlighted by His Excellency Yamamoto Eiji, Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam in his welcoming speech during the reception of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan's 60th birthday celebration, which took place at the Rizqun International Hotel.

Representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs and spouse.

The event was also enlivened with performances by Brunei Darussalam National Judo Federation and traditional dance 'Soran Bushi' by the Brunei-Japan Friendship Association Universiti Brunei Darussalam Chapter.

Kuwait Embassy celebrates 59th National Day

JERUDONG, February 20 - The Embassy of the State of Kuwait in the country held a reception in conjunction with the State of Kuwait's 59th National Day celebration which took place at the Royal Berkshire, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

Representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs.

The event commenced with the singing of the national anthems of Brunei Darussalam and Kuwait, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs alongside His Excellency Salah Mubarak Musleh Al-Mutairi, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashil bin Rashid Al-Maskari, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Jassim Ali Abdullah Al Obaidli, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Emad bin Abdul Aziz bin Saad Al Muhanna, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam during the cake-cutting ceremony.

Paddy harvesting at KKP

KANDOL, February 8 - The 500 Hectares Commercial Paddy Planting known as Sembada188 officiated by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on October 28, 2019 has embarked another milestone with the paddy harvesting

ceremony at the Kandol Agriculture Development Area (KKP).

It is one of the efforts of the Government of Brunei Darussalam towards increasing rice supply production and self-sufficiency in the country as well as ensuring food security.

Present at the ceremony were Yang

Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism; and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development as Co-Chairman of the Executive Committee for the Opening of the 500 Hectares Commercial Paddy Planting Area Project.

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Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism (left); and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development (right) during the harvesting activity.

Earlier, the executive committee members visited agricultural sites in the surrounding area of Mukim Bukit Sawat and Merangking, including TS Wood Sendirian Berhad, Asia Enterprise (AE) Sendirian Berhad, Natural Biotech Resources Sendirian Berhad, NSEY Sendirian Berhad, WYWY Farm, Golden Chick Hatchery and Breeding Farm Sendirian Berhad.

National security agency's preparedness test



The joint extraction operation effort of Royal Brunei Armed Forces supported by the Royal Brunei Police Force and Gurkha Reserve Unit.

BERAKAS, February 2 - The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) conducted the Exercise SETIA BERSAMA 1/2019 (Ex SB 1/2019) from January 31 to February 2 at the International Convention Centre (ICC), in preparation for next year's ASEAN Summit, which will be hosted by Brunei Darussalam.

The objective of Ex SB 1/2019 is to enhance RBAF readiness towards responding to complex and

asymmetrical environments such as peaceful public protests.



The Exercise SETIA BERSAMA 1/2019 (Ex SB 1/2019) in progress (right and below).



Monitoring transnational security operation



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence and Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces in a group photo with Yang Berhormat Haji Mohammad bin Sabu, Malaysian Minister of Defence during the working visit.

SABAH, MALAYSIA, February 3 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence was in Tawau, Sabah for a working visit on the invitation of Yang Berhormat Haji Mohammad bin Sabu, Malaysian Minister of Defence.

Also joining the delegation was Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

The visit began with a briefing by Brigadier General Johari bin Mohd Jaafar,

Commander of Joint Task Force 2 at the Joint Task Force 2 Headquarters, Kukusan Camp, Tawau.

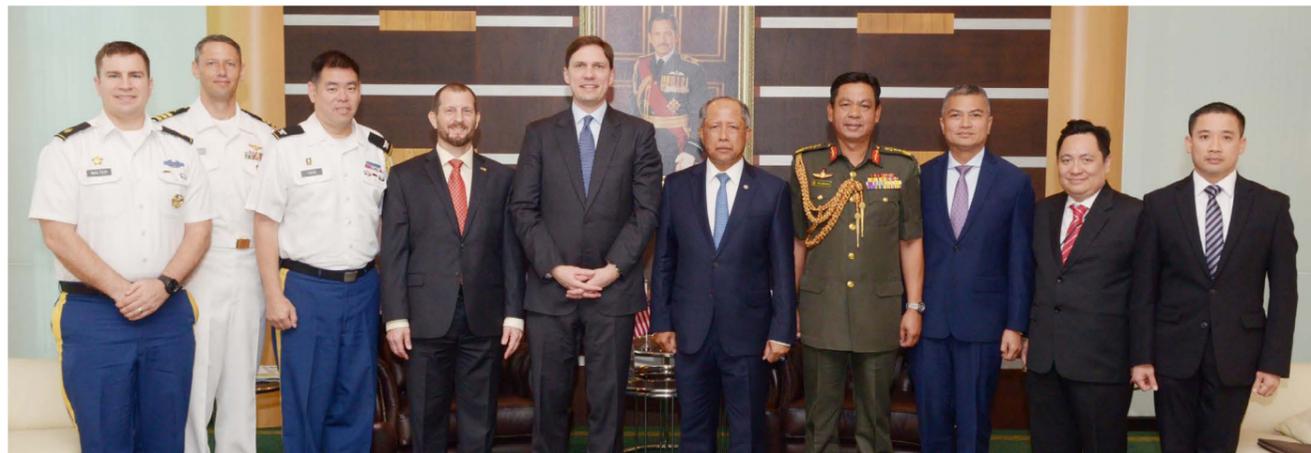
The delegation then visited several military facilities and strategic installations around the east coast of Sabah, including the Tun Sharifah Rodziah Forward Sea Basing. A decommissioned oil platform that has been converted into a security asset and serves as an integrated forward base that is strategically located under the Eastern Sabah Safety Zone (ESSZONE) and supports operations to stave off cross-border criminals.

The Malaysian delegation was led by the Malaysian Minister of Defence. The visit

provides an opportunity for the delegation of Brunei Darussalam to witness how the Malaysian Armed Forces monitors, protects and safeguards national waters against any forms of transnational security challenges, particularly within maritime areas of Sabah and the Southern Philippines.

The visit aimed to strengthen the longstanding bilateral defence relations between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. Both Ministers also had the opportunity to exchange views and information on current security issues, highlighting the growing importance of working together to address these challenges.

Second Minister of Defence receives courtesy call



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence together with Mr. Reed Werner, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for South and Southeast Asia, United States of America in a group photo.

BERAKAS, February 14 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence received a courtesy call from Mr. Reed Werner, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for South and Southeast Asia, United States of America (U.S).

During the call, the Second Minister of Defence congratulated Mr. Reed Werner on his appointment which took effect towards the end of 2019. Both sides affirmed the robust bilateral defence relations, noting various areas of defence and military

cooperation including exchange of visits, bilateral military exercises, training opportunities as well U.S. multilateral engagements in various platforms, including the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus).

Previously, Dr. Joseph H. Felter III, who was in the position visited Brunei Darussalam in July 2018. As the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for South and Southeast Asia, Mr. Reed Werner is responsible for advising the U.S. defence leadership on matters about the development and implementation of defence policies, strategies and plans in the South and Southeast Asia region.

Brunei – Viet Nam enhance security cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 16 - Bilateral cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in the field of security has been further strengthened with a bilateral meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office.

In the discussion, both countries agreed to enhance cooperation in the areas of security, especially in efforts to combat transnational crime.

The meeting also discussed bilateral cooperation on security and enforcement agencies of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of Public Security, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on cooperative efforts in the prevention and fight against crime, as well as in dealing with cybersecurity and terrorism.

The delegation of Brunei Darussalam was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence in his capacity as the Chairman of National Security Committee (NSC); while His Excellency General To Lam, Minister of Public Security led the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam's delegation.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence in his capacity as the Chairman of National Security Committee and His Excellency General To Lam, Minister of Public Security of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam during the bilateral meeting.

Regional, international security issues discussed

Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence in a group photo at the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Retreat.



VIET NAM, February 19 - The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Retreat was held at The Melia Hotel, Hanoi, effectively commencing Viet Nam's chairmanship of ADMM for 2020.

Representing Brunei Darussalam to the ADMM Retreat was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence.

Also present in Brunei Darussalam's delegation were Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Shahril Anwar bin Haji Ma'awiah, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, and Haji Adi Ihram bin Dato Paduka Haji Mahmud, Director of Defence Policy.

During the Retreat, the ASEAN Defence Ministers and their representatives exchanged views on the regional and international security environment, as well as discussed matters related to the preparations for the upcoming ADMM and ADMM-Plus meetings in November.

The Retreat also issued a Joint Statement by the ASEAN Defence Ministers on Defence Cooperation Against Disease Outbreaks, emphasising the ADMM's solidarity and spirit of cohesive and responsive community to the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).

At the sidelines, the inaugural ASEAN-Australia Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting was held, co-chaired by His

Excellency General Ngo Xuan Lich, Minister of National Defence, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and The Honourable Linda Reynolds, Minister for Defence Australia.

The Second Minister of Defence also had separate bilateral meetings with His Excellency General To Lam, Minister of Public Security, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, in his capacity as the Chairman of the National Security Committee and His Excellency Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

The ADMM Retreat is a supplementary activity under the ADMM Process, enabling dialogue and engagement ahead of the formal ADMM and ADMM-Plus meetings for the year.

Role of hydrogen in ASEAN



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mat Suny bin Haji Md. Hussien, Minister of Energy and Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw, Deputy Minister of Energy at 'The Role of Hydrogen in ASEAN's Energy Transition' Seminar.

TUNGKU LINK, February 20 - Ever-rising global temperatures, combined with Southeast Asia's inherent vulnerability to its exacerbating effects, demands new and efficient ways to meet energy needs in the region in order to ensure its sustainable future.

Declining hydrogen production costs and strengthening climate change policies, supported by increased international cooperation, has renewed interest in the viability of hydrogen fuels.

ASEAN Member States (AMS) have individually committed to participate in the Paris Agreement, an international effort to pin global warming below the 2-degree celsius threshold above pre-industrial levels.

As an effort to meet this overarching objective, many AMS have undergone their hydrogen-based energy production initiatives.

In response to this developing trend, the Brunei National Energy Research Institute (BNERI) and the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), in collaboration with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East

Asia (ERIA), hosted a seminar to formulate a proposal for regional activities that would jumpstart large-scale hydrogen-based technologies in the region.

Supported by the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications, 'The Role of Hydrogen in ASEAN's Energy Transition' was officiated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mat Suny bin Haji Md. Hussien, Minister of Energy at The Empire Brunei.

Participants of the event have also included a wide range of stakeholders from all across ASEAN, as well as public and corporate representatives from Japan.

The seminar revolved around three primary objectives: to review developments of AMS policies and the challenges on the role of hydrogen in the transition towards low-carbon energy systems; to take stock of hydrogen demonstration projects implemented in the AMS as well as to document current challenges and key lessons learned from these pilot projects; and to discuss with the AMS stakeholders on the possible activities that can be supported at the ASEAN level to promote investments and deployment of hydrogen fuel and technologies.

Iran - Brunei enhance cooperation in scientific, economic fields

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 12 - Brunei Darussalam and the Islamic Republic of Iran are working together to enhance the bilateral relations between the two countries in different areas, including the exchange of delegation visits from both countries in various scientific and economic fields.

Her Excellency Homeira Rigi Zirouki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam stated the matter in her speech during a reception in conjunction with the 41st National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Present as the representative of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and Datin with Her Excellency Homeira Rigi Zirouki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the reception.



Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and Datin with Her Excellency Homeira Rigi Zirouki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the reception.

Brunei - Singapore strengthens military cooperation



Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Force receives a courtesy call from Major General Goh Si Hou, Chief of Army of the Singapore Armed Forces.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 6 - Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Force (RBAF) received a courtesy call from Major General Goh Si Hou, Chief of Army of the Singapore Armed Forces.

The Commander of the RBAF expressed appreciation in the cooperation extended by the Singapore Armed Forces, which included regular interactions through military exercises and courses.

Both sides agreed that the ongoing bilateral Exercise MAJU BERSAMA 24/2020 is a credible platform towards nurturing trust, confidence building and interoperability between the countries and enhancing security through the exchange of expertise and bilateral dialogue.

The Commander of RBAF also welcomed any opportunities for cooperation to strengthen further the relationship between the Royal Brunei Land Forces (RBLF) and the Singapore Army.

On the same day, the Closing Ceremony for Exercise MAJU BERSAMA 24/2020 was held at FIBUA Village, Penanjong Garrison. The exercise was conducted from January 30 to February 6.

The exercise involved 121 personnel from 3rd Battalion Singapore Infantry Regiment (3 SIR), Singapore Army and 123 personnel from company B, First Battalion RBLF led by Major Yusddy Affendy bin Haji Amran.

Major General Goh Si Hou, Chief of Army of the Singapore Armed Forces together with Brigadier General Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Khairul Hamed bin Awang Haji Lampoh, Commander of the Royal Brunei Land Forces during the parade inspection.

Commander of the RBLF.

The ceremony commenced with a parade inspection followed by the handing over of the flag to C Company of the 3 SIR, followed by closing remarks by the guests of honour.

The ceremony witnessed a demonstration which showcased an integrated attack to defeat the enemy and the efficient and flexible implementation of the use of assets in conducting the joint attack mission.

The Exercise MAJU BERSAMA 24/2020 remains an essential platform for strengthening military cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore. It allows the integrated deployment of ground troops of both armies to enhance interoperability and to provide an opportunity to train and improve the skills of military personnel of both countries in the planning and implementation of infantry operations.



Major General Goh Si Hou and Brigadier General Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Khairul Hamed exchange mementos.



Royal Thai Armed Forces Day dinner reception



Brigadier General (U) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sahat, Commander of the Royal Brunei Air Force and spouse; Her Excellency Wanthane Vipunwongsakul, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam; and Colonel Nopadej Pansri, Defence Attaché at the Royal Thai Embassy in Brunei Darussalam and spouse during the reception on the occasion of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 3 - Brunei Darussalam and Thailand bilateral defence ties have continued to be strengthened through various and wide ranging interactions such as the regular exchange of visit; exercises; training and cross-attendance of courses.

Her Excellency Wanthane Vipunwongsakul, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam, stated the matter during a dinner reception in celebration with the Royal Thai Armed Forces Day which took place at the Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

Her Excellency also shared that Brunei Darussalam and Thailand cooperate closely and extensively on multilateral platforms such as the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and ADMM-Plus. Thailand's Chairmanship for the 13th

ADMM meeting last year had been fruitful, particularly with the adoption of the Concept Paper on the Expansion of ASEAN Direct Communications Infrastructure (ADI) to the Plus Countries.

"ADI is one of the initiatives spearheaded by Brunei Darussalam during its 2013 Chairmanship, and it is a significant contribution to confidence-building measures in the ADMM. Thailand will continue to support Brunei Darussalam's initiatives and welcome Brunei Darussalam as the Chairman of ADMM next year," added Her Excellency.

Thailand's commitment to enhance bilateral relations with Brunei Darussalam including defence ties, will contribute to maintaining the peaceful environment in the ASEAN region as well as the world in the future.

Present as representative of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Brigadier General (U) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sahat, Commander of the Royal Brunei Air Force and spouse.

JPD - JPJ strengthens existing strategic cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 5 - To further strengthen the existing strategic cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia, especially in discussing issues pertaining to land transport and sharing good practices, a bilateral meeting was held between the Land Transport Department (JPD) and Road Transport Department (JPJ) of Malaysia. The meeting took place at JPD Headquarters.

During the meeting, Haji Rozaly bin Haji Saidon, Director of JPD said that the meeting provided an opportunity for both parties to discuss, exchange views, create cooperation and sharing of best



Haji Rozaly bin Haji Saidon, Director of Land Transport Department (left) and Yang Berbahagia Dato' Sri Shahrudin bin Khalid, Director General of Road Transport Department of Malaysia (right) during the meeting.

practices in the areas of land transport matters.

Meanwhile, Yang Berbahagia Dato' Sri Shahrudin bin Khalid, Director General



of JPJ said that numerous renewals and changes had been carried out including legal and technical issues that were raised during a discussion between JPD and JPJ.



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