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Intensive training, discipline and teamwork vital to success

PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA BINI HAJI OTHMAN



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; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah in a group photo with the Brunei Darussalam's National Football Team, winners of the 1999 Malaysia Cup.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 13 – 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 expressed his highest congratulations to the Brunei Darussalam National Football Team, especially to all players, managers and coaches for winning the 1999 Dunhill Malaysia Cup.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated the matter in his *titah* (royal speech) during a Special Ceremony held at the Balai Penghadapan, Istana Nurul Iman.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

His Majesty said that team spirit and intensive training play vital roles in the success of the national football team in winning the 1999 Malaysia Cup.

“Over the past 20 years of the national football team's participation in the championship, there has been a variety of events and experiences as well as various lessons learned, and the national team has finally reached

the top by winning the Malaysia Cup,” His Majesty continued.

According to the Monarch, the people of Brunei Darussalam were thrilled with the success achieved through the team spirit, teamwork and intensive training on all levels.

For the upcoming season, His Majesty stated, training should be continued in full gear, discipline should be maintained and the spirit of teamwork needs to be upheld.

His Majesty added that if the team regularly adheres to these advices, the football team will continue to succeed.



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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 Mr. Khamtay Siphandone, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and His Excellency Mr. Sisavath Keobounphanh, Prime Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic on the occasion of Lao National Day on December 2.
- His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, Emir of Bahrain on the occasion of Bahrain National Day on December 16.
- His Majesty Emperor Akihito, Emperor of Japan and His Excellency Mr. Keizo Obuchi, Prime Minister of Japan on the occasion of Emperor Akihito's birthday on December 23.

National Heroes receive Meritorious Service Medals



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 His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince interacting with Michael Jones, Coach of Sang Tebuan, the national football team.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 13 – 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 conferred Meritorious Service Medals (PJK) to the 32 players, coach and officials of the Brunei Darussalam National Football Team in a special ceremony held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Present at the event were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

Also in attendance was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain,

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, in his capacity as the President of the Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (BAFA).

At the ceremony, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei expressed his highest congratulations to the national football team, especially to the players, coaches and managers for their success in attaining victory at the 1999 Dunhill Malaysia Cup.

The national team also took the opportunity to participate in a *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) session with His Majesty in appreciation for the attention, encouragement and support from His Majesty as well as the government in helping them achieve success.

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National Heroes receive Meritorious Service Medals

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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 His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah receiving *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) greetings from the players of the national football team.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferring Meritorious Service Medals (PJK) to Liew Chuan Fue, Captain (above left) and Ibrahim bin Haji Abu Bakar, Goal Keeper of the national football team (above right).



His Majesty conferring Meritorious Service Medals to Haji Rosaidi bin Haji Khamis, defense player (above left) and Fadlin Gelawat, one of the talented players of the national football team (above right).

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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 conferring Meritorious Service Medals to Mohammad Rosanan bin Abdullah Samak (above left); Raphael Patron Akakpo, an imported player who helped in the success of Sang Tebuan (above right); and Riwandi bin Wahit, a young talented player of the team (below).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also conferring the medal to Rosli bin Haji Liman, who scored two goals during the finale of the 1999 Dunhill Malaysia Cup (left); and Irwan Mohammad, midfielder (right).

Continuous efforts towards Al-Quran education



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting a prize to the winner of Category 'A' in the Al-Quran Reading Competition, Md. Arif bin Haji Bagol, a student from Ma'had Islam Brunei during the event held at International Convention Centre.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 24 - The people of the country will never stop equipping themselves with Al-Quran, as the government policy will continue to work towards educating people to read the Al-Quran.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated the matter in his *titah* (royal speech) at the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Ceremony, which took place at International Convention Centre.

In fact, the Monarch said, attention is also given to the field of surah memorisation, through the Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, which is expected to function well and smoothly.

In this regard, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also hoped that as soon as the new *tahfiz* institute is open, more Bruneians would be *hafiz* (memorisers).

The Monarch further stated that if all the Muslim communities across the world read the Al-Quran, then the entire Muslim world would also be enlightened.

This is our hope, said His Majesty, in guaranteeing long-term security and prosperity, because the Al-Quran, when read and practiced, will bring about blessings which will serve as a guide along the way of life.

According to His Majesty, with the blessing, all the shortcomings in the form of disunity, as a result of poverty and limitations due to weaknesses, would all be overcome, and eventually overturned.

"These are not mere words of assurance, but history has proved it; when the Al-Quran was fully descended upon the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam, and the Prophet, along with all the Muslims, read and practiced it," His Majesty said.

His Majesty added that the Arabs, which had long been divided, became united under the Al-Quran; where many who were rich served as 'banks' for those in need, and with this, came the strength to overcome deprivation.

The Monarch also explained that the Al-Quran for the past 1,400 years has remained unchanged until today; with its content, teachings and spirit staying the same forever.

"So there is no reason why it would not be possible to restore the community's lost glory," said the Monarch.

Unfortunately, His Majesty said, Muslims continue to divide, and live in poverty and weakness to this day.

His Majesty believes that the main reason is that the Muslims have yet to fully revert to the Al-Quran, and those who read it may not have read it fully, let alone practice it. There are still some conditions in enabling the Muslims to become great and powerful, which have not been met.

"Believe that we will only regain our glory after the Muslims walk on the path of Al-Quran," the Monarch justified.

Earlier, His Majesty also expressed his gratitude as the Muslims in the country are not behind on embracing Ramadan with Al-Quran recitations.

Rewards for national football team players



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council presenting a Winning Reward to Rosli bin Haji Liman, one of the national team players.

BERAKAS, 18 December – With the consent of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has rewarded the players and officials of the national football team that won the 1999 Dunhill Malaysia Cup.

The rewards were presented by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council during the Winning Rewards Presentation Ceremony held at the International Conference Hall.

Also present at the event was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka

Haji Awang Hussain, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

A total of 32 players, coaches and officials of the national football team received a reward of \$3,000 each.

The reward provision was first announced by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah on December 4, during a feasting ceremony hosted by the High Commission of Brunei Darussalam to Malaysia.

Earlier, His Royal Highness also delivered His Majesty's congratulatory message to the national team for their success.

The reward serves as a form of recognition for the service they have contributed to the country, which brought the national football team to victory in the 1999 Malaysia Cup.

Brunei wins Malaysia Cup

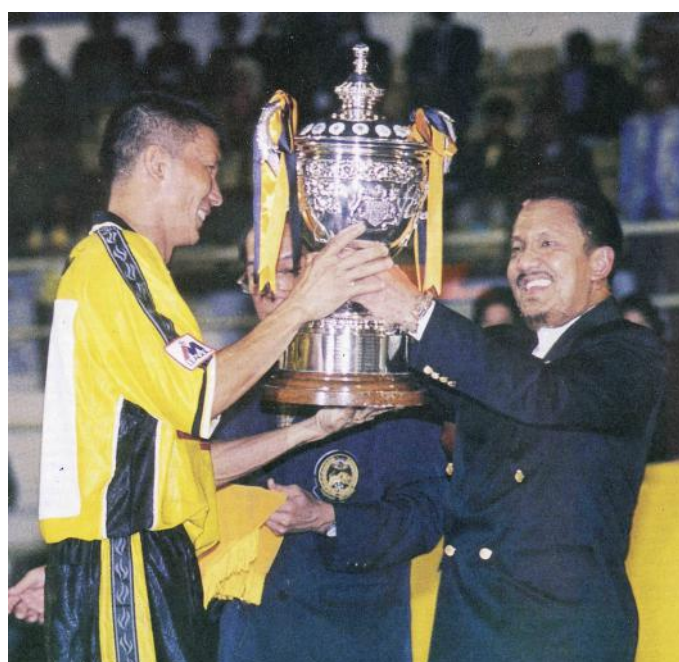
BERAKAS, December 5 - The 20-year wait has ended, as Brunei Darussalam's national football team heroes returned to the country as Malaysia Cup champions after defeating Sarawak with a winning point of 2-1 in the finale at the Stadium Merdeka Kuala Lumpur.

This success in winning one of the region's most prestigious trophies, has carved another important piece of history at the turn of the century, as the country has also successfully hosted the 20th SEA Games earlier in August.

If the Republic of Singapore is known as the first country to win the tournament, which was previously known as the H.M.S. Malaya Cup in 1921; then Brunei Darussalam should be recognised as the 10th nation to win the tournament after Selangor, Perak, Negeri Sembilan, Penang, Pahang, Johor, Kuala Lumpur and Kedah.

Thus, this success in bringing the trophy across the South China Sea serves to be significant, and it has set the national football squad on par with the other 10 teams that previously won the trophy.

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His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Deputy Sultan handing over the Malaysia Cup to Liew Chuan Fue, Captain of Sang Tebuan, Brunei Darussalam's National Football Team after winning against Sarawak during the finale at Stadium Merdeka Kuala Lumpur.

Brunei wins Malaysia Cup



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and the national team receiving support and encouragement from the people and residents of the country (above and below).



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Immediately after arriving at the Brunei International Airport, thousands of people and residents welcomed the return of His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Deputy Sultan; along with the national football heroes. They also had the opportunity to hold the prestigious regional football trophy.

A parade was held starting from the Brunei International Airport, where His Royal Highness, along with the trophy and the national heroes, received long applause and congratulations through the Berakas main road

all the way to the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

At the stadium, thousands of fans and supporters came together to express their joy and gratitude over the country's success in winning the Malaysia Cup.

They also took the opportunity to celebrate the victory together in a festive atmosphere.

This historical milestone will never be forgotten by the people of Brunei, and it is hoped to be a catalyst for the passion to further succeed in the future.

Supporters of Brunei Darussalam's National Football Team during the Malaysia Cup finale at the Stadium Merdeka Kuala Lumpur.



The national team receiving support and encouragement from the people and residents of the country upon their arrival at the Brunei International Airport.

Celebrating the success of the Brunei Darussalam National Football Team



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Deputy Sultan with the winning trophy during a Thanksgiving Ceremony held at the Temburong District.



His Royal Highness cutting a cake presented by the supporters and fans of the national team in the Belait District. Also present were the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, the Belait District Officer as well as thousands of loyal supporters and fans who were gathered at the Municipal Field in Kuala Belait.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 31 - success of the national team in winning the Malaysia Cup is still echoing throughout the corners of the country, with people across the Brunei-Muara, Tutong, Belait and Temburong Districts having the opportunity to see up-close and embrace the prestigious trophy.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Deputy Sultan consented to join the fans and loyal supporters from the Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong Districts to welcome the returning national heroes who have won the Malaysia Cup.



The Malaysia Cup trophy was also brought to the Temburong District and celebrated by the Tutong District Officer during a celebration held at the Community Hall, Tutong.

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A car parade presented by the fans and supporters in celebration of the 1999 Dunhill Malaysia Cup won by the national team.

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The path to achieve the success was not as easy as one would expect, as the national team have gone through a series of interchanging players and waited two decades to bring about this victory.

Starting out as 'Budak Belasahan' ('the underdog'), they turned out to be one of the top teams by ousting the top teams from Malaysia, and carving out history as the first team from Borneo to win the Malaysia Cup.

The success episode was created through a challenging path when the team had to go through a play-off match with Perlis, Kuala Lumpur and Kelantan. They then advanced to the Malaysia Cup round for Group 'B' against Sarawak, Pahang, Johor,

Kuala Lumpur and Sabah, and afterwards, emerged as the winning team after eliminating Pahang in the semi-finals with 4-3 aggregate before meeting Sarawak in the finale.

Michael Jones, who steered the team after the absence of David Booth, helped improve the national team's remaining weaknesses, before the team continued the rest of their journey to the Malaysia Cup. Their endurance appeared to be fruitful after two defeats in the previous years, that is, in 1996 and 1997 during the semi-finals under the guidance of David Booth.

Most interestingly, this success was created at the turn of the century before entering the new millennium

where the quality of the games in the football arena will be more challenging and thrilling. This will drive everyone to work hard in improving the quality of the games.

Nevertheless, the districts' football associations and the Brunei Darussalam Football Association (BAFA) are ready with a variety of plans and exposures, which include the provision of the next generation players with a certain age level who are now ready to be featured.

This program, which has been planned, will surely benefit the country's football development as it promises a solid preparation to continue this success.



Raphael Patron Akakpo and Mohd. Brian Iman Abdullah Bothwell, imported players who were helpful towards the success of the national team, with the Malaysia Cup trophy.

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Thousands of fans and supporters gathering at the Municipal Field to celebrate the return of the national heroes who were bringing home the Malaysia Cup which had been longed for since Brunei Darussalam first participated in the Malaysia Premier League 20 years ago.



The fans and supporters of Sang Tebuan joining the festivity at the Temburong District with the national team players (above and right).



Kosovo Humanitarian Fund raised over \$1.7 million

BERAKAS, December 16 - The Kosovo Humanitarian Fund raised a total donation of over \$1.7 million.

The fund received a donation of \$59,742.67 from the Ministry of Religious Affairs, which was handed over by Pengiran Haji Yusof bin Pengiran Kula, Permanent Secretary at the ministry, to Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Md. Zain bin Haji Serudin, Minister of Religious Affairs as the Co-Advisor of the Kosovo Humanitarian Fund.

The donations came from the officials and staff of the ministry and its departments, as well as the proceeds from the sales of the Kosovo Charity Drive conducted by the Kampung Bunut Mosque, and the proceeds received from the public through the Kosovo Humanitarian Fund boxes in mosques all over the country.

Among those present at the event were Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya bin Haji Ibrahim, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs; Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Kadi of Brunei Darussalam; Directors; Deputy Directors; as well as officials from the ministry.

Previously, on December 14, the same fund also received more donations from the local community a day before the end of the fundraiser

The fund also received a total of \$35,575.07 from nine organisations which consisted of government



Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Md. Zain bin Haji Serudin, Minister of Religious Affairs as Co-Advisor of the Kosovo Humanitarian Fund receiving a donation of \$59,742.67 from Pengiran Haji Yusof bin Pengiran Kula, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

departments, private sectors and associations. The handover ceremony was held at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

At the event, the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources donated a total of \$2,567.30; the Royal Brunei Armed Forces contributed \$3,349.30; the Ports Department donated \$4,000.00; the Department of Agriculture contributed \$5,500.00; Data Stream Technology (DST) contributed \$10,000.00; the Department of Electrical Services contributed \$842.00; Koperasi Serbaguna Mukim Lumapas (TASAMUL) contributed \$1,123.72; Persatuan ikatan Tanah Jambu (PITA) donated \$450.50; and the Islamic Studies Department donated \$7,742.25.

The donations were received by Datin Paduka Dayang Hajjah Azizah binti Panglima Asgar Dato Paduka Haji Abdullah, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports as Co-Chair of the fund. The donations thus raised the proceeds of the fund to \$1,655,706.58.

At the end of the ceremony, Datin Paduka Dayang Hajjah Azizah expressed her appreciation for the contributions which were collected through various activities.

The donations, which exceeded the expected amount, will help ease the suffering of Muslim communities in Kosovo. The donations received until December 16 amounted over \$1.7 million.



Datin Paduka Dayang Hajjah Azizah binti Panglima Asgar Dato Paduka Haji Abdullah, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports as the Co-Chair of the Kosovo Humanitarian Fund, in a group photo with the donors.

National qariah won third place

BERAKAS, December 20 – The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, through the Ministry of Religious Affairs awarded the *Skim Galakan Membaca Al-Quran* or Quran Recitation Encouragement Scheme worth \$4,000 to Dayang Hajjah Rokiah binti Haji Ibrahim, Brunei Darussalam's qariah who won third place during the 'Pertandingan Tilawah Al-Quran Peringkat Antarabangsa' or International Quran Recital Competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia which took place from December 15 to 19.

Dayang Hajjah Rokiah is a 38-year-old religious teacher who graduated from the Seri Begawan Sultan Religious Teachers College. This is her first time representing the country in the international competition after winning first-place at the national level competition held within the country.

Meanwhile, Haji Ismail bin Haji Sulaiman, a qari representing Brunei Darussalam in the international competition, was also awarded the Quran Recitation Encouragement Scheme after winning fourth place in the competition.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain, Minister of Religious Affairs; Pengiran Haji Yusof, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs; as well as senior officials and officers from the Ministry of Religious Affairs along with their spouses were in attendance at the Brunei International Airport to welcome the return of the qari and qariah who have gained international success in Al-Quran recitation.

RBA continues to operate amidst new millennium exchange



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Zakaria bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Communications as Chairman of the Y2K National Committee during the briefing on the issues of Y2K regarding RBA flights, which was presented by Graeme Moorhouse, RBA Y2K coordinator.

BERAKAS, December 7 – Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) will continue to operate as usual despite the turning of a new millennium: that is, the coming of the year 2000. Only two flights (from London to Bandar Seri Begawan and Bandar Seri Begawan to London on December 31) will be cancelled due to the lack of passengers as well as to save on expenses.

The matter was stated by RBA in a press release during a briefing on the issues of Y2K regarding RBA flights, which took place in the afternoon at the RBA Training Center.

The event was attended by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Zakaria bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Communications, who is also the Chairman of the Y2K National Committee.

The briefing was delivered by Graeme Moorhouse, RBA Y2K coordinator.

To further address the issues of Y2K that could possibly affect the RBA flights in the coming 2000s, RBA has also established a Command Centre that operates to monitor all issues of Y2K across the world involving aviation.

In addition, the centre will also be in direct contact with the National Command Centre at the new Ministry of Communications building at Jalan Menteri Besar, while keeping in continuous contact with Bangkok in tackling the Y2K issues.

After the briefing, the Minister witnessed a demonstration for the Y2K, which was conducted by RBA. There appears to be no problem anticipated in new millennium exchange, with the coming of the year 2000 on December 31.

GSM network capacity to expand



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Zakaria bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Communications witnessing the Signing Ceremony between Data Stream Technology (DST) and Lucent Technology.

BERAKAS, December 7 – With the aspiration to provide better service to its customers, Data Stream Technology (DST) has signed a contract with another company, Lucent Technology to widen DST's existing Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) networks.

Contract Signing Ceremony was witnessed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Zakaria bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Communications. Signing the contract on behalf of the DST was Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad bin Haji Jumat, Deputy Minister of Education as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the DST Group Companies, while Lucent Technology was represented by Mr. Dana Zitek, the company's Chief Operating Officer.

The contract worth \$21 million will increase consumer capacity from 50,000 to 90,000 and increase production by 15 macro and 21 micro from the base stations.

The new base stations will be located in Brunei-Muara District to increase network coverage and radio capacity in Madang, Berakas, Gadong, government buildings, Muara and Bandar Seri Begawan areas.

Lucent Technology will supply and install the latest GSM network and will work closely with DST to develop its market in providing quality and satisfactory service to its customers.

As a company that plays a key role in improving the communications infrastructure of the country, DST aims to continuously improve its services for its customers in line with the development of the 21st century.

'Info Communication Technology' services bring benefits to SME

BERAKAS, December 18 – The 'Info Communication Technology' oriented services, which include e-commerce, e-government, e-education and so on, offer significant benefits and advantages especially to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as the public and the academic sectors.

A significant example highlighted is the establishment of a regional initiative known as 'e-ASEAN', which emphasises the effectiveness and the use of ICT in strengthening the economies of ASEAN countries.

"The 'e-ASEAN' is a new initiative that will bring benefits,



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Zakaria bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Communications during the launching ceremony of the Department of Telekom Brunei (JTB) Economic Call Service.

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especially in three key areas: trade and enterprise, tourism and education,” explained Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Zakaria bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Communications during the launching Ceremony of the Department of Telekom Brunei (JTB) Economic Call Service. The event was held the Ministry of Communications headquarters, Jalan Menteri Besar.

The Minister added that for Brunei Darussalam, which has a small and limited market economy, ‘e-commerce’ serves an opportunity to develop the markets.

Therefore, it is important for entrepreneurs in the country to take full advantage of this facility in an effort to realise the nation’s economic goals for the next millennium.

In his speech, the Minister mentioned the provision of infrastructures to support multimedia electronics, where the ministry has implemented the first phase of the building of the RAGAM 21 infrastructure, which acts as the basis of electronic multimedia, specifically ‘e-commerce’.

The Minister also hoped for greater involvement among the private sector as a driving factor in developing a range of services and applications which can be obtained from the available physical infrastructures.

The Minister said that the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Brunei Darussalam is constantly striving to create a conducive atmosphere in turning the country into a ‘Cyber-Hub’ as well as a Service Hub for Trade and Tourism (SHuTT). With this objective, it is crucial that we have a

physical information infrastructure capable of supporting the needs of multimedia electronics, especially in ‘e-commerce.’

In addition, the government will review the appropriateness of the existing policies and regulations from time to time, in order to align them with current technological developments for the benefit and use of the people and citizens of this country.

Earlier in the event, Awang Buntar bin Osman, Director of JTB, said that the economic call service is a telecommunication service that uses internet technology as an alternative to make international phone calls using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), which is cheaper than IDD calls.

Through the service, calls will be delivered via packet protocol (IP), which will be displayed over the internet.

The Director explained the purpose of introducing the service, which is to protect the core business of the department in IDD and to offset the current trend, where international phone calls through the internet could be made using individual computers.

The service will also enhance revenue by enhancing the quality of international phone calls through the VoIP network.

With this service, the customers of JTB will be able to save 40 per cent on all 29 call destinations; excluding the Republic of Singapore, East Malaysia, and Canada as these countries do not have rental agreements with Brunei Darussalam. For these countries, ordinary IDD calls are much cheaper than these economic calls.

Providing information and solutions

BERAKAS, December 6 – In addition to providing all kinds of information about Brunei Darussalam and the government to the public, the Department of Information is also responsible for communicating any requests or concerns faced by the locals and residents of the country to the relevant government parties according to its suitability.

“It is the duty of the Department of Information; as a channel that conveys information, and collects information for the purpose of conveying them, in order to provide solutions to the issues encountered,” said Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned, Director of Department of Information in a meet-and-greet session with over 20 delegates consisting of new Muslim converts from the Temburong District who are visiting the department.



Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned, Director of Department of Information conducting a meet-and-greet session with over 20 delegates consisting of new Muslim converts from the Temburong District at the Department of Information.

The function of the Department of Information is to deliver government information in a more efficient manner.

According to the Director, the department will contact relevant parties to provide explanations especially for the visitors of the Department if required.

The meet-and-greet session commenced with by a briefing on the ‘Duties and Roles of the Halal Import Permit Issuing Board’, which ended with a question and answer session. The delegation was led by Awang Mohd. Fadzil bin Haji Kasim.