



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, 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, and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with the new ministers and deputy ministers after the swearing-in ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman.

New ministers and deputy ministers sworn in

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 26
– Members of the new Council of Cabinet Ministers were sworn in for a five-year term in a ceremony held at Istana Nurul Iman.

The new members, including His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, took their oaths before His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Minister of Finance and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar

'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, was also present at the ceremony.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince first took the oath before His Majesty.

It was followed with the swearing-in by the Minister of Home Affairs, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong; the Minister of Education, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman; the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim; and the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Foreign

Affairs and Trade II, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng.

Afterward, the Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar; the Minister of Religious Affairs, The Honourable Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman; the Minister of Development, The Honourable Dato Paduka Awang Haji Bahrin bin Abdullah; the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, The Honourable Dato Paduka



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>> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.

Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.

It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.

Land size is 5765 sq. km.

Population is estimated at 422,700 people (2012).

It is divided into four districts – Brunei-Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.

Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.

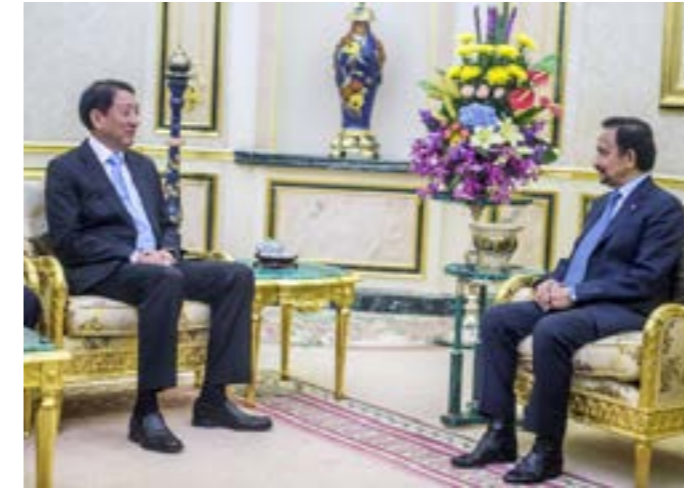
Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.

National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.

It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

Public Warning: The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam

His Majesty receives audiences



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 5 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience the Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Service of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Teo Chee Hean at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Excellency was accompanied by Her Excellency Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth; His Excellency Masagos Zulkifli bin Masagos Mohamad, Minister of Environment and Water Resources; Her Excellency Indranee Rajah, Senior Minister of State for Ministry of Law and Ministry of Finance; Her Excellency Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State for Ministry of Finance, and Ministry for Culture, Community and Youth; His Excellency Chee Hong Tat, Minister of State for Ministry of Communications and Information, and Ministry of Health; and His Excellency Jaya Ratnam, High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam.



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 12 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, consented to receive in audience General Sir Peter Wall, Colonel Commandant of the Brigade of Gurkhas at Istana Nurul Iman.



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 8 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, consented to bestow a title upon the Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces General TNI Gatot Nurmantyo at Istana Nurul Iman.

At the ceremony, His Majesty conferred the title of 'The Most Exalted Order of Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang Yang Amat Gemilang Darjah Pertama (D.P.K.T)', which brings the title 'Dato Paduka Seri' upon the commander.

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, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- Her Excellency Park Geun-Hye, President of the Republic of Korea, the government and the people of the Republic of Korea on the occasion of National Foundation Day, on October 2.
- His Excellency Joachim Gauck, President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Her Excellency Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, the government and the people of the Federal Republic of Germany on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of German Reunification, on October 2.

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, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:



His Excellency Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, on October 26.



Her Excellency Dr. Dipu Moni MP, Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, on October 26.



His Excellency Iyad Ameen Madani, the Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation on, October 26.

Her Majesty receives audiences



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 7 – Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to receive in audience four female ambassadors and 14 spouses of heads of diplomatic missions in Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman.

The audience was held in conjunction with Her Majesty's birthday celebrations.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah were also present.

At the audience, the delegation, led by the spouse of the Ambassador of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam, Madam Dyna Tan, wished Her Majesty a happy birthday.

The ceremony was attended by female ambassadors from Canada, Japan, Indonesia and China as well as spouses of diplomats from Russia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, France, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, Kuwait, Korea, Germany, the United States of America, Oman, Laos, India and the Philippines.



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

1. Datin Sri Enny Trimurti, the spouse of the Indonesian National Armed Forces Commander General TNI Gatot Nurmantyo, on October 9.
2. Mrs Joy Balakrishnan, the spouse of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, on October 26.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince receives audiences



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 5 – 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, consented to receive in audience the Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Teo Chee Hean at Qashr Al-Meezaan.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, were also present at the ceremony.



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 26 - 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 Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Salleh Ab Rahaman consented to receive in audience His Excellency Doctor Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Mrs Joy Balakrishnan at Qashr Al-Meezaan.

***From frontpage**
(New ministers and deputy ministers sworn in)

Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong; the Minister of Communications, The Honourable Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat; the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, The Honourable Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof; and the Minister of Health, The Honourable Dato Paduka Dr Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi pledged their allegiances.

The ceremony commenced with the oath-taking by the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar; the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Roselan bin Haji Mohd Daud; the Deputy Minister of Defence, First Admiral Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohd Tamit; the Deputy Minister of Finance, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hisham bin Haji Mohd. Hanifah; the Deputy Minister of Finance, Dato Paduka Dr Awang Haji Mohd Amin Liew bin Abdullah; the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Erywan

bin Pehin Dato Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd Yusof; the Deputy Minister of Education, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar; the Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd Daud; the Deputy Minister of Development, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar.

The Cabinet members were guided in their oath-taking by the Grand Chamberlain, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Penggawa Laila Bentara Istiadat Diraja Dalam Istana Pengiran Haji Alauddin bin Pengiran Paduka Tuan Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

The State Mufti, The Honourable Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned and the Attorney General, The Honourable Datin Seri Paduka Dayang Hajah Hayati binti Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohd Salleh were also in attendance.

Doa selamat was read by the State Mufti to bless the ceremony.



His Majesty presents letter of appointment to His Royal Highness The Crown Prince.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince takes his oath.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, 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, and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade at the swearing-in ceremony.

His Majesty visits National Security Exercise sites



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the State Control Centre at the Royal Brunei Police Force Headquarters in Gadong.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 6 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), consented to visit the agencies and areas involved in the National Security Exercise 04/2015.

The National Security Exercise is organised to ensure that Brunei Darussalam is ready and prepared in managing any form of emergency by testing the actions of the agencies in responding to a range of different scenarios.

His Majesty first visited the Prime Minister's Office.

His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Energy, The Honourable Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, as the Chairman of the National Security Committee; the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, The Honourable Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yusoff; and the Permanent Secretary (Security and Enforcement) at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar.

His Majesty was then briefed by the Head of Secretariat of the National Security Committee, Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Juanda bin Haji Abd Rashid.

Afterward, His Majesty proceeded to the State Control Centre at the Royal Brunei Police Force Headquarters in Gadong where His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by Deputy Commissioner of Police Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Mohd Jammy bin Haji Mohd Shah Al-Islam.

His Majesty then proceeded to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Room (EPAR) at the Air Traffic Service, Department of Civil Aviation.

His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Communications The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, and the Commissioner of Police



His Majesty being briefed at the Prime Minister's Office.



His Majesty receives a briefing from one of the officers.

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*From page *
(His Majesty visits National Security Exercise sites)

as the Chairman of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Bahrin bin Mohd Noor.

His Majesty subsequently visited the Media Centre at the Brunei International Airport Terminal that was established specifically for the purpose of handling crises before leaving for the Royal Brunei Crisis Management Centre at Jalan Kustin.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was greeted by the Deputy Chairman of Royal Brunei Airlines Mr. Dermot Mannion and Royal Brunei Airlines Crisis Director, Captain Khalidkhan bin Haji Asmakhan and some members of the Royal Brunei Airlines' Board of Directors.

Then, His Majesty toured the Family Assistance and Support Team Command Centre, Media Centre and the Family Friends Call Centre before proceeding to the Panchor National Housing Scheme, Mukim Mentiri.

Upon arrival at the housing scheme, His Majesty was greeted by the Commandant of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Training Institute as Co-Head of the National Security Exercise 04/2015 Secretariat, Colonel Haji Abidin bin Haji Abdul Hamid; the Senior Special Duties Officer at the Prime Minister's Office, Haji Ali Rahim bin Abdul Rahman; and Royal Brunei Airlines Head of the Safety, Security and Environment, Captain Sabirin bin Haji Abdul Hamid.

The Panchor National Housing Scheme, Mukim Mentiri is one of the areas involved in the security exercise staged as the site of a commercial aircraft crash.

The three-day National Security Exercise started on October 5 and concluded on October 7. It involves a number of security agencies and government departments in order to improve their ability to respond to security risks and challenges.

These include familiarising all agencies with the national contingency plans and procedures, enhancing decision-making capabilities in time of crises, and assessing the effectiveness of the national structure, plans, procedures and capabilities.

One of its main purposes is to prepare the country to face unforeseen incidents or any other possibilities, said the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs at the press conference held at the Prime Minister's Office.

The agencies need to understand the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) so they can refer to the SOPs if any incidents or disaster occur, he added.

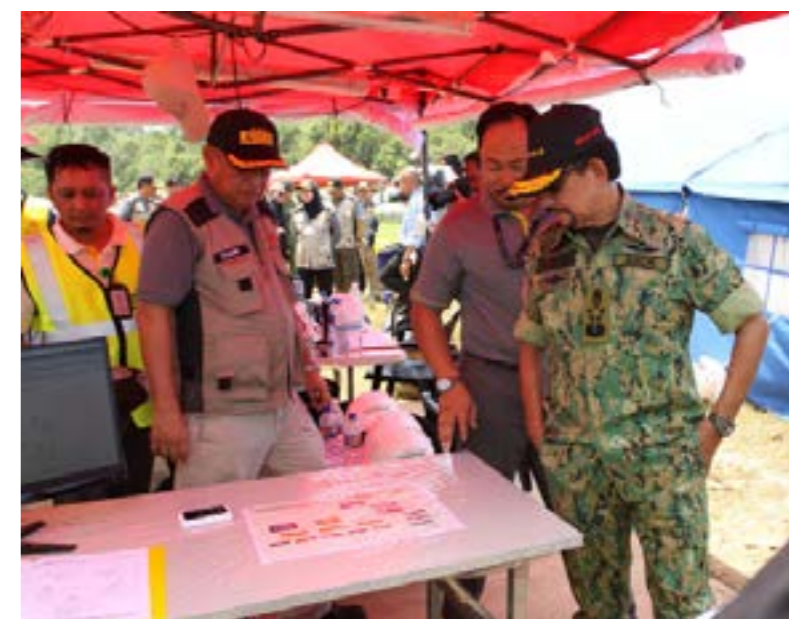
The exercise, he said, is needed to identify if there are any capability gaps in adhering to existing SOPs or to further refine some of the SOPs. This is because the agencies need to be focused, to follow instructions and be wise in handling and effectively controlling situations in order to convince the people of the country of their safety.

His Majesty's presence showed His Majesty's concern of unexpected incidents and responsibility towards the citizens and residents in Brunei Darussalam.

He also emphasised that any information disseminated by the media must be legitimate and cited by the National Security Committee, and not to quote from unofficial media especially social media as it is usually misused by the public.



His Majesty being briefed on various operations conducted by the agencies during the National Security Exercise (above and below).



His Majesty greeted by the representatives of the agencies involved in the exercise.



His Majesty presenting certificates to the KUPU SB graduates at the International Convention Centre in Berakas (left and right).

His Majesty graces KUPU SB's fifth convocation ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 10 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Chancellor of Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB), called upon the concerned parties to give attention to the Religious Teacher Scheme Service as a motivation to teachers in Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei Darussalam introduced the Teachers Scheme Service in the last few years, but nothing has been heard of a scheme specifically for religious education teachers.

His Majesty said this in a *titah* (royal speech) delivered at the fifth KUPU SB convocation ceremony at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Majesty also reminded all graduates and religious teachers that the knowledge and experience they obtained are valuable to earn the trust of the community.

Everyone, especially children, His Majesty said, are vulnerable to negative influences that can cause social ills, which makes religious education teachers increasingly important in this challenging

era. Social ills, including spiritual and moral illnesses, have been attacking Bruneians, His Majesty said. These illnesses grow quite fast and require extraordinary ability and skills to treat and prevent them.

His Majesty stated that religious teachers are on the frontline, and such is the purpose of establishing KUPU SB, which is to produce quality religious teachers capable of educating the country's youth.

In the *titah*, His Majesty expressed delight that KUPU SB is restructuring its programmes and curriculum to make them more relevant and effective in the context of teacher training.

His Majesty also noted the collaboration of the university with other higher education institutions overseas.

The collaborations include the Consortium of Asia-Pacific Education Universities and Asia-Pacific University-Community Engagement Network.

In this regard, His Majesty expressed hope that KUPU SB would not only take the best benefits from its experiences with higher education centres abroad, but would also contribute what it has learned as an Islamic education institution in the region.

At the ceremony, His Majesty also consented to present certificates to 222 graduates.

Out of the total, 25 students completed their Masters in Religious Education, 73 graduated under the Bachelor of Religious Education and 104 graduated under the Religious Teaching Higher National Diploma.

The Rector of KUPU SB, Dr Hajah Masnon binti Haji Ibrahim, in her speech announced that KUPU SB has incorporated the use of Jawi script in its administrative practice and the media since June 1, 2015 in stages to preserve and strengthen the use of Jawi. The change was welcomed with full determination by the students and educators of KUPU SB.

The use of Jawi script, she said, aims to elevate the love for the writings of Al-Qur'an, which is an invaluable heritage to our Islamic education and it corresponds with the values of the national Malay Islamic Monarchy philosophy.

The university has also introduced a new programme called the Post Graduate Religious Teachers Diploma in Teaching Arabic for Non-Arabic Speakers for the

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The graduates with their certificates at the fifth convocation ceremony (left and right).

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(His Majesty graces KUPU SB's fifth convocation ceremony)

2015/2016 academic session through the language centre.

The programme aims to produce proficient and specialised teachers in Arabic language for primary and secondary Arabic schools. This also includes schools that provide the subject within their syllabus.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Religious Affairs, The Honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji

Abdul Rahman; the Rector of KUPU SB; and the Acting Registrar of KUPU SB, Pengiran Anak Haji Damit Baharuddin bin Pengiran Anak Saifuddin.

The ceremony commenced with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah led by the State Mufti The Honourable Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned.

It was then followed with the reading of Al-Qur'an verses by Awang Haji Nasrul Fakhri bin Haji Yahya, a Bachelor Degree graduate in Shari'ah and President of the KUPU SB Student Representative of 2012/2013.

Afterward, His Majesty delivered the *titah* and bestowed the awards upon the graduates.

To conclude the event, doa selamat was read by the State Mufti to bless the ceremony.



His Majesty presenting an award to one of the UNISSA graduates at the International Convention Centre in Berakas,

His Majesty urges UNISSA to prioritise marketability factors

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 17 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Chancellor of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), called upon UNISSA to assess the marketability of its graduates.

The university needs to take into consideration the marketability of its graduates to enable them to compete in an increasingly competitive employment market.

In this regard, His Majesty questioned

whether UNISSA knows the extent of its graduates' marketability, where its graduates are currently working and what is their employers' feedback on their performance.

His Majesty stated this in a *titah* (royal speech) delivered at UNISSA's fifth Hafli Al-Takharruj, or convocation ceremony, at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Touching upon the glory of Islam, His Majesty believes that the university has the potential to be a pure Islamic higher education institution that excels in the international arena.

For that purpose, His Majesty would

like to see UNISSA move quickly in strengthening its research profile.

His Majesty believes that if the two aspects of teaching and research are strengthened, UNISSA will be elevated to a leading Islamic university in the world.

His Majesty also expressed pleasure that UNISSA has attracted international students, especially in Southeast Asia.

UNISSA has become a destination for students pursuing Islamic studies and Arabic language programmes, either short-term or long-term, His Majesty said.

Concluding the *titah*, His Majesty congratulated the graduates and the staff of UNISSA for their success.



His Majesty delivering a *titah* (royal speech) as His Royal Highness The Crown Prince looks on at ITB's convocation ceremony held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

ITB should be more ambitious, says His Majesty

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 31 – Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) needs to further aspire to get higher rankings comparable with other leading institutions in the world.

In order to achieve this, it needs to have the determination and a high-quality teaching system.

Highly educated citizens are needed to drive a knowledge-based economy as Brunei Darussalam is also affected by an uncertain global economic climate.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Chancellor of ITB, stressed this in a *titah* (royal speech) delivered at ITB's convocation ceremony held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Majesty said that universities play a significant role in building talent to develop the national economy.

As a developing country, Brunei Darussalam's primary objective is to achieve the status of a developed nation,

His Majesty said.

To reach this goal, the country needs various development programmes, including the implementation of education schemes.

The Academic Staff Services Scheme was therefore introduced in public higher education institutions where only truly deserving academic staffs are included in the scheme.

It is important that ITB prioritises to offer "leading edge" courses to ensure future graduates would be able to contribute towards national economic growth.

His Majesty said that all higher learning institutions must ensure education and research initiatives are always relevant and comprehensive.

In the *titah*, His Majesty expressed pleasure to learn that employers, both from Brunei Darussalam and overseas, are willing to accept ITB students for work placements under the university's Experience Plus programme.

This 'hands-on' approach will further equip graduates to become more job-

ready.

Higher education institutions need to collaborate with the industry, business sector and the government to develop an ecosystem of research and development, His Majesty said.

His Majesty also reminded the authorities to not deviate from the national philosophy of Malay Islamic Monarchy when drafting any education programmes.

Existing programmes should always be reviewed and the good and beneficial should be continued, His Majesty added.

However, programmes that are run contrary to the national philosophy should be subjected to re-evaluation for further improvement.

Concluding the *titah*, His Majesty expressed hope that the graduates would be able to contribute not only towards the government, but also towards the religion, people and country.

His Majesty attends Gurkha²⁰⁰ Commemoration Parade

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 13 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), consented to attend the Gurkha²⁰⁰ Commemoration Parade at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

Earlier, His Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Commander of RBAF, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohammad Tawih bin Abdullah, and the personal representative of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas, General Sir Peter Wall.

Afterward, His Majesty consented to receive the royal salute, which was accompanied by the National Anthem performed by the RBAF Band and the first Battalion of the Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR).

His Majesty then inspected the parade that consisted of two contingents, the Brigade of Gurkhas and the Royal Brunei Land Forces, comprising around ⁸²⁰ military personnel in total.

His Majesty was accompanied by the RBAF Commander for the Royal Brunei Land Forces contingent and the Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas for the Brigade of Gurkhas contingent.

Prior to leaving, His Majesty greeted the members and family members of the Brigade of Gurkhas based in Brunei Darussalam and students of the Hornbill School in Seria.

This year marks the Brigade of Gurkha's ²⁰⁰ years service to the British Crown. It provides the opportunity to celebrate the martial quality of the Gurkha soldiers, their temperament, loyal and selfless service and supreme courage in battle.

It is also an opportunity to mark the unique relationship that exists between the British Government, the Gurkha and Brunei Darussalam.

Since ¹⁹⁶², Gurkhas have been

based in Brunei Darussalam. There is always one infantry battalion of The Royal Gurkha Rifles, supported by troops from The Queen's Gurkha Engineers, The Queen's Gurkha Signals, The Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment, and The Gurkha Staff and Personnel Support Company based in Tuger Lines, Seria.

Today the Brigade of Gurkhas has a major role in Brunei Darussalam to train in the tropical environment. The jungle provides training opportunities, with its diverse and unique flora and fauna.

Critical to the training mission is maintaining the training areas to secure it for future generations and high standards of real-estate conservation are strictly enforced.

Gurkha soldiers are also privileged to conduct regular challenging training with the Royal Brunei Land Forces.

Each military exercise and sporting event provides officers and soldiers with essential learning opportunities. In addition, sharing experiences creates better soldiers and closer friendships.



His Majesty delivering a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the new Islamic year ¹⁴³⁷ Hijrah at Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 13 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stressed that performing prayers is crucial for the country's prosperity.

Brunei Darussalam is free from turmoil. The people live in unity with no fights or disputes. In fact, everything is going well.

His Majesty stated this in a *titah* (royal speech) delivered in conjunction with the New Year of Hijrah ¹⁴³⁷ celebration at Istana Nurul Iman.

The recital of *doa* (supplication) for the end of Hijrah year and for the early Hijrah is a routine that creates an advantage for us, where the impact is so great that it is capable of creating a prosperous country, His Majesty said.

In the end of year prayers, we ask for Allah to forgive our sins and accept our repentance while in welcoming the New Year, we ask Allah to protect us from evil. If Allah grants our *doa*, Insha Allah we will continue to enjoy security, happiness

and prosperity.

His Majesty believes that if Allah accepts our *doa*, this means the people and the country will be free from the devil's temptations and its army. We will then be free from committing evil acts that can plunge humanity into sins and wickedness.

Prayers are a means of the survival of our country and therefore the tradition to pray during the New Year must be continued and preserved.

Thus, His Majesty called upon all Muslims to embrace and appreciate the *doa* for the early Hijrah with the sole intention of gaining Allah's blessings.

In the *doa* for the end of Hijrah year, we supplicate for Allah to accept our repentance and humbly ask for His mercy and forgiveness for any wrongdoings that we may have committed throughout the year.

At the end of the *titah*, His Majesty wished the citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam a Happy New Year ¹⁴³⁷ Hijrah.

Her Majesty attends Girl Guides Day 2015 celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 9 - Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, as the royal patron for the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam, attended the Girl Guides Day 2015 celebration at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Her Majesty was accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanali Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanali Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir were also in attendance.

At the celebration, Her Majesty consented to present the Girl Guides Special Awards to four Girl Guide Association members.

Six members who had contributed actively for 15 years received the Silver Long Service Awards while the Bronze Long Service Awards were given to three members who had been active in the association for 10 years.

Her Majesty was also presented with a birthday cake in conjunction with Her Majesty's birthday celebration and a *pesambah* (gift).

Her Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Chief Commissioner of the Association, Dayang Hajah Siti Hafsa binti Haji Abdul Halim as well as members of the Ceremony's Committee and Life-long Vice Presidents of the association.

The ceremony commenced with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah and thanksgiving prayers by Dayang Hajah Fatimah binti Haji Abd Ghani, the Spiritual Commissioner of the Girls Guides Association.

In her welcoming speech, the Chief Commissioner said Her Majesty's presence was highly anticipated by the Girl Guide Association members.

Her Majesty's presence, she added, was a beacon light of hope and brought strength for the association to move forward and to always carry out beneficial and voluntary activities.

She also touched on the two main activities that are carried out at the association's headquarters, such as a sharing session on the experiences obtained during participation in activities inside and outside of the country and a day with Brownie guides, which is handled by the headquarters Starlight group that comprised of youth leaders.



Her Majesty cutting a cake to commemorate Her Majesty's birthday anniversary at the Girl Guides Day 2015 celebration.



Her Majesty receives a *pesambah* (gift)



Her Majesty greeted by the girl guides.



Her Majesty observing a performance at the celebration.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince launches convocation festival, 32 new books

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 5 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanali Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, consented to attend the launching of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA)'s 5th Mahrajan Hafli Al-Takharuj or convocation festival at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

As Pro-Chancellor of UNISSA, His Royal Highness launched 32 books published by UNISSA at the convocation festival.

Two referred journals were also published - UNISSA Journal 3rd Edition and Centre for the Promotion of Knowledge and Language Journal 2nd Issue.

Earlier, His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Education, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong and

UNISSA Rector Dr. Haji Norafan bin Haji Zainal as the chairperson of the Executive Committee for the 5th Convocation Festival and other committee members.

The ceremony commenced with a recital of Surah Al-Fatihah by The Honourable Pehin Dato Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal.

At the event, His Royal Highness first delivered a *sabda* (royal speech) and declared the convocation festival open.

Afterward, His Royal Highness proceeded to tour the exhibition that displayed UNISSA's timeline and then launched the publications.

The books are hoped to become a practical platform for UNISSA to disseminate information to the public apart from encouraging the university's workforce to be more active in writing and research.

It is the largest number of publications to date produced by the Centre for

Research and Publication or better known as UNISSA Press.

After the launch, His Royal Highness toured the exhibition that carried the theme 'Arabic Language and Islamic Civilisation as Catalyst for Zikir Nation'.

The exhibition featured information on various religious education institutions in the country, including the history and development of Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB) and Arabic schools.

The theme aimed to shape UNISSA students and the citizens to become a generation that is able to read, understand and practice Al-Qur'an and a generation with good morals that become role models to the community.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince launching the convocation festival (left) and being briefed by UNISSA Rector during a tour at the exhibition (above).



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince looking at the new books published by UNISSA after the launching ceremony.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince observing the exhibition.



Their Royal Highnesses and His Excellency taking a morning walk at the Berakas Forest Reserve Recreational Park.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince and His Excellency planting the 'Selungsur' Trees.

Crown Prince and Singapore Deputy Prime Minister visit Berakas Forest Reserve Recreational Park

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 6 – 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 took a morning walk with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Coordinating Minister for National Security of the Republic of Singapore His Excellency Teo Chee Hean at the Berakas Forest Reserve Recreational Park.

delegation were in Brunei Darussalam for a four-day working visit with the 3rd Youth Leadership Programme between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore as the main agenda.

Earlier, His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Haji Bakar.

His Royal Highness and His Excellency began the morning walk from the Biodiversity Park and later planted the 'Selungsur' trees.

During the walk, His Royal Highness and His Excellency were briefed on the several plant species found in the park and then stopped at the 'Self Development Camp' that is organised by the Academic Unit of the Schools Department under the

Ministry of Education.

A total of 102 students from four secondary schools – Masin Secondary School, Awang Semaun Secondary School, Pengiran isteri Hajjah Mariam Secondary School and Sports School – participated in the camp.

Before ending the walk, His Royal Highness and His Excellency visited the ASEAN Tourism Forum planting site where Brunei Darussalam hosted the forum in 2010.

His Royal Highness and His Excellency were then introduced to 30 young leaders of the 3rd Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore Youth Leadership Exchange Programme.

Afterward, His Royal Highness and His Excellency ended the morning walk with a breakfast against the backdrop of the Berakas Beach.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince and His Excellency observing the fruits during the morning walk.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince being introduced to some of the members of the Youth Leadership Exchange Programme.

Crown Prince officiates second ITB Convocation Festival and ISLE Garden



His Royal Highness signing a plaque at the event.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 24 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as the Pro-Chancellor of Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) officiated the second ITB Convocation Festival.

After delivering a *sabda* (royal speech), His Royal Highness launched the 'Intellectually Stimulating Learning Environment' (ISLE) Garden, which was then followed with the recital of Takbir by ITB students.

His Royal Highness then visited the garden and was briefed on the evolution of the ISLE Garden by the students and educators handling the project.

The green technology garden is an initiative of ITB towards realising one of the university's ambitions of achieving a 'Vibrant Campus'.

It consists of three main areas: Evolution of the ISLE Garden, Green Initiative and the Inventor's Platform.

The Evolution of the ISLE Garden showcases the garden's development and construction phases while the Green Initiative contains various trees, plants and herbs for research purposes.

The Inventor's Platform is a place for discussion and development of ideas and a place to display creative and innovative projects or activities.

Afterward, His Royal Highness was taken on a virtual tour of the ISLE Garden developed by a PhD student at ITB and winner of the BICTA Awards 2015, Dayang Nurulhidayati binti Haji Mohd. Sani. The three-dimensional virtual simulation of the garden shows the different parts and features of the garden.

A number of projects showcased at the garden included Solar Panel and Solar Table Project; Sensor-based Controlled Irrigation System; IOT (Internet of Things)-Controlled Water Sprinkler; Recycled Materials Cycle Stand; and the Horizontal Axis Spiral Wind Turbine Project (HASWT).

The Solar Panel & Solar Table Project is a collaborative project



His Royal Highness being briefed on the Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine.



His Royal Highness receives a pesambah (gift).

between ITB and Tropica Solar Photovoltaic Company and RAB Global Green Sdn Bhd on solar panels technology. The panels can be shaped according to the requirements of the client.

Meanwhile, the Sensor-based Controlled Irrigation System project aims to improve water efficiency and crop yield through automated and systematic irrigation.

The IOT-Controlled Water Sprinkler is a system that connects sensors and microprocessors to the Internet to allow remote control of the system via web-based computer, smart phone or tablet anywhere and anytime.

The Recycled Materials Cycle Stand, on the other hand, features an environmentally friendly and durable bicycle stand that was built using recycled aluminium.

Lastly, the HASWT was designed and built using spiral blades to generate electricity regardless of wind direction.

Earlier, His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival at ITB's Phase 3 Complex by the Minister of Education cum ITB Council Chairman, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman; the Deputy Minister of Education, Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar; and the Vice-Chancellor of ITB, Associate Professor Dr Hajjah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman.

The celebration commenced with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah and Doa Selamat by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Setia Raja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Suhaili bin Haji Mohiddin.

At the end of the tour, His Royal Highness received a *pesambah* (gift) from the ITB Student Representative Council and greeted the students and staff of ITB.

The festival is held annually to celebrate students who have successfully completed their studies.

It also marks the start of various programmes of religious and charity events including the Sports Fiesta 2015 and Khatam Al-Qur'an ceremony on October 25 and 28.

A total of 393 graduates will receive their degrees and diplomas respectively at the ITB Convocation 2015.

Her Royal Highness graces launching of 'Orchids of Brunei'



Her Royal Highness signing the front cover image of the newly launched book at International School Berakas.

SALAMBIGAR, October 9 – Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman graced the launching ceremony of 'Orchids of Brunei' at International School Berakas (ISB).

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, were also present. 'Orchids of Brunei' is a book jointly published by ISB and the Heart of Borneo (HoB) initiative.

Authored by Dr Idris M Said (a former forest botanist at Brunei National Herbarium at Sg. Liang), the coffee table book featured 360 types of wild orchids, including 121 species new to Brunei Darussalam.

It also features decorative designs, famous quotes and striking photography.

The books are sold at Nollybook, Best Eastern, Booker International and ISB's

bookstore for BND40.

Earlier, Her Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the Principal of ISB, Dr Steven Geraghty.

The ISB Principal first delivered a speech thanking Her Royal Highness for supporting ISB's eco initiatives.

The book symbolises the strong relationship between the government and ISB in focusing the issue of natural sustainability in Borneo, he said.

It is hoped the publication would encourage students and the younger generation to support the existing protection and conservation of national initiatives.

He also highlighted ISB's extensive eco conservation initiatives such as the Million Trees Project, recycling initiatives and Sustainable Living Awareness Building project for the animal rehabilitation centre in cooperation with BruWild and the Wild Life Department.

In his speech, he announced that ISB would receive the Greenmark Award, a prestigious Singaporean eco award for school design and operations. ISB is the



Her Royal Highness receives 'Orchids of Brunei' from one of the students.



'Orchids of Brunei' features wild orchid species found in Brunei Darussalam.

only school that would be presented with the award in Borneo.

He expressed hope that it would further raise awareness of issues of sustainability and that the ISB students would continue to lead the initiatives to save Brunei Darussalam's fragile environment in the future.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati binti Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja, Dato Seri Utama (Dr.) Haji Awang Mohd. Jamil Al-Sufri; the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Awang Haji Khairuddin bin Haji Abd. Hamid; the Acting Senior Special Duties Officer and Head of the Private Education Division at the Ministry of Education, Pengiran Ayup bin Pengiran Haji Othman; and the Chief Executive Officer of HoB centre and Head of Biodiversity Research and Innovation Centre, Awang Mahmud bin Haji Yussof were also present at the ceremony.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel (far left) at the launching ceremony.



Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim (far left) at the ceremony.

Uphold professionalism and integrity of criminal justice system



Her Royal Highness at the seminar.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 24 – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah attended a one-day seminar on 'Enhancing Professionalism in Prosecution and Investigations in the Administration of Justice' at the banquet hall of the Officers Mess of the Royal Brunei Police Force headquarters in Gadong.

The Attorney General's Chambers and the Royal Brunei Police Force are urged to continue to work in a dynamic manner to ensure that crime prevention strategies are up-to-date and capable of combating law violations more effectively. This is so that justice can be upheld fairly, effectively and efficiently.

This was stressed by the Attorney General, The Honourable Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Hayati binti Pehin Orang

Kaya Shahbandar Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohd. Salleh in a speech at the opening ceremony of the seminar.

The Attorney General emphasised the importance of upholding professionalism and integrity of the public officials, especially when conducting investigations and prosecutions, as these are two very important aspects of the criminal justice system.

The prosecutors in the Attorney General's Chambers are always striving to achieve excellence through various training activities and have done their part in drafting the legislation governing misconduct in public office, which would hopefully assist in preserving institutional integrity, she said.

She noted that even though the Attorney General's Chambers and the Royal Brunei Police Force are responsible to constantly improve the justice administration system as the main body of the criminal justice system, we also play a role in strengthening the integrity of the system.

The Attorney General's Chambers, she explained, has made constant efforts to improve the quality of prosecutions in the country.

It can be reflected through the continuous training of the officers in developing their prosecutor skills, training in prosecuting government officials and projects that are run to increase knowledge sharing among prosecutors.

The efforts to upgrade the skills of prosecutors are not limited and the initiatives to increase professionalism in the public office as a whole are further improved with the new amendment of the Prevention of Corruption Act, Chapter

131, which governments misconduct in the public office, she said.

The new legislation, she stated, aims to pave the way to prosecute civil servants who fail to perform their work with highest ethical standards, by either using public funds for personal use, giving inappropriate preferential treatment or deliberately neglecting to perform duties as a public officer.

With the amendment, the law will act as a moral compass for civil servants and it is hoped that it would instill the sense of responsibility in them to maintain and preserve the integrity of the public office at all times.

Touching upon the seminar, she said that it is the proof that the Attorney General's Chambers and the Royal Brunei Police Force would always strive to effectively implement tasks in the criminal justice system with integrity and professionalism.



The Attorney General delivering a speech.



Her Royal Highness with the staff of the Attorney General's Chambers and police personnel.



GURKHA²⁰⁰ COMMEMORATION PARADE