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Front cover - 'Get-Together' Proves the Love of a Caring Monarch Back cover - New Tamu Kianggeh Complex Attracts More Visitors

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One of the much-awaited event by the people from all walks of life 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's Get-together and Junjung Ziarah with the people which reflects the wise leadership as well a loving and caring monarch to the people.

Residents and citizens of Brunei Darussalam will always look forward to the 15th of July every year as it is a month of a royal birthday celebration that is meaningful for them and would certainly be recorded in history for mention by the next generation.

One of the much-awaited event by the people from all walks of life 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's Get-together and Junjung Ziarah with the people in the four districts, which reflects the wise leadership as well a loving and caring monarch to the people.

During this joyous and meaningful event, the people will not miss the opportunity to meet and greet their beloved monarch in person to convey their greetings in conjunction with His Majesty's birthday celebration as well as to mingle more closely with the monarch who is loved and cherished by all the people. Despite the rainy or hot weather, residents and

citizens will still gather to this event so that they can express and extend their prayers towards His Majesty to remain healthy and a long prosperous life under the protection of Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala.

The peace, prosperity and wellbeing apart from the increase development have been achieved by the country. All of these are evident from the great wisdom of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty presence in all four districts clearly reflect the monarch's personality and leadership qualities as a commanding, wise and people-oriented monarch.

In fact, His Majesty's love and care for his people is not only seen during official events or occasions but the monarch will also be present in non-official events. This is particularly evident when His Majesty and members of the royal family consented to attend and support the Young Wasps national football players at the Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy Championship 2014 held at The National Stadium. His Majesty's open attitude



The unbroken strength of relationship between the king and the people, will ensure a lasting and peaceful life and thus contribute progress and development of our country continuously.

to the people is what makes his subjects always feel grateful to Allah The Almighty for having a kind-hearted and loving monarch as well as generous to the people regardless of race, faith and skin color.

The citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam should appreciate and give their undivided loyalty towards their beloved ruler and hopefully The unbroken strength of relationship between the king and the people, will ensure a lasting and peaceful life and thus contribute progress and development of our country continuously.

In conjunction with His Majesty's birthday this year, citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam prays that His Majesty and members of the royal family will have a long and prosperous life, and always be under the protection of Allah The Almighty and rule Brunei Darussalam in harmoniously, and with blessings, guidance and aid of Allah The Almighty.



Awang Haji Azahari bin Gamok from Kampung Lambak Kanan, is one of the selling antiques seller in Tamu Kianggeh.

n an effort to improve a more welcoming business environment at Tamu Kianggeh, Bandar Seri Begawan Municipal Department (BSBMD) has built a new Tamu Kianggeh Complex, which began its operations on June 1 2016.

The new Tamu Kianggeh Complex is situated on the banks of the River Kianggeh overlooking Jalan Kianggeh and covers an area of 4,450 square meters.

The new complex has five blocks that provide a total of 147 seats to accommodate sellers and hawkers using permanent plots on a daily basis while three blocks provide 164 seats for hawkers every Friday and Sunday.

Awang Haji Azhari bin Gamuk from Kampung Lambak Kanan who sells goods and old currencies in Tamu Kianggeh Complex every Friday and Sunday, when interviewed by Pelita Brunei, expressed his gratitude for the Government of His Majesty 's concern and BSBMD for providing a more comfortable and safer place to run their business.



With this new look, the Tamu kianggeh complex is able to improve to a friendlier business climate for the visitors.

"I am quite satisfied with the new complex as all the facilities are provided such as a place to perform prayers, clean toilets and others," says the retiree from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Meanwhile, a daily seller from Kampung Berangan, Dayang Koon Chai Hong, also expressed her gratitude to the Government of His Majesty for the construction of the new complex.

She is also happy with the cleanliness of the new complex as workers are provided to help clean the complex which will attract more customers and visitors.

She said, with affordable and low rental, the sellers are happy and hope that the goods will be sellable as it has been getting good response from the public.

Pelita Brunei also interviewed one of the visitors to the new complex, Awang Jamil Hj Tamin, is pleased and satisfied with the new construction of the complex.

The complex is very clean and in order, all benches and places to sell goods and toilets are also available for public use.





Some of the items sell in Tamu Kianggeh Complex.



A customer looks at the goods sold by Awang Jamil.



Awang Haji Azahari bin Gamok during the interview.



"The seating area is also available for the public which makes it easier to relax when tired, and visitors that come to this new complex are saying it is an excellent and satisfying than it was before," he added.

According to him, the atmosphere is more lively especially on Sundays as people who came for Bandarku Ceria Programme continue to visit and purchased as well as see the atmosphere such as unique items and Brunei traditional food.



A daily seller from Kampung Berangan, Dayang Koon Chai Hong, also expressed her gratitude to the Government of His Majesty for the construction of the new complex.



Awang Jamil Hj Tamin, is pleased and satisfied with the new construction of the complex.





Releasing prawnss into the pool

Towards the year 2035, Brunei Darussalam will be known around the world with a dynamic and resilient economy as outlined in the Brunei Vision 2035. To support these goals, the Trade and Industry Sector is one of the sectors that is particularly important in the government's efforts to diversify the country's economy to be less dependent in Oil and Gas. Fishing is one of the sub-sectors in the sector of Industry and Trade.

### Freshwater Prawns Livestock Industry

Syarikat Usaha Tani Deli Duman (UTDD) is among one of the local Freshwater prawn company that has taken the lead to be envolved in aquaculture since 1993.

Starting with a pond, the owner of this company, Awang Deli Duman started breeding a catfish species known as an African Catfish in the early 90s then followed by fishes like Tilapia, Javanese Carp and Komon Kap fish.

Located in Kampung Rampayoh, Labi, Ulu Belait, UTTD started breeding freshwater prawns in 2001 and currently has successfully commercialize six ponds measuring 3,325 square meters on a land area of 2 acres.

Freshwater prawn farming is nothing new in the region, particularly in ASEAN countries. Other than assistance, the company also gets advice and support from the Fisheries Department related to prawn farming.

### Importance Of Technical Knowledge

The type of freshwater prawns reared in the ponds is a Macrobrachium Rosenbergii. It takes four to five months to grow. The suitable weight for it to be marketed is between 45 to 60 grams per prawn. These prawns feed from a type of pellet imported from abroad and measures from 01, 02, 03 and 04 in sizes. It is fed in accordance to its size as it eats using its claw.

Water quality is very important for the preservation of freshwater prawn in ponds. This includes its PH, temperature, nitrate contents, ammonia, oxygen and sufficient aeration in the pond.

The use of paddle wheel is important to ensure proper water usage flow that would influence its growing process. In this regard, technical knowledge is essential to ensure the survival rate of prawns produced within five months it is kept in the pond. In addition, the use of substrate is also necessary in order to ensure its survival when it is moulting or changing skin. Whenever its moulting, freshwater prawns will grow and cling on a substrate while it is hibernates.





Releasing prawns into the pond.

# Challenges

Other than preservation the quality of water in the pond, main challenge in this company is a disease and enemies, Crocodile, Iguana and birds often harass and threaten livestock.

In this case, the Fisheries Department has provided assistance to make a fence around the ponds. Fisheries Department also provides summersible pump high-powered electric for pumping water from the Rampayoh River. Apart from that as paddle wheel has also been attributed to this company.

# Advisory And Training

The company also provides advisory services and training to those who wants to be highly skilled operators. The owner of the company had the opportunity to attend SEAFDEC training, a course in Binangonan, Philippines specifically for breeding prawns in September 2015.

UTDD company has spent more than BND120,000 to provide infrastructure such as dredging the pond, provide electricity poles and cables, office and house for the workers and other necessary facilities. With the guidance and ongoing support from the Fisheries Department, the company will continue to strive to fulfill its vision and mission.



Usaha Tani Deli Duman company (UTDD) located in Kampung Rampayoh, Labi, Ulu Belait.

### Freshwater Prawns In Commercial Production

The company aspires to expand the production of commercial prawns to meet the demand of domestic market and also export it abroad in the future.

The company has made several harvests of prawn ponds and managed to penetrate the local market and supply to those individuals. In seeking to achieve this goal, the company will have its own hatchery facilities to produce spawn or shrimps.

This will increase production capacity and can penetrate the international market as well as respond for the government which is to the development of a compatitive local business.



Environmental conditions is important for the effectiveness of the communication process.

Communication plays an important role in delivering a piece of information or message. Without communication, individuals would be affected and be less productive to the society.

According to Associate Professor Dr. Zawiyah Muhammad Yusof "Research psychologists confirm the key factors that play a role in human happiness is a close relationship with other human beings". One way to bridge the communication is to communicate.

There are three elements in the communication of the sender, receiver and channel or medium. Communication will be effective when messages can be delivered accurately and clearly understood by recipients and shared with the sender and receiver.

Communication skills are not limited to age, race, religion or rank status. It is something that is born in man himself.

But too often we hear about the challenges or barriers in communication. It is believed that 70 percent of communication is often misinterpreted, distorted, rejected or unheard. These challenges can cause a relationship to be cold and less effective.

Among the factors that cause and challenges in communicating is:

### Language and Culture

Cultural practices and traditions can lead to different ways of understanding the differences in the communication process. Culture includes customs, trust, values and so on.

These cultural differences can pose a challenge in communication. For example in Japan. People will bow their heads as a sign of respect when meeting with others, in contrast with our communities in the country, we implement religious aspects of introduction by a hand shake when met.

'Nda ku tahu eh' or 'kok bisa' is an example of using a dialect that may not be understood for some people, especially those who do not come from nations or tribes countries concerned.

Even the use of different languages, eloquence and fluency pronounce the word can be a challenge in the communication process.

For those who are not sensitive to the culture and the language it will be a surprise and could affect their communication process.

### Sender and Receiver Attitude

Attitude plays a role in determining a person's emotional and acceptance in the communication process.

Attitude which often reigns conductor, directing high self and judge can give the impression to the receiver. This will cause them to be passive, scared and feeling victimized.

Meanwhile, the attitude of prejudice, conflict between the sender and the recipient, or the perception of different ideas received message also is among the recipients attitudes that can lead to less effective communication process.

This is because according to studies, people often only hear and see what they want to hear and see.



Communication plays a very important role in human life.

### Environments

Environmental conditions uncomfortable, noisy, remote, dark or dirty also affect the effectiveness of the communication process.

In this situation, people will be easy to feel depressed and

do not focus on what is to be conveyed.

Communication will not be able to achieve its goal in a tense environment.

### Technology

Modern technology nowadays much help facilitate the communication process. However, it can be also a challenge, especially when the user is more concerned with communication through the gadget or technology rather than communicate with each other verbally or face to face.

As examples of the application whatsapp, facebook, twitter and the latest game Pokemon Go application.

Users become complacent with these applications and human relations became increasingly strained and eventually lead to ineffective communication process.

Notwithstanding the challenges that arise in a process of communication, it can only be solved, among them is to try to understand the communication process, to be active, to listen more and to receive information or a message in a more open, limiting the use of technology, more interacting and being honest and trying to understand the attitude of the speaker and the receiver.

By applying the nature and attitude of a process of communication that will be more successful and effective.

### Conclusion

Effective communication can contribute to the prosperity and harmony of the society as the interaction and exchange of ideas or information and messages can foster understanding and unity among members in community life.

By applying the elements of Malay Islamic Monarchy in communication indirectly makes the process of communicating that can reflect the culture of the nation and the people of Brunei.

Civility in referring pronouns by Tarasul and in accordance with the values of Islam will strengthen the relationship in the communication process.



An efforts to improve are needed in major fields such as agriculture and staple food so that the country would be able to fulfill the means of living for the people

The steps to stimulate the economy as a whole, needs to be improved, especially in global economic issues that are challenging and we should not be dragged by enthusiasm as what has been mentioned by 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 in his titah at the Audience and Investiture ceremony in conjuction with His Majesty's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday anniversay at the Balai Singgahsana Indera Buana, Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty also added that efforts to improve are needed in major fields such as agriculture and staple food so that the country would be able to fulfill the means of living for the people and no longer rely on foreign trade.

In the titah, His Majesty also stressed that Brunei had to be more active in diversifying its economies and to have more structured agendas towards increasing its outcome in Gross National Product (GDP). The Monarch also added that Brunei should not be comfortable with the status of the challenging global economy but instead have more plans to achieve the targeted outcome.

As we are aware, this issue arose from the economy status and the decline in oil and gas production as well as the falling of oil prices worldwide. This also affected the macro-economy performance where it slowed down the country's growth in economy as well as a negative growth record.

The growth of GDP is important to extend and diversify the country's economic base, where there should be efforts to increase the export. According to the Brunei Darussalam Statistical Year Book 2014 published by the Department of Economic Planning and Development, Prime Minister's Office, the country's export is 61.9% of GDP. If the oil and gas economy are excluded, therefore the country's export would only be 12.4% of GDP in comparison to the export of smaller size country such as Singapore, Hongkong and Luxemborg, they have bigger economy size than Brunei's.

From this, it can be seen that each export is around 200% of GDP and the production of the industries must also be able to infiltrate the export market in order to guarantee the growth of the GDP as well as employment rate.

However, there is no excuse for smaller countries to restrict the growth of their own businesses, as we need to explore more on the export market.

During the 12<sup>th</sup> annual session of the Legislative Council (LegCo) held on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2016, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, explained that the mission of the ministry is "to lead the growth of production of primary resources and tourism as a significant contributor to the growth of GDP by encouraging investments inside and outside of the country and to give pressure to the increased production, the use of high technology as well as focusing on the export market".

Yang Berhormat also explained that the Ministry will emphasize on four main points which is, economic growth, productivity, export or different industries of Poultry Farming Industry using high and modern technology where it aims to increase the export value between BND300 million to BND400 million by the year 2020 compared to BND100 million in the year 2014. For the Agriculture Industry, it will use high technology such as vertical farming and LED lighting. This aims to increase export value between BND150 million to BND200 million by the year 2020 compared to BND33 million by the year 2014.

Meanwhile, the Cut Flowers Industry will use high technology such as LED lighting, black screen and high tech green house. It aims to increase the





export value between BND40 million to BND60 million by the year 2020 compared to only achieving BND0.2 million in the year 2014.

The Agrifood Industry focuses on the product-processing industry based on meat poultry such as sausage, cold cast and others. It aims to increase the export value between BND200 million to BND250 million by the year 2020 compared to only achieving BND102 million in the year 2014.

The Fishing Industry focuses on the aquaculture fishery (off shore fish culture) and in-land shrimp culture and processing industry and other industries that are related. It aims to increase the export value between BND200 milliom to BND300 million by the year 2020.

The Forestry Industry is planning to attempt the growth of down-stream industry as well as nontimber forest products industry.

Seeing that the country's economy size is small, the growths from these are targeted towards international market or export. A lot of industry activities need to be examine carefully from time to time for it to be carried out in a large scale using the latest technology with potential to increase production not only for the growth of GDP but also to decrease export.

Brunei Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DPPMB) member, Dato' Haji Roni Bin Haji Rosli expressed his gratitude to His Majesty's titah as it is an exact and a practical opinion. It aims to guide the country to work together in handling the challenges by focusing on the energy and minds towards building a country in various fields.

Economic crisis has a negative implication on the country's development. However, it cannot distract the country from fulfilling their work and responsibilities as a citizen in helping the government to develope the country's economy. This means that citizens have to play more positive roles in facing the economic crisis in the country.

For the public sector, they have to be more proactive, aggressive and productive in fulfilling their roles as the government's agency especially in helping to develop the local entrepreneurs continuously. Meanwhile for private sectors, they need to be more open to challenges and be prepared in handling difficulties with patriotism.

"InsyaAllah, if is are unity and cooperation between two sides, the efforts towards the economy will be stable, it would be easier to reach the goals and the aspirations of His Majesty's government," said Dato' Haji Roni.



### Positive Progress

The positive progress of the agriculture and agrifood gives a sign that investment opportunities and businesses are still open for those who want to explore these sectors.

These developing sectors aspires to contribute to the growth of GDP and making the export other than oil and gas as a catalyst to the efforts in diversifying the country's economic by increasing the productivity of farming entrepreneurs and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

The matter was shared by Acting Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood, Dayang Hajah Khartini binti Haji Musa at the Agri Business Development Facilitation Workshop in Brunei Darussalam that was held at the Civil Service Institute in Rimba on 18th April.

The country's vision is to reach high productivity with stable growth as well as to produce agri business industry that is based on exports.

With the recent technologies, many efforts have been carried out in order to spread the business industry based on export by increasing active FDI registration and local entrepreneurs by focusing on the high value products, increase productivity as well as stable growth of farming and production of agrifood.

Dayang Hajah Khartini gave a statement regarding the agriculture and agrifood situation in Brunei Darussalam. Following the figures in 2015, lands that have been further developed for agricultures, as a whole is 7,414.60 hectares where 2,991.50 hectares are used for farming and 4,504.10 hectares for plants. The total of agriculture and agrifood entrepreneurs as a whole is 6,197 people and 987 people are involved in the farming sector, 4,839 are involved in the plants sector and 381 people are involved in the agrifood processing sector.

If we are all committed towards developing the agriculture and primary resources sector, the aim to increase productivity is not impossible to reach through the use of modern technologies as well as choosing the best seeds, where it has been achieved by other countries in the same sector.

Other than that, cooperation from FDI is very crucial in helping us to develop the agriculture sector especially the coming of technologies and experts and will help to infiltrate international market by introducing product and our services. With this, the export is a personal growth, and will place our economy in a developing level.



Some of the techniques used for mosquito control include larvicides and also fogging (above). Picture: Courtesy of the Ministry of Health

The recent outbreak of cases of Zika virus in Singapore and more active transmission in Latin America and the Caribbean have got many of us worried. What is Zika and should the authorities be doing more about it?

#### What is Zika?

The Zika virus is a mosquito-borne disease that in most cases results in either no symptoms or only very mild flu-like illness. Other symptoms can include a rash, conjunctivitis and generalised weakness. There is no specific vaccine and treatment is mainly supportive. The symptoms of Zika virus and its mode of transmission is very similar to other diseases like dengue and chikungunya, which are endemic in Brunei Darussalam. In rare cases, Zika virus can cause severe neurological complications such as paralysis or muscle weakness, and in pregnant women has been shown to increase the risk of congenital birth defects in the developing foetus resulting in a condition called microcephaly (small head circumference), which is a sign of incomplete brain development.

### That sounds scary. How is Zika spread?

Zika primarily spreads through infected mosquitoes. You can also get Zika through sex. Although no cases of Zika have been reported in Brunei, many areas of the country have the type of mosquitoes that can spread Zika virus — the Aedes mosquito. These mosquitoes are aggressive daytime biters and can also bite at night. A possible mechanism of spread in a country that has never before had Zika is through introduction of the virus into the mosquito population. Returning travellers infected with Zika can spread the virus through mosquito bites. An infected mosquito can then spread the virus to other people and it becomes transmitted locally within the community.

### That's not good. Can we do anything to control it?

The main strategy to prevent the introduction of Zika in the community is through the control of the mosquito population. The Aedes mosquito proliferates in many purposely-filled household containers, such as domestic water storage and those used for decorative plants, as well as rain-filled habitats like used tyres, discarded containers, blocked gutters, and buildings under construction.

Typically, these mosquitoes do not fly far. The majority remain within 100 metres of where they emerged, feeding almost entirely on humans mainly during daylight hours both indoors and outdoors.

### What are the authorities doing to protect me from this disease?

The Ministry of Health regularly conducts surveillance activities at known mosquito hotspots. We use the Integrated Vector Management (IVM) to control mosquito vectors, including those of Dengue, Chikungunya and to prevent against transmission of Zika.

Control of adult mosquitoes through fogging is the most familiar aspect of mosquito control to most of the public. It is accomplished by ground-based applications or via aerial application of residual chemical insecticides through hand fogging machines. This technique is just one of the techniques used by the Ministry of Health at known mosquito hotspots, or where clusters of dengue cases are identified. Other techniques include the use of lethal mosquito traps (known as the ovitrap), and also larvicides to control the mosquito larvae.

### Great. So fogging with insecticides will keep me safe?

Over time and repeated use, insecticide resistance can occur in mosquito populations. Insecticide resistance is an overall reduction in the ability of an insecticide product to kill mosquitoes. This means that over time, the product no longer works, or only partially works.

Furthermore, during periods of heavy rain, many of these insecticides get washed away to rivers and waterways and no longer have any discernable effect on the mosquito population.

Long-term and repeated use may also pollute these rivers and waterways. This is why, the application of these chemicals through fogging and other methods are only complementary or secondary and the mainstay of mosquito control as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) is environmental management to eradicate breeding sites.

### What does it mean to eradicate breeding sites? Is this something that I should be doing?

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in stagnant water. The most common breeding sites found in the home include domestic containers, flower pot plates and trays, ornamental containers, blocked drains, and even the toilet bowl/cistern. Here are some tips to ensure that we keep our home and surroundings mosquito free:

- When not in use, it is important that we turn over all water containers and keep them dry, and cover all containers that contain water.
- Discard unwanted plastic cups or water bottles into the litter bin.
- On alternate days, change water in vases and scrub the vases to remove mosquito larvae.
- Once a week, clear fallen leaves in drains and gardens and check that drains are free flowing and not blocked.

#### So what are the take-home messages?

Self-initiative for source reduction and environmental sanitation in our homes and community is the key to ensuring sustainable and effective control of the mosquito population and reducing the risk of diseases, such as dengue and Zika, to ourselves and our children.

The Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr Hj Zulkarnain Hj Hanafi, expressed his concern with respect to the ongoing Zika virus situation in the region.

"The Ministry of Health takes the protection and wellbeing of the public extremely seriously. We will continue to monitor the emerging Zika virus situation working closely with our counterparts in Singapore and technical experts from the WHO to ensure that the risk to Brunei Darussalam is contained. Each and everyone of us must play our part in tackling this challenge to ensure our national health security," the minister said.

"Following these, simple measures can ensure that we have a clean and healthy environment for our children to grow up in and is one important way of protecting and providing for our families. Health is everyone's business. Let us all do our part in building a healthy and disease-free Brunei Darussalam," he added.

For further information questions on the Zika virus and mosquito-borne diseases, visit the Ministry of Health website at www.moh.gov.bn or call Talian Darussalam 123.





TAXI SYSTEM SERVICE INTRODUCED

Brunei Darussalam achieved another historical moment through the Ministry of Communications with the introduction of a Metered Taxi System Service launched on September 23, 2016 in an effort to provide a more regulated, connected and reliable public transportation service.

The Brunei Darussalam Metered Taxi Systems requires all taxis in the country to be supplied with the meter to ensure that passengers pay a regulated fare price.

### New taxi fares

Through this system, a 10-kilometered ride would cost around BND 12.

The meter system will calculate the time spent and distance travelled, so shorter distance will be cheaper than the current rate of between BND 20 and BND 40 for the same distance.

For a trip that starts from/to the Brunei International Airport, the charge will be BND 3. Passengers who wish to travel from one district to another district, including Muara in the Brunei-Muara district will be charged BND 8.

The first kilometre or first minute of the taxi ride will cost BND 3.50. Passengers will be charged 20 cents for every 250 metres/15 seconds (whichever first).

Other charges under the new fare structure include travelling during "peak hours" from 6pm to 6am, with passengers charged an extra 50 percent on top of their fare.

If the number of passengers exceeds four people, an extra BND 2 charge will be imposed for every individual. The waiting charge is set at 50 cents for every 60 seconds.

In terms of baggage, the first two will incur no charges. While it will cost BND 2 for the third and subsequent baggage.



Taxis in the country supplied with the meter to ensure that passengers pay a regulated fare price.



The new image Metered Taxi with a black identification plate and mobile taxi signboard.

# New image

The metered taxi has a new image with a black identification plate and mobile taxi signboard.

The Director of Land Transport Department (LTD), Dr Hj Supry bin Hj Ladi in a statement said taxis will no longer be required to be yellow-roofed. Any vehicle colour approved by LTD can be used. The wording on each side of taxi will no longer be necessary.

# Safety and quality services

Taxi drivers are required to have their personal identification that needs to be displayed inside their vehicles to ensure a good and safe service.

The introduction of this taxi meter service is also one of the measures taken to encourage the public against using illegal private taxis. This is to up hold passenger's safety and to ensure the income for valid transportation service owners is not affected.

To ensure a good quality and safe service, a complaint number for passengers to lodge any complaints against behaviour of a taxi driver will be displayed inside the vehicle, and at the back of the car.

A high-tech meter was installed in the taxi, as well as a Bluetooth device, ticket printer and credit card payment facility (an optional if needed).

Meanwhile, taxi stands will be provided at strategic hotpoints across the country, such as shopping centres, hotels and convention centres.

There will be no trust issues with the metered taxis, as the price rates are monitored and continuously assessed by authorities said the Minister of Communication, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat.

"The taxi tariffs are generally on par with Singapore, and now the rates are lower than previously expected," said the minister.

### Proposed Incentive

The Ministry of Communication announced plans to provide infrastructure such as taxi stands in strategic areas and a cab-hailing IT solution. Construction of new taxi stands and the provision of IT system are needed to boost greater connectivity between drivers and passengers.

