



FDIs give MSME opportunity to move forward

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said while we are still shrouded in concern over the COVID-19 threat, the country needs to devise some economic recovery strategies that justify our return to normal.

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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 delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the Audience and Investiture Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty's 76th Birthday Celebration held at the Balai Singgahsana Indera Buana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Providing resilient and affordable housing

TUTONG, July 7 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented land grants under the Temporary Occupation License (TOL) in the Tutong and Belait District, and house keys under the Bukit Beruang National Housing Scheme in the Tutong District to 446 recipients.

The ceremony was held at Tutong Sixth Form Centre (PTET), Kampung Bukit Beruang, Mukim Telisai.

Ajmin bin Haji Meludin, Acting District Officer of Tutong in his welcoming speech said the presentation of land grants and house keys is a valuable and meaningful gift for the recipients that shows the

Monarch's care and concern towards the people's well-being thus cultivating solidarity among the populace.

At the ceremony, a total of 209 received land grants under the Land Lot Grants Scheme for TOL, of which 125 are in the Tutong District and 84 in the Belait District.

Meanwhile, 237 recipients received house keys to terrace houses under the Bukit Beruang National Housing Scheme in the Tutong District.

After the presentation ceremony, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam toured PTET. On the way to the Bukit Beruang National Housing Scheme, His Majesty made a stop at Sayyidina Othman Secondary School.

The highly anticipated moment was when the Monarch visited the houses of several house key recipients under the Bukit Beruang National Housing Scheme. With a floor area of 85.9 square metre, the terrace house is equipped with three bedrooms, a living room, a bathroom and a kitchen.

The RPN Bukit Beruang has 530 units of detached, 500 units of semi-detached, 368 units of cluster-type and 1,348 units of terrace houses.

To date, more than 30,000 houses under the RPN and Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme (STKRJ) have been built nationwide.

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5. Investiture and Grand Parade Ceremony



11. Get-Together Ceremony



18. His Majesty leads Horse Riding Excursion



19. Diplomatic Corps host Birthday Celebration



20. Carry out responsibilities justly



24. 17,406 receive sacrificial meat from His Majesty



28. Morning walk of friendship



30. BruHealth receives BICTA Royal Patron Award



31. 'Prince Azim: Son of The Arts' screening raises \$100,000



32. Compete wholeheartedly



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His Majesty receives audience



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman of Her Excellency Adaljiza Magno, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on July 6.

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 has consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- Her Excellency The Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor-General, Commander-in-Chief of Canada; and The Right Honourable Justin P.J. Trudeau, the Prime Minister of Canada, as well as the government and people of Canada on the occasion of Canada Day on July 1.
- His Excellency Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of United States of America on the occasion of its Independence Day on July 4.
- His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic as well as to the government and people of French Republic on the occasion of Bastille Day on July 14.
- Her Excellency Droupadi Murmu on the occasion of her appointment as the new President of the Republic of India on July 25.
- His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, the King of Thailand on the occasion of His Majesty's 70th birthday anniversary on July 27.

His Majesty sends message of condolences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send a message of condolences to His Excellency Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan on the recent passing of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on July 9.

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"These strategies are necessary as we are getting closer to the Brunei Vision 2035. The country must work on its goals without delay, including putting emphasis on economic progress," said His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech), delivered at the Audience and Investiture Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty's 76th Birthday Celebration.

"The government's move to diversify the country's economy, *alhamdulillah*, is beginning to yield positive results, with the non-oil and gas sector growing at an average rate of four per cent per annum in the past five years," said His Majesty.

"For example, the downstream sector, which is one of the economic key areas, has shown a significant increase, with the gross domestic product jumping from \$200 million in 2019 to \$1.6 billion in 2021.

"Exports in the non-oil and gas sector amounted to \$7.8 billion in 2021, which were higher than the oil and gas sector at \$6.4 billion," added His Majesty.

His Majesty stated that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted a 1.8 per cent growth for Brunei Darussalam, the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research

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Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony



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 Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen during the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony (above and below).

KIARONG, July 14 - 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 joined congregants at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah for a Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony to mark His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 76th Birthday Celebration.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

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Office (AMRO) with a 4.1 per cent forecast, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with 4.2 per cent.

His Majesty noted that several Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) companies have begun operations this year, helping to provide employment opportunities for the locals, such as the Brunei Fertilizer Industries Sendirian Berhad, which has been producing urea for exports since February this year.

FDIs will also generate opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Thus, His Majesty calls for locally-owned MSMEs to seize these opportunities.

His Majesty then cited the titah delivered

in conjunction with His Majesty's 75th Birthday Celebration, regarding the study conducted by the Ministry of Finance and Economy in collaboration with the Employees Trust Fund (TAP) on a new retirement scheme to replace the current one, in which His Majesty takes note that TAP has started to share the structure of its National Retirement Scheme (SPK).

Touching on food security, His Majesty stated that in recent months, geopolitical tensions, as well as supply chain disruptions, have affected the world's food supply.

However, His Majesty also acknowledged that the country's food sector is heading in the right direction with a growth of 11.4 per cent in 2019.

In terms of exports in 2021, the volume was valued at \$52 million compared to

only \$8 million five years ago.

His Majesty also said international relations and multilateral cooperation with regional and other dialogue partners will continue to be fostered to ensure the goal of enjoying peace and security together can be maintained.

His Majesty concluded the *titah* by saying: "I would like to extend my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the people and residents, civil servants, security forces, and those serving the private sector for their contributions and support for the Brunei Government."

His Majesty also expressed appreciation to all the members of the occasion committee at the national and district level for all the efforts and service they have given to making the occasion a success."

Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony (continued)

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Mass Fardu Maghrib Prayer, Sunat Hajat Prayer, recitation of Surah Yasin and *tahlil* was led by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Haji Mustafa bin Haji Murat, Officer of Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque.

This was followed by a *doa kesyukuran* read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz

Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

The ceremony ended with the Mass Fardu Isyak Prayer led by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Haji Suhaili bin Haji Metali Al-Hafiz, Officer of Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque.

Similar ceremonies were also simultaneously held at mosques throughout the country.



Among those present at the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony.



Investiture and Grand Parade Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15

- His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam attended the Audience and Investiture Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 76th Birthday Celebration at Balai Singgahsana Indera Buana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The ceremony was also attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam as well as other members of the royal family.

At the ceremony, His Majesty conferred Brunei Darussalam State Decorations to 23 recipients.

His Majesty first conferred The Most Exalted Order of Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang First Class (D.P.K.T) which carries the title of 'Dato Paduka Seri' to Yang Terhormat General Mohamad Andika Perkasa, Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI); Yang Berbahagia General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Haji Affendi bin Buang, Commander of the Malaysian Armed Forces; and Major General Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

The Most Gallant Order of Pahlawan Negara Brunei First Class (P.S.P.N.B) which carries the title 'Dato Seri Pahlawan' were conferred to Awang Sulaiman bin Alidin, Deputy Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force; Brigadier General Saifulrizal bin Abdul Latif, Commander of the Royal Brunei Land Force; and Brigadier General (U) Haji Alirupendi bin Haji Perudin, Commander of Royal Brunei Air Force.

Six Cabinet Ministers were conferred The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei First Class (P.S.N.B) carrying the title 'Dato Seri Setia' namely: Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism; Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid, Minister of Development; Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Paduka Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md. Salleh, Minister of Education; Yang Berhormat Pengiran Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications; and Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Nazmi bin Haji Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

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Investiture and Grand Parade Ceremony (continued)

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam during the ceremony (right and below).



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The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, First Class, (S.P.M.B) which carries the title 'Dato Seri Paduka' was bestowed upon six recipients: Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Ahmad bin Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Di-Raja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, Attorney General; Yang Mulia Awang Mohammed Riza bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohammed Yunos, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Sufian bin Haji Sabtu, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; Yang Mulia Awang Haji Khairuddin bin Haji Abdul Hamid, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy; Yang Mulia Pengiran Hajah Zety Sufina binti Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Sani, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy; and Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Haji Mohammad Tashim bin Pengiran Haji Hassan, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs.

The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei Second Class (D.S.S.U.B) which carries the title 'Dato Seri Setia' was conferred to Dr. Awang Haji Dennie bin Haji Abdullah, Assistant State Mufti ('Ifta).

The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei Second Class (D.P.M.B) which carries the title 'Datin Paduka' was conferred on two recipients: Profesor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman, Vice Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei; and Dayang Hajah Anifa Rafiza binti Haji Abd. Ghani, Director of Anti-Corruption Bureau.

The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei Third Class (S.S.U.B) was conferred to Yang Arif Awang Haji Muhammad Bahrain bin

Haji Alias, Syariah High Court Judge.

Meanwhile, the Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei Third Class (S.N.B) was conferred to Dayang Hajah Nor Hashimah binti Haji Mohammed Taib, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Security, Enforcement and Law) at the Prime Minister's Office.

Also present at the ceremony were His Majesty's special guests including Tuan Yang Terutama Tun Dato Laila Utama Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak and spouse; and His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and spouse.

Earlier, His Majesty attended the Grand Parade Ceremony at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

The arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by miniature flags of Brunei Darussalam proudly waved by about 6,000 school students and the beating of *hadrah* by 500 students.

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

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Yang Berhormat State Mufti reciting the *doa selamat* to bless the ceremony.

Investiture and Grand Parade Ceremony (continued)



Also present at the ceremony were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's sons and daughters as well as His Majesty's siblings and other members of the royal family.



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Shortly after arrival, His Majesty received the Royal Salute. At the same time, 21 cannon shots echoed in the air, to the accompaniment of the National Anthem.

His Majesty then inspected the Royal Guard of Honour mounted by 1,138 personnel consisting of 500 members from RBAF, the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF), the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN), the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF), and 253 members from Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF).

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Also present at the ceremony were Tuan Yang Terutama Tun Dato Laila Utama Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak and spouse (above); and His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore (right).



Investiture and Grand Parade Ceremony (continued)

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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 The Most Exalted Order of Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang First Class (D.P.K.T).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferring The Most Gallant Order of Pahlawan Negara Brunei First Class (P.S.P.N.B).



His Majesty conferring The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei First Class (P.S.N.B).



His Majesty conferring The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, First Class, (S.P.M.B).



His Majesty conferring The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei Second Class (D.S.S.U.B).



His Majesty conferring The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei Second Class (D.P.M.B).

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Investiture and Grand Parade Ceremony (continued)



His Majesty conferring The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei Third Class (S.S.U.B).



His Majesty conferring The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei Third Class (S.N.B).



His Majesty inspecting the Guard of Honour.



His Majesty receiving the Royal Salute.

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The Grand Parade was also participated by officers and staff representing government departments and uniformed civilian organisations. The parade and march-past before the Royal Dais was led by 685 Lieutenant Colonel Fakrul Ammar

bin Haji Mohammad Isa.

Three shouts of *Daulat Kebawah Duli Tuan Patik* echoed the air at the Taman, as a pledge of undivided loyalty, devotion, and happiness on the joyous occasion of His Majesty's 76th Birthday Celebration followed by a fly-past over the Taman by a

fleet of aircraft from the RBAirF led by 629 Lieutenant Colonel (U) Muhammad Walee bin Haji Roslie which concluded the event.



His Majesty with His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah at the ceremony (left).



His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Bolkiah at the ceremony.

Royal Banquet



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; and His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, and spouse at the Royal Banquet.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 16

- His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced a Royal Banquet in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam 76th Birthday Celebration at Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present were His Majesty's sons and brothers, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia

Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Also in attendance were His Majesty's daughters and sisters, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness

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Their Majesties with His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, and spouse; His Excellency Tun Dato Laila Utama Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak, and spouse; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna at the banquet.

Royal Banquet (continued)



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferring The Most Esteemed Family Order Laila Utama (D.K) to His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, and The Most Distinguished Order of Paduka Seri Laila Jasa First Class (P.S.L.J) to Madam Lee Ho Ching.



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Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

Also present were His Majesty's special guests, His Excellency Tun Dato Laila Utama Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib

Mahmud, Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak, and spouse; His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, and spouse; Yang Terhormat Dato Paduka Seri General Mohamad Andika Perkasa, Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), and spouse; Yang Berbahagia Dato Paduka Seri General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Haji Affendi bin Buang, Commander of the Malaysia Armed Forces and spouse; Mr. Carlos Garcia Dominguez III, former Secretary of Republic of the Philippines

Department of Finance, and spouse.

Prior to the banquet, His Majesty conferred The Most Esteemed Family Order Laila Utama (D.K) which carries the title of 'Dato Laila Utama' to His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore at Cheradi Laila Kenchana. His Majesty also conferred The Most Distinguished Order of Paduka Seri Laila Jasa First Class (P.S.L.J) which carries the title 'Datin Paduka Seri Laila Jasa' to Madam Lee Ho Ching.

Get-together Ceremony Temburong District

TEMBURONG, July 19 - This year, Temburong District was the first district to welcome 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 in a series of Get-Together

Ceremonies conducted in each district.

A total of 1,271 students lined up along the streets waving the miniature national flags alongside the cheers of *Daulat Kebawah Duli Tuan Patik* to greet the arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family.



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 Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen being greeted by Temburong residents.

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

The ceremony was enlivened with the special performance, *'Raja untuk Rakyat dan Rakyat untuk Raja'*, which interpreted the relationship between the Monarch and the people which is mutually supportive.

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Temburong District (continued)



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with the members of the royal family in a group photo with Acting Temburong District Officer and performers.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family during Luncheon.



Students during the field performance (above and right).

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With the concept of 'Raja Bestari, Inspirasi Rakyat' the performance also portrayed His Majesty's sovereignty and the people's loyalty.

After the performance, His Majesty and other members of the royal family proceeded to the stage platform to mingle with the performers and for a get-together with the citizens and residents of the Temburong District.

His Majesty then proceeded to the Main Hall of the Community Hall Complex in Pekan Bangar for a Luncheon.



Syari'e Judge of the Syariah Subordinate Court reading the *doa selamat*.



Belait District



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office in a group photo with officers and staff of Brunei Fertilizer Industries (above).



His Majesty and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office get up close and personal with field performers (left).

KUALA BELAIT, July 21 - Belait District was the second to welcome 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 in a Get-Together Ceremony at Padang Bandaran.

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His Majesty cutting a birthday cake (right).



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik (left) and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (right) in a group photo during a tour of the booths.



Belait District (continued)



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family during Luncheon.



Syariah Subordinate Court Judge of Belait District reading the *doa selamat*.

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Also in attendance were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's sons and brothers, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkih; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkih.

His Majesty then witnessed a special



A performance during the get-together.

performance with the theme "*Raja Untuk Rakyat, Rakyat Untuk Raja*" with the concept of '*Raja Disanjung, Rakyat Menjunjung*' by nearly 500 students and youth members.

Following the performance, His Majesty and members of the royal family mingled with the performers and greeted the citizens and residents of the Belait District.

Following the get-together, His Majesty and members of the royal family attended



Students welcoming the royal entourage with miniature national flags.

a Luncheon at the Belait District Officer's residence.

Brunei-Muara District



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkih; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkih; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkih at the Get-Together Ceremony in Brunei-Muara District.

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Brunei-Muara District (continued)



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince with performers during the get-together in Brunei-Muara District.

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BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 24 - Brunei-Muara District was the third to welcome His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a Get-Together Ceremony which took place at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

Also in attendance were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's sons and brothers, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkih; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkih; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkih.

His Majesty then witnesses a special performance with the theme '*Raja untuk Rakyat, Rakyat untuk Raja*' with the concept of '*Raja Disanjung, Rakyat*

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His Majesty signs a plaque at the BIBD booth.



His Majesty meets the 'kidspreneurs'.



Performers put up colourful and vibrant displays during the ceremony (above and below).



Brunei-Muara District (continued)



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family during the Luncheon.

From page 15

Menjunjung' performed by nearly 200 participants comprising primary and secondary school students in the Brunei-Muara District.

The event extended along Jalan Sultan, where His Majesty and members of the royal family met the students before proceeding to the Dewan Persantapan Lapau for a Luncheon.



Syariah Subordinate Court Judge reading the *doa selamat*.

Following the performance, His Majesty and members of the royal family met the performers on stage and mingled with residents at designated boots.

Tutong District



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkih; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkih; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkih at the Get-Together Ceremony in Tutong District.

Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkih; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkih; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkih.

TUTONG, July 26 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam graced a Get-Together Ceremony with the citizens and residents of the Tutong District in conjunction with His Majesty's 76th Birthday Celebration.

Tutong District was the last district to hold the ceremony, which took place at the District Civic Centre Complex field.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were His Majesty's sons and brothers: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His

The ceremony commenced with a special performance themed '*Raja untuk Rakyat, Rakyat untuk Raja*', involving 276 participants comprising students from the district's primary and secondary schools.

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Tutong District (continued)

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the event in the Tutong District (above); His Majesty drawing the last stroke of the Chinese calligraphy (left); a performance during the get-together in the Tutong District (below).



Performers during the get-together in the Tutong District.

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Tutong District (continued)



From page 17

Following the performances, His Majesty and members of the royal family proceed to the field to congratulate the performers, as well as to greet the citizens and residents of the Tutong District.

The get-together concluded with the Luncheon at the Main Hall of the Tutong District Civic Centre Complex.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family during the Luncheon (above); and Syariah Subordinate Court Judge of Tutong District reads the *doa selamat* (right).

His Majesty leads Horse Riding Excursion



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 'Abdul Mateen; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah pose for a photograph.

JERUDONG, July 23 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam took part in a horse riding excursion in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 76th Birthday Celebration. Organised for the second time by the Royal Brunei Polo Association, the horse riding excursion began at the Jerudong Park Polo and Riding Club and ended at The Empire Brunei.

Upon arrival, His Majesty at the Jerudong Park Polo and Riding Club was greeted by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Basit bin Pengiran Datu Penghulu Pengiran Haji Apong as Chairman of the Royal Brunei Polo Association.

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His Majesty leads Horse Riding Excursion (continued)



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam waving at stall operators and visitors.



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Also present His Majesty's son, brother, and daughters: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah as President of the Royal Brunei Polo Association; and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah and other members of the royal family.

His Majesty was introduced to the Royal Brunei Polo Association's veteran polo players.

The Monarch then led the horse riding excursion starting from Field Number One of the Jerudong Park Polo and Riding Club, heading towards Jerudong Beach. The excursion also passed by the Jerudong Beach Market area. The horse riding excursion then headed towards The Empire Brunei.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah ride towards The Empire Brunei.

Diplomatic Corps host Birthday Celebration

JERUDONG, July 27 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to attend a reception in honour of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang

Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 76th Birthday Celebration hosted by diplomatic corps in Brunei Darussalam held at the Royal Berkshire, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran

Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Upon arrival, His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were greeted by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang

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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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam and other members of royal family in a group photo with members of the Diplomatic Corps.

Diplomatic Corps host Birthday Celebration



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri conversing with members of the Diplomatic Corps during the reception.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah at the event.

From page 19

Diplomatic Corps.

Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerna Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashil bin Rashid Al-Maskari, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to the country as the Dean of the

His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed in his welcoming address among others expressed appreciation for the continuous hospitality shown to the Diplomatic corps in the country.

He added that they are lucky to be

working and living in the country under His Majesty's patronage, especially during these challenging times. His Excellency also said that the diplomatic corps highly appreciates the notable levels of bilateral relations reached between Brunei Darussalam and the respective countries since the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Carry out responsibilities justly



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 4 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered a *titah* (royal speech) during the Special Conference of the Meeting of Cabinet Ministers held at Istana Nurul Iman stressing that tyranny in the

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech).

government is unfavourable because it could attract retributions from Allah the Almighty in the hereafter.

His Majesty also reminded the Cabinet Ministers that no one is above the law.

"If there are weaknesses in their subordinates, it is their obligation to help them to stand stronger and right their wrongs, fixing a mistake is more important and rewarding than taking hasty actions to inflict pain," the monarch stressed.

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His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Ministers during the meeting.

Carry out responsibilities justly (continued)



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince in a group photo with the Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

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Earlier, His Majesty also stated that circumstances are always changing, and can sometimes affect our lives.

"So does the structure of administrative organisation that is constantly changing. Change is crucial in moving forward," said His Majesty.

"As such, reshuffling is carried out to meet the demand for change. Whatever the change entails, it is vital for all parties involved, be it through re-appointment or newly appointed, to come together to develop the country," added His Majesty.

His Majesty emphasised in his *titah* that as leaders, their designations are a form of a trust (*amanah*) in a sacred agreement with Allah the Almighty.

"If the trust is not being honoured or is misused, then a violation of agreement has taken place," said His Majesty.

His Majesty believes that those entrusted with responsibilities must carry them out justly by respecting their subordinates and avoiding the practice of favouritism, avoiding finding faults in people under

their supervision and punishing them unnecessarily.

In Brunei Darussalam, each ministry employs more than 10 people, with some in the thousands.

These people need to be administered and led well so no one feels oppressed.

His Majesty expressed confidence that under good leadership, the country will be blessed with harmony, unity and prosperity.

His Majesty also reminded the Ministers and Deputy Ministers that they are permitted to offer advice, but will only be accepted if it is just and true.

"If the advice or idea is related to ministerial plans, then I want it in full details, supported with sound reasoning as it is the only way to ensure fairness," said His Majesty.

His Majesty in his *titah* also emphasised that when it involves the people or the country, the matter must be resolved quickly.

Leaders need to work hard in completing basic tasks by reducing involvement in

minor activities.

As a *Zikir* Nation, power and leadership in the country must be justly practised.

His Majesty shared a hadis to remind the Cabinet Ministers that they will be brought forward during the Day of Judgment with their hands chained to their neck, unless they practise fairness.

"That is how heavy the responsibility of a leader is," said His Majesty.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Majesty's son, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

The Special Conference was also attended by Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

His Majesty concluded the *titah* by congratulating the new cabinet, and expressed gratitude and appreciation to outgoing Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

His Majesty shared that those not re-appointed have not been eliminated; they have simply been replaced as part of the tradition.



Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers during the meeting.

Providing resilient and affordable housing (continued)



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 presenting house keys to recipients.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the visit to several houses of the key recipients (above and below).

From front page

Out of the total, 29,005 have been awarded to recipients including 2,746 applications for RPN in the Tutong District.

His Majesty then made a visit to Golden Corporation Sdn. Bhd. before visiting houses of a land grant recipient under the TOL.

The Land Grant Scheme was introduced in 1994 in the Tutong District. As of 2022, a total of 2,674 lots have been granted which is also equivalent to 646,890 acres.

Of the total, 971 lots were given in the Brunei-Muara District, 641 in the Belait District, 881 in the Tutong District and 181 in the Temburong District.

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His Majesty visits Golden Corporation Sendirian Berhad (above).

Providing resilient and affordable housing (continued)



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His Majesty also paid a visit to Kampung Penabai Village Head and concluded the series of visits with a stopover at Tutong Senior Citizen Activity Centre (PKWE).

His Majesty in a group photo during the visit to the Tutong Senior Citizens Activity Centre (above); His Majesty taking a closer look at the booths inside the Tutong Senior Citizens Activity Centre (left).



His Majesty interacting with students of Sayyidina Othman Secondary School.



His Majesty during the visit to Tutong Sixth Form Centre.

New threats must not be underestimated



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha for 1443H/2022M at Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 9 - 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 in a *titah* (royal speech) said for the recent years, we have been celebrating Aidiladha with heightened concern over the Coronavirus.

"The battle has yet to be won and now,

we are faced with the emergence of a new infection – monkeypox. As of mid-June, there had been some 2,000 cases recorded in 36 countries," said His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* to mark Hari Raya Aidiladha for 1443H/2022M at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty firmly said it is surely a threat that must not be taken lightly.

His Majesty thus expressed hope that Brunei Darussalam will be granted blessings and protection from Allah the Almighty.

His Majesty noted warnings issued by experts on the negative effects of dealing with the epidemic and disasters simultaneously on mental and physical health.

The United Nations (UN) shared that: "Almost one billion people around the world, including millions of children and youth, experience mental health disruptions."

"Mental disorders," according to His Majesty "could lead to heart problems and extreme anxiety, thus requiring sufferers

to undergo treatments such as counseling and psychotropic medicines."

The Monarch believes that for Muslims there are religious obligations that should not be neglected even if other efforts have been undertaken.

His Majesty also quoted verse 28 of Surah Ar-Ra'd, which states: "Those who believe, and whose hearts find satisfaction in the remembrance of Allah: for without doubt in the remembrance of Allah the Almighty do hearts find satisfaction."

"What is meant by remembering Allah here is through the recitation of *zikir* such as *Subhanallah*, *Alhamdulillah*, *Allahu Akbar*, praying, *selawat* and reciting the Al-Qur'an. The most effective treatment for mental health issues is to follow the guidance of Surah Ar-Ra'd," said His Majesty.

To mark Hari Raya Aidiladha, the Monarch called on the nation to enliven the celebration with *Takbir*, *Tasbih* and *Tahmid* for they contain *zikir* elements.

His Majesty concluded the *titah* by extending wishes for the safety and good health of Hajj Pilgrims.

17,406 receive sacrificial meat from His Majesty



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of royal family during the Sunat Aidiladha Prayer.

KIARONG, July 10 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam performed the Sunat Racrificial Rites for Their Majesties and other members of

the royal family at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.

Also joining the ceremony were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's sons, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

At the ceremony, His Majesty led the ritual of slaughter followed by His Majesty's sons.

Meanwhile, the remaining livestock were slaughtered at Syarikat PDS Abattoir Sdn. Bhd. and Syarikat Mohammed Norfaidzal bin Haji Zainuddin dan Anak-Anak.

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17,406 receive sacrificial meat from His Majesty (continued)



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of royal family at the event.

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This year, some 194 livestock were sacrificed - 180 cattles and 14 goats. The meats will be distributed to 17,406 recipients comprising 16,158 underprivileged individuals and 1,248 single mothers and senior citizens.

Earlier, His Majesty and other members of royal family joined Muslim congregants at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah to perform the Sunat Aidiladha Prayer.

The Sunat Aidiladha Prayer was led by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Haji Suhaili bin

Haji Metali Al-Hafiz, Mosque Affair Officer of Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah, followed by the Hari Raya Aidiladha Sunat Sermon recited by Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.



His Majesty leading the ritual of slaughter.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office taking part in the ritual.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen taking part in the ritual.



Charity Polo Day 2022



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 'Abdul Mateen; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah at the Charity Polo Day 2022.

JERUDONG, July 10 - 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 witnessed the Charity Polo Tournament and presented prizes at the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club for Charity Polo Day.

Also in attendance were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei

Darussalam's daughters, Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.

In the match, the Heroes team led by His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Mateen defeated the Villains team led by Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Nikmatul Bolkiah, 2-1 in two chukkas.

The match between the Sidekicks led

by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and the Villains teams saw the Sidekicks winning 2-0 in one chukka.

In the preliminary match, the Heroes Team defeated the Sidekicks Team, 3-2 in two chukkas.

His Majesty then presented prizes to the Red and Black teams of the Royal Brunei

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah at the event.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the event.

Charity Polo Day 2022 (continued)



His Majesty in a group photo with the players of the Charity Polo Tournament.

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Majesty also presented souvenirs to the match referees.

Junior Academy and presented the prizes for the Charity Polo Tournament. Emerging as champion was the Heroes team with Sidekicks as runner-up. The Villains team came in third. His

The Charity Polo Day 2022 was organised by the Brunei Polo Team in collaboration with Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club and Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen during the Polo Match.



Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah in action.

Morning walk of friendship



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 and His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore go for a morning walk at The Empire Brunei. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

JERUDONG, July 16 - 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 joined His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore for a morning walk at The Empire Brunei.

Also present was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

After the morning walk, His Majesty joined His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore for breakfast.

The meeting gave both leaders the opportunity to exchange views on the strong relationship between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore since 1984. The relationship, which is based



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince with His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore during breakfast.

on trust and respect, enables both nations to further expand the long-existing field of cooperation.

The close traditional relations between both countries in various fields have always been preserved and strengthened.

Islamic New Year 1444: Practise patience when facing trials



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 delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 29 - 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 in a *titah* (royal speech) delivered in conjunction with the Islamic New Year of 1444 Hijrah, highlighted that the theme for the Islamic New Year of 1444 Hijrah encourages patience and prayer in facing trials.

The theme is apt in a world that is facing the Coronavirus pandemic.

Having patience and making efforts, as well as having faith and praying are our religion's teachings. A patient character determines someone's faith.

His Majesty also highlighted that being grateful and the patient is the nature of the prophets and pious people, and by emulate these characteristics, it will bring greater favors.

His Majesty added that 'patience' will strengthen one's position, owing to them to always be with Allah the Almighty, as referenced from verse 153 of Surah Al-Baqarah.

His Majesty said, "indeed, nothing else should bother or bring fear if Allah the Almighty is already with us."

"Hijrah is an effort to avoid calamities

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Islamic New Year 1444: Practise patience when facing trials (continued)



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with sons, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the national celebration for the Islamic New Year of 1444 Hijrah at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.

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brought on by the faith's enemies. But it is not just merely a conventional effort, but one with the intention for Allah the Almighty's sake, which is to save the religion and seek His pleasure," said His Majesty.

Hence, with such intentions, Hijrah will accomplish its goals.

Taking heed of the Hijrah, His Majesty advised that in tackling COVID-19, we must adorn our efforts with pure intentions for the sake of Allah the Almighty so that we can be free of the pandemic and are able to worship comfortably and fulfil our obligations better.

According to His Majesty, this is the best way to get closer to Allah the Almighty and to achieve the goals.

"Indeed, Allah the Almighty is evaluating our deeds based on our intentions," said His Majesty.

"For instance, in development, aim it for Allah the Almighty's sake for the welfare of the people.

If we want to improve the economy, intend it for Allah the Almighty's sake for the country's prosperity.

"When we enforce the law, do it for the sake of Allah the Almighty to uphold justice.

If we want to strengthen our defences, do it for Allah the Almighty's sake for security," added His Majesty.

His Majesty said that in tackling COVID-19, we must execute it for Allah the Almighty's sake for the good of all, and others.

His Majesty also consented to attend the national celebration for the Islamic New Year 1444 at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at

the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The national celebration began with the recitation of *Doa Akhir Tahun* 1443 Hijrah led by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Haji Mustapa bin Haji Murat.

Twenty-one shots of the cannon were fired followed by the call for Fardu Maghrib Prayer led by Begawan Mudim Haji Amran bin Haji Mohd. Salleh.

His Majesty and members of the royal family along with congregants performed a mass Maghrib Prayer led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Syar'ie Judge, who also led the recitation of *Doa Awal Tahun* 1444 Hijrah and Sunat Hajat Prayer.

There was also the recitation of *Selawat Tafriyyah* led by students of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Arabic School in Kampung Rimba.

The reading of Al-Quran was then delivered by Awang Haji Hazwan bin Haji Salim, winner of the National Al-Quran Reading Competition for Youth for 1443 Hijrah, followed by a religious talk from Muhammad Yusof bin Haji Abdul Majid, Special Duties Officer Grade II at the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The national celebration for the Islamic New Year of 1444 Hijrah was also held simultaneously in all mosques, suraus and worship halls throughout the country.

This year's celebration carries the theme "*Bersabar, Berikhtiar, Bertawakkal dan Berdoa Menghadapi Ujian: Memacu Wawasan Negara*".



His Majesty and other members of royal family at the national celebration for the Islamic New Year of 1444 Hijrah at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.

New appointments

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 17 - By command of 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, it is hereby announced that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to the appointments of several senior officers.

Awang Haji Zakaria bin Haji Serudin, Senior Special Duties Officer at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) to be appointed as Permanent Secretary (Youth) at MCYS.

Dayang Hajah Chairani binti Haji Sulaiman, Accountant General at the Treasury Department of the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE) to be appointed as Deputy Permanent Secretary (Fiscal and Corporate) at MoFE.

Mohammad Harris bin Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Haji Ibrahim, Head of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Action and Support Centre (FAST) at the Brunei Economy Development Board (BEDB) to be appointed as Deputy Permanent Secretary (Trade and Industry) at MoFE.

The date of appointments are effective from Monday, 18 Zulhijjah 1443 Hijrah corresponding to July 18.

BruHealth receives BICTA Royal Patron Award



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 presenting the BICTA 2022 Royal Patron Award.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince presenting a prize to a representative of Chung Hwa Middle School, Bandar Seri Begawan.

TUNGKU LINK, July 7 - 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 Royal Patron of Brunei ICT Awards Ceremony (BICTA) attended the BICTA 2022 Awards Ceremony held at the Chancellor's Hall, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

At the event, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince also presented prizes to the winner.

The Ministry of Health's product, the BruHealth app emerged as the champion for the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Industry Category and was announced as the recipient of the BICTA 2022 Royal Patron Award as the contestant among all categories. The winner received a trophy, certificate, and cash prize of \$10,000.

Second place went to Techbru Solution (B) Sdn. Bhd. with the product name KedaiPOS, receiving a trophy, certificate, and a cash prize of \$5,000 while the third place was Network Integrity Assurance Technologies (NIAT) Sdn. Bhd. with the

product name OBSERVE™ receiving a trophy, certificate, and cash prize of \$2,500.

For the Tertiary Category, second place went to Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) for its Smart Paddy Irrigation System, winning a trophy, certificate, and \$3,500 cash prize followed by the third place, which was also UTB for its Smart Waste Bin System with Beacon Technology receiving a trophy, certificate, and cash prize of \$1,750, while there was no first-place winner.

Meanwhile, the winner of the School Category was Chung Hwa Middle School Bandar Seri Begawan with its app, AI CARE, winning a trophy, certificate, and cash prize of \$3,000; second place went to Berakas Secondary School with its product, MidoriSAWI, receiving a trophy, certificate, and cash prize of \$2,000; while the third place was Sekolah Agama Arab Menengah Perempuan Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha (SUAMPRIPAHS) with its product SignSpeak, receiving a trophy, certificate, and cash prize of \$1,000.

Apart from winning cash prizes and

trophies, the winners in each category will also have the opportunity to represent Brunei Darussalam at the Asia Pacific ICT Alliance Awards (APICTA) 2022, which will be held later this year.

Since Brunei Darussalam's first participation in APICTA in 2008, Brunei has won two awards and 27 merits.

His Royal Highness also presented four special awards. The Special Award for Internet of Things (IoT) Technology was awarded to BruloT for LoRa Based Relay; CodeBit Company for AI Pipeline for Receipts Digitisation in Artificial Intelligence; Land Transport Department (JPD) and UTB for Road Accident Data Enhancement and Development (RADED) in big data analytics; and Thryffy Technologies for Thryffy in a start-up.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness received a *pesambah* (souvenir) presented by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications in the form of an augmented reality (AR) book titled Ristaan Kenangan BICTA by a local developer from UBD.

Doa Kesyukuran for HRH Prince 'Abdul Malik's Birthday Celebration



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Chairman of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) Committee of Governors during the religious ceremony.



His Royal Highness during the cake-cutting ceremony.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 1 - His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Chairman of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) Committee of Governors attended a Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony in conjunction with His Royal Highness' 39th Birthday Celebration. Organised by Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, the ceremony took place at An-Naura Hall of the Yayasan Shopping Complex.

The ceremony commenced with mass Maghrib Prayer and the recitation of Surah Yasin and was followed with a *doa kesyukuran* for His Royal Highness's birthday celebration led by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Haji Metassan bin Haji Tahir, and the Isyak Prayer.

His Royal Highness consented to cut a birthday cake and received a *pesambah* (souvenir) from YSHHB.

His Royal Highness, born on June 30, 1983, was appointed Chairman of the Committee of Governors of YSHHB on March 1, 2013.

Leading at the highest level of YSHHB, His Royal Highness is concerned with the management and development of the foundation and often chairs the Committee of Governors Meeting, visits, and is involved in its projects and activities.

'Prince Azim: Son of The Arts' screening raises \$100,000



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah presenting mock cheques to Children Cancer Foundation and Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam.



Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah presenting a mock cheque to the Society for the Management of Autism Related issues in Training, Education and Resources (SMARTER) Brunei.



Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah presenting a mock cheque to the Centre for Children with Special Needs (KACA).

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'Prince Azim: Son of The Arts' screening raises \$100,000 (continued)

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JERUDONG, July 23 - The special documentary 'Prince Azim: Son of the Arts' that was screened nationwide in July and August 2021 managed to raise funds of \$100,000.

The proceeds of ticket sales were handed over to four charities that took place at Istana Nurul Izzah.

The children of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah graced the presentation ceremony.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen handed over a mock cheque amounting to \$25,000 to Awang Haji Mohd. Suffian bin Haji Zainal, President of YASKA (Children Cancer Foundation) and \$25,000 to Pengiran Datin Hajah Noraini binti Pengiran Dipa Negara Laila Diraja Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin, Executive Trustee of Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam.

Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah presented a

\$25,000 mock cheque to Pengiran Zamri bin Pengiran Haji Bujang, President of Society for the Management of Autism Related issues in Training, Education and Resources (SMARTER) Brunei.

Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah handed over a \$25,000 mock cheque to Dato Paduka Awang Haji Zainal bin Haji Momin, Chairman of the Centre for Children with Special Needs (KACA).

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Di-Gadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Suami Abdullah Nabil Mahmoud Al-Hashimi were also in attendance.

Earlier, the cheque handover was made by Dayang Hajah Nurul Haniah binti Haji Jaafar, Chief Executive Officer of Progresif to their Royal Highnesses before being given to the four charities.

The four charities are charities Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Azim had cherished and supported before his passing. The funds were raised from the documentary's premiere at The Empire Cinema; Times Cineplex in Tutong and Belait District; and Jerudong International School (JIS), Art Centre.

Compete wholeheartedly



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council handing over the national flag to the Commonwealth Games 2022 Chef de Mission.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 20 - Brunei Darussalam's participation in all contingent tournaments, including the Commonwealth Games, is based on detailed assessments by members of the National Athlete Selection and Evaluation Secretariat, whereby reports on athletes are forwarded to the National Athlete Selection and Evaluation Executive Committee.

Thus, selected athletes should be proud of their participation and compete with all their hearts and not only for the sake of participation.

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 (BDNOC) stated the matter in a *sabda* (royal speech) during the National Flag Handover Ceremony for the Brunei Darussalam contingent heading to the Commonwealth Games 2022, Birmingham, England. The event took place at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium, Berakas.

His Royal Highness in his *sabda* also congratulated the contingent on representing the country, especially the athletes in the weightlifting, who qualified

for the 61-kilogramme category at the upcoming XXII Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham, England.

"The achievement of the Weightlifting Athlete," said His Royal Highness, "should be as an example for national athletes to always strive hard to qualify for not only the Commonwealth Games but all sports competitions that Brunei Darussalam competes in including the Olympic Games, Olympic Youth Games, and Asia Games."

His Royal Highness believes that all selected athletes are aware of the regulations, especially on prohibited, and said all national athletes and officers representing the country should uphold discipline to maintain the Sultanate's reputation.

His Royal Highness iterated that persistent and continuous training and discipline can bring outstanding success as this was proven by Bruneian medalist at the recent South East Asian (SEA) Games in Hanoi, Viet Nam as well as national wushu athletes' success in the World Games 2022 in the United States, whose achievements can be emulated to bring glory to the nation.

His Royal Highness said that the national sport association and coaches should have a long-term training schedule and not just train when there is a competition.

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Compete wholeheartedly (continued)



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah in a group photo with the Brunei contingent.

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"Continuous long-term training," said His Royal Highness, "will help all parties, especially in the assessment and selection of athletes for overseas competitions, as

well as ensuring they are always ready to represent the nation."

The ceremony saw His Royal Highness handing over the national flag to Dayangku Siti Amal Jariah binti Pengiran Matjenen

as the Chef de Mission. The national contingent comprises seven athletes and five officers. The Commonwealth Games will start on July 28 until August 8. Brunei Darussalam will participate in two events, namely Lawn Bowling and Weightlifting.

31st SEA Games post-mortem meeting



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 (BDNOC) attending the Postmortem Meeting of the 31st SEA Games Championships.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 20 - 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 (BDNOC) attended the Post-mortem Meeting of the 31st South East Asian Games (SEA Games) 2021 in Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

At the meeting that took place at the Lecture Hall, Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, in a *sabda* (royal speech) expressed his congratulations to the national contingent, especially to the athletes who won gold and bronze medals in SEA Games 2021.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Nazmi bin Haji Mohamad, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, in a welcoming speech among others shared that the post-mortem meeting would create a clear platform and direction to further enhance the current success.

His Royal Highness in his *sabda* expressed pride in the success of wushu and pencak silat athletes during the 31st SEA Games who won one gold, one silver, and one bronze medal, and to other athletes who have shown high sportsmanship.

Pengiran Mohammad Amirrizal bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Permanent Secretary for Sports at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports as Chairman of the National Athletes Assessment and Selection Executive Committee said the meeting aimed to identify weaknesses and shortcomings that need to be improved to enable follow-up action. The meeting also heard the contingent report on the 31st SEA Games. Awang Haji Mohamad Rosfazilah bin Haji Yusly, as Chef de Mission in the report, shared several proposals for enhancing the performance of the athletes.



Among those present at the meeting.

Her Royal Highness attends convocation ceremony



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolqiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolqiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah accompanied by Pengiran Maharaja Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim at the convocation ceremony of Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Hariisah Widatul Bolqiah, in Bristol.

BRISTOL, UNITED KINGDOM, July 28 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolqiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolqiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah attended the Award and Convocation Ceremony of Her Royal Highness's daughter, Yang Amat

Mulia Pengiran Anak Hariisah Widatul Bolqiah binti Pengiran Maharaja Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim in Bristol Cathedral, College Green Park Street, Bristol.

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Hariisah

Widatul Bolqiah was awarded a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Psychology from the University of the West of England, Bristol.

Yang Amat Mulia is the second daughter of Her Royal Highness Princess Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolqiah to receive a bachelor's degree.

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Raheemah Sanaul Bolqiah binti Pengiran Maharaja Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim, the eldest child of Her Royal Highness, received a Bachelor of Arts in Media and Communications from The School of Journalism, Media and Culture Studies, the University of Cardiff in 2018.

Also present at the convocation ceremony, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Maharaja Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim bin Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak (Dr.) Kemaludin Al-Haj and other members of the royal family.

New school building for Miftah An-Nur



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolqiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolqiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini bin Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd. Yakub pouring concrete into the foundation of the site during the groundbreaking ceremony.

SUNGAI AKAR, July 1 - Miftah An-Nur Islamic International School held a groundbreaking ceremony at Kampung Sungai Akar for the new campus building.

by Bilal Buttar, the school's Executive Principal.

The event continued with the pouring of concrete into the foundation of the site by

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolqiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolqiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini bin Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd. Yakub attended the ceremony.

The event began with the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah and a *doa* by Ade Al-Faisal, Miftah An-Nur Religious School Principal, followed by a welcoming speech



A 3D model of the school.

Her Royal Highness and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini and members of the Miftah An-Nur Board of Governors.

The project is scheduled to be completed by July 2023, which coincides with the start of the Academic Calendar year 2023/2024.

The school collaborated with a renowned architectural firm to design the facilities while maintaining the traditional Islamic designs.

The world-class global campus is located on 5,150 acres with a built-up area of 9,000 square meters that can accommodate about 1,250 students.

The new facilities include a *surau*, swimming pool, library, kindergarten block, primary and secondary school, canteen, gymnasium, and multi-purpose hall.

New business environment in the post-pandemic

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 1 – Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam's (BIBD) SME360 Series ended with a session discussing 'Vision and Leadership in the New Frontier'.

There is no denying that Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (MSMEs) play an important role in the economies of countries around the world. MSMEs are an engine for job creation, a stimulus to domestic demand and competition, and a driver of economic growth and sustainability. As noted by one of the panellists earlier, MSMEs represent about 90 per cent of businesses, providing more than 50 per cent of jobs worldwide.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy, said this in his keynote during the closing of the Final Season of the SME 360 Forum, organised by BIBD at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Berakas.

"In the challenging business environment of recent years, new Coronavirus variants and some restrictions have limited most economic activities, with this some MSMEs have been affected, experienced significant drops in revenue or some had to close their operations permanently," said the Minister at the PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy.

"Globally," said the Minister, "the government's economic response to the epidemic included various measures for the purpose of assisting the affected small businesses.

"Digitisation and online sales have helped increase revenue for some MSMEs, but not all including MSMEs survived the pandemic," said the Minister.

The Minister further explained that in Brunei Darussalam, as much as 97.3 per cent of local enterprises consist of MSMEs which plays a very important role as we move towards economic diversification.

Under the Brunei Darussalam Economic Blueprint, all aspirations are geared towards the development and progress of MSMEs.

"Under this aspiration, we want businesses to continue to survive, grow and compete by exploring new markets and opportunities while leveraging on technology and innovation.

"The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through Darussalam Enterprise (DARE) is providing relevant infrastructure and support programmes to SMEs from 'start-up' to its development.

"Our goal is for MSMEs to increase their productivity, increase competitiveness and penetrate the international market by discovering new economic activities and opportunities, especially in the five priority sectors, namely downstream, oil and gas, food, tourism, info-communications, and technology and services," said the Minister.

According to the Minister, MSMEs have played an important role in protecting the environment. As many small businesses form part of a larger business supply chain, a commitment to the business is sustainable and can contribute positively to their supply chain by reducing their overall carbon footprint.

"For MSMEs who want to venture into a larger field, Brunei Darussalam is heading towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015. It is a

comprehensive sustainable framework centered on the values of *Maqasid Syariah* as a reference on sustainability and conservation objectives and can be integrated by using the SDGs as a guide to develop sustainability strategies into business, operational and cultural capital," said the Minister.

The SME360 Series finale themed "The New Frontier", aimed to encourage a lively discussion on the greatest lessons throughout the series of forums and strategies for MSMEs to prepare for the new business environment in the post-pandemic world.

The sessions also looked at the importance of MSMEs in carrying out responsible practices and outlined the national vision for MSMEs.

The 10-part SME360 Series has been running since January 2022, featuring two industry highlights every month, aimed at gathering thought leaders and industry experts from nine main business sectors across the Sultanate in engagement sessions with business owners and stakeholders to discuss the challenges, best practices, perspectives, and opportunities to come back stronger.

According to BIBD, the SME360 Series will be taken up as a regular yearly event as part of the bank's efforts to continue supporting local enterprises to navigate current issues, opportunities, and latest developments in the business arena.

The closing session featured a high-level discussion on factors affecting Brunei's business outlook in 2022 and beyond, especially with the reopening of borders, inflation, supply chain disruptions, and staff shortages in the wake of COVID-19.

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Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy speaking at the forum.

New business environment in the post-pandemic (continued)

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The panellists also discussed new realities and challenges in the new frontier and explored their visions for a more prosperous MSME community and the roles that MSMEs play in contributing to the economy.

Earlier in the day, the opening session featured reflections on adaptation, innovation, and resilience as well as the greatest lessons learned from the SME360 Series.

Among the topics discussed were best practices, solutions, and experiences in terms of human resources, innovation, business development, communications,

adaptations, and advice to SMEs on cash flow and how to avoid potential pitfalls.

The panellists looked back on the SME360 Series to highlight their biggest takeaways from the various sessions, and the lessons that each speaker could take from COVID-19.

The panellists also discussed the role that businesses play in contributing to sustainability and environmental solutions, as well as the steps that business operators can take in order to practice sustainable leadership.

The SME360 Series was held as part of BIBD's support for Economy Week organised by MoFE at the Brunei

Mid-Year Conference and Exhibition 2022 (Brunei MYCE 2022).

The programme was organised by BIBD with the Brunei Darussalam Petroleum Authority and DARE as strategic partners, jointly operated by Firelight Sdn. Bhd. as well as Curious Mind.

It is jointly supported by 10 major Brunei trade association partners and key market participants namely Malay, Chinese, Indian and National Chambers of Commerce, LiveWIRE, BIMP-EAGA, YEAB, Royal Brunei Catering (RBC), McDonalds Brunei, Serikandi Group, GoMamam, Ghanim International Corporation (bruneihalalfoods), Jab Gym, Hua Ho and Soon Lee.

Giant-sized national flag flies majestically

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 1 - The hoisting of the giant-sized national flag marked the start of the 76th Birthday Celebration of 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.

Majesty's 76th Birthday Celebration were then presented to the Brunei-Muara District Officer and Acting Officer of Belait District, Tutong District, and Temburong District.

National flag hoisting ceremonies were also held in each district with the presentation of national flags to mukim

penghulus.

With the giant-sized national flag hoisted, Pengiran-Pengiran and individuals conferred with titles are advised to hoist their flags at their homes, while the public is required to hoist the national flag, including at buildings and business premises until July 31.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs handed over the giant-sized national flag of Brunei Darussalam, measuring 3.7metersx7.5meters to be hoisted at open area, Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Complex (YSHHB).

The national flags, measuring 2.5mx1.2m, and posters in conjunction with His



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs handing over the giant-sized national flag of Brunei Darussalam to be hoisted.



The giant-sized national flag flies in the capital.

Promote local timber



Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism officiating the Local Timber Products Exhibition.



Yang Berhormat Minister touring the exhibition.

SALAMBIGAR, July 1 - The Local Timber Products Exhibition organised by the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) through the Forestry Department is in conjunction with the International Forest Day 2022 which will be held for three days at Onecity Shopping Centre.

At the ceremony, the winners of the

local wood furniture-making competition received their respective prizes by Guest of Honour, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

Syarikat Kilang Papan Batang Mitus Sdn. Bhd. and Home BN Pallet, each won Category 'A' and 'B', received a trophy and

certificate of participation.

The Expo is the second it time has been held by the Forestry Department,.

It is aimed to promote local timber products by companies and entrepreneurs and to show the public that local timber products are affordable and of high quality.

Increase production, farm productivity by technology

BERAKAS, July 2 - Agrotechnology plays a cardinal role in the development of the agricultural industry.

Agrotechnology can yield countless benefits including increased productivity and output; ensuring agriculture is sustainable, profitable, efficient, safe and environmentally friendly; producing cost-effective, quality and nutritious food; and improving food security for the growing population.

The Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) has long acknowledged the importance technology plays in this field, as per the vision and mission statement of the MPRT Strategic Plan.

Speaking at the opening of the Borneo International Conference on Agrotechnology (BICAT) 2022 at the International Convention Centre (ICC), Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, explained the strategic plan serves as a guide in the planning and implementation of various MPRT programmes and initiatives and is designed to increase production and contribute significantly to the growth and diversification of the national gross domestic production.

Methods identified to achieve this include agrotechnology and encouraging the

involvement of local and foreign direct investments.

"The last decade had witnessed substantial growth in global agricultural technology investment," said the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

Major technological innovations according to the Minister, focus on the areas of indoor vertical farming; automation and robotics; livestock technology; modern greenhouse practices; precision farming and Artificial Intelligence, and blockchain management.

"Technology utilisation in our agriculture and fisheries sectors has shown a positive uptake over the past five years. The ministry continues to encourage its use to further increase farm production and productivity," said the Minister.

The Minister also shared some examples of the technology being used, such as its arsenal indoor hydroponics and vertical farming from growing high-value vegetables – to allow maximum usage of space and produce higher yields; greenhouses with automated fertigation systems to grow melons; greenhouses with the automated temperature control system in the horticulture nursery farm – to provide reliable temperature options to ensure greenhouses consistently operate at an optimum level; hydroponics



Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism speaking at the opening of the Borneo International Conference on Agrotechnology (BICAT) 2022.

and vertical farming in greenhouses with smart farming technology using Internet of Things (IoT) to produce high-value vegetables; closed-house systems currently being used by most of our poultry farm operators for better isolation, equipped with a temperature and humidity control system to improve productivity.

According to the Minister, working as a farmer today no longer necessarily means having to toil under the sun.

Increase production, farm productivity by technology (continued)

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"The use of technology and modern farming techniques make business opportunities in agriculture, including aquaculture, more appealing. Hopefully, this entices more locals, particularly youths, to get on board.

"I hope more entrepreneurs and farmers who are yet to adopt the use of technology, as well as interested parties will come forward to explore these opportunities,"

added the Minister.

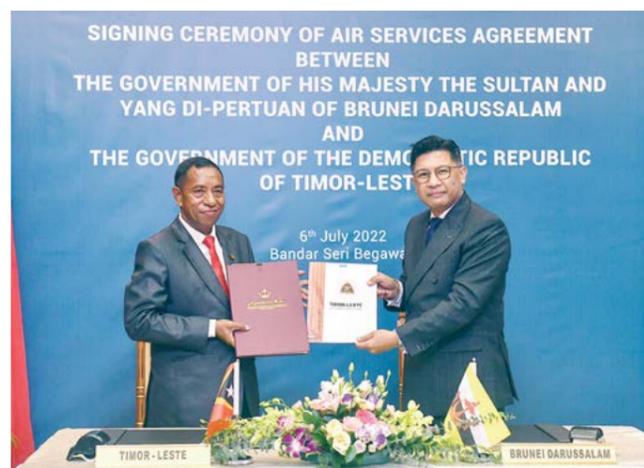
Despite the COVID-19 outbreak, the Minister is also happy to share the agriculture and fisheries sectors have recorded growth over the past two years.

With an overall gross output of the agriculture and agrifood industry seeing an increase at an average rate of 17.1 per cent per annum – from \$428 million in 2019 to \$587 million in 2021 and the fisheries industry alone increased at an average rate of 38.2 per cent per annum

from \$100 million in 2019 to \$191 million in 2021.

The Minister said that the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood as well as the Fisheries Department will continue to identify new strategies and initiatives to ensure annual output by these sectors can expand and contribute significantly towards the growth and diversification of gross domestic product (GDP), thereby supporting the objectives of Brunei Vision 2035 and food security agenda.

Brunei-Timor Leste improve connectivity



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications and His Excellency Minister of Transport and Communications, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste during the signing ceremony.

GADONG, July 6 - The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC) and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste through its Ministry of Transport and Communications signed the Air Services Agreement in a ceremony held at the Rizqun International Hotel.

Signing on behalf of the government of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pengiran Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications, and for the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste was His Excellency Jose' Agostinho da Silva, Minister of Transport and Communications.

The signing of the agreement opens opportunities for cooperation in the civil aviation sector and destinations between Brunei Darussalam and the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste.

With improved connectivity, there will be a greater impetus for enhanced economic, social, and cultural ties between the people of the two countries.

Prior to the Signing Ceremony, the Minister of Transport and Infocommunications received a courtesy call from Her Excellency Adaljiza Albertina Xavier Reis Magno, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and His Excellency Jose' Agostinho da Silva to exchange views on further cooperation in the transport and info-communication sector between the two countries, especially in the air transport sector.

While in the country, His Excellency Jose' Agostinho da Silva and his entourage also visited departments and authorities under the MTIC to take a closer look at the development within the transport and info-communication sector.

COVID-19: 1,011 recoveries recorded

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 31 – The COVID-19 vaccination coverage rate for citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam who have received the third dose is 75 per cent, while seven per cent had been administered the fourth vaccination.

The percentage of children aged five to 11 who have received the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine stood at 80 per cent, while 53.4 per cent of adolescents aged 12 to 17 have been

administered the third dose.

Currently, one COVID-19 patient in Category 5 is receiving treatment at the intensive care unit, while three Category 4 cases are receiving respiratory assistance and are being closely monitored.

A total of 1,011 recoveries were recorded, while the total accumulated number of recoveries stands at 204,753.

Discuss matters of interest in the Information Sector

HANOI, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM, July 2 - The 23rd meeting of the Sub-Committee on Information (23rd SCI) ASEAN Committee for Culture and Information (ASEAN-COCI) was held on June 30 and July 1 at Hilton Hanoi Opera Hotel.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by Awang Mohd. Syazwan

bin Nordin, Special Duties Officer Grade I at Radio Television Brunei (RTB) and Pengiran Haji Ahmad Fadillah Akhbar bin Pengiran Haji Sellahuddin, Acting Information Officer and Acting Head of International Affairs Unit, in his capacity as the Secretary of SCI ASEAN-COCI Brunei Darussalam.

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Discuss matters of interest in the Information Sector (continued)



A group photo during the event.

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His Excellency Trieu Minh Long, Ministry of Information and Communications of Viet Nam's Director General of the Department of International Cooperation and Mohd. Syazwan as vice chairman chaired the meeting attended by representatives from ASEAN member countries including the ASEAN Secretariat.

It discussed matters of interest in the information sector, reported on the

progress of projects with dialogue partners, and new projects to be implemented, and the approval of the use of allocations under the ASEAN Cultural Fund for 2023.

Also proposed during the meeting were several projects from member countries such as a workshop on digital transformation for media communications in ASEAN proposed by Viet Nam, sustainable Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) proposed by

Myanmar, and a tour for ASEAN journalists to observe South East Asian (SEA) Games in Cambodia proposed by Cambodia.

The chairman also invited Pengiran Haji Ahmad Fadillah Akhbar to announce and welcome the delegation to the 24th meeting of the SCI ASEAN-COCI to be chaired by Brunei in 2023.

The next ASEAN-COCI meeting will be held in November.

BSI May 2022

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 1 - Brunei Darussalam Central Bank's (BDCB) has published the Brunei Darussalam's Business Sentiment Index (BSI) for the month of May 2022.

The index is based on surveys conducted on more than 500 micro, small, medium and large-sized businesses from 11 economic sectors in Brunei Darussalam, across all districts.

The monthly index is designed to measure the level of business confidence/sentiment in the country covering various aspects including current and future business conditions; investments; employment of workers; as well as costs of running the businesses.

Therefore, BSI serves as a leading macroeconomic indicator with its forward-looking element.

According to the BDCB Press Release, there are nine sub-indices within the BSI. The current business conditions sub-index, which is the main headline index for the BSI, was 50.0 in May.

This indicates that overall expectations regarding business conditions were similar to April, with mixed sentiments among businesses being recorded during the month of May.

Some businesses were optimistic about increased orders/sales; projects and activities due to various factors such as further

relaxation of restrictions (including re-opening of borders for air travel); resumption of some business operations; Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration; and term break for schools.

Other businesses reported pessimism as they expected adverse effects from production disruptions reducing sale volumes; less revenue as more people travel out of the country; as well as lower productivity due to shorter working hours with long public holidays in the month of May.

Looking ahead, businesses remained hopeful that business activities will pick up in June as indicated by the index for one month ahead, which was at 50.4.

The investment sub-index was 50.6 for the current month, 50.5 for one month ahead, and 50.4 for three months ahead.

This indicates that, in general, businesses are expected to increase their investment expenditures in May.

Amongst the factors which were reported include being awarded new projects and increased business activities.

Several businesses planned to increase inventory; purchase raw materials, equipment, machinery, and company vehicles; and expand their premises.

They also indicated plans to increase investment in the coming months.

BSI value	Interpretation
Above 50	Expansion / Optimism compared to the previous month
50	Similar / No change compared to the previous month
Below 50	Contraction / Less optimism compared to the previous month

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BSI May 2022 (continued)

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The employment sub-Index was 50.1 for the current month and 50.2 for one month ahead, indicating that businesses generally expected to hire more employees in May and businesses will also continue to hire next month to replace workers who have resigned and those who have left the country.

Nonetheless, manpower issues such as staff retention issues and difficulty in getting foreign employees remained challenging.

The costs sub-index was 49.9 for the current month and 50.2 for one month ahead.

Companies are expected to face lower costs of running their businesses in May compared to the previous month, with the current month's sub-index falling below the threshold for the first time since January 2021.

This was mainly attributed to companies in the oil and gas related sector experiencing lower production.

However, businesses in other sectors expected a higher overall cost due to a rise in the costs of ingredients and raw materials; high logistics and transportation costs; additional salary expenses for new hires; and additional purchases of flight tickets for outgoing foreign employees.

These businesses expect prices to increase in June as supply shortages remain a concern.

Current Business Conditions May 2022 by Sector	
Oil & Gas Related	50.0
Manufacturing	50.0
Construction	50.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	50.0
Transport & Communication	50.9
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries & Livestock	50.3
Finance & Insurance	50.0
Real Estate & Ownership of Dwellings	50.0
Hotels & Restaurants	50.3
Health & Education	50.2
Other Private Services	49.9

Meanwhile, micro and small business expected similar business conditions to last month.

Current Business Conditions May 2022 by Size	
Micro	50.0
Small	50.0
Medium	50.2
Large	50.1

BSI May 2022	
Current Business Conditions	50.0
1M Ahead Business Conditions	50.4
Current Investment	50.6
1M Ahead Investment	50.5
3M Ahead Investment	50.4
Current Employment	50.1
1M Ahead Employment	50.2
Current Costs	49.9
1M Ahead Costs	50.2

In terms of economic sectors, five out of 11 sectors recorded optimism. The largest increase in sentiment was seen in transport and communications, driven by expectations of increased air travel with the easing of border restrictions.

The relaxation of restrictions on mass gatherings and events was expected to lead to more sales in the hotels and restaurants sector.

Better performance was also expected in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and livestock.

Other private services showed pessimism in May with businesses citing expectations of lower productivity and activities due to public holidays with staff and clients taking a vacation.

Meanwhile, oil and gas related; manufacturing; wholesale and retail trade; finance and insurance; and real estate and ownership of dwellings reported similar sentiments regarding their business conditions in May 2022 compared to the previous month.

In terms of the index by business size, medium and large-sized businesses reported optimism as they expected to record more sales and profits due to the festive season and from getting more projects.

Residential Property Price Index for Q1 2022 (continued)

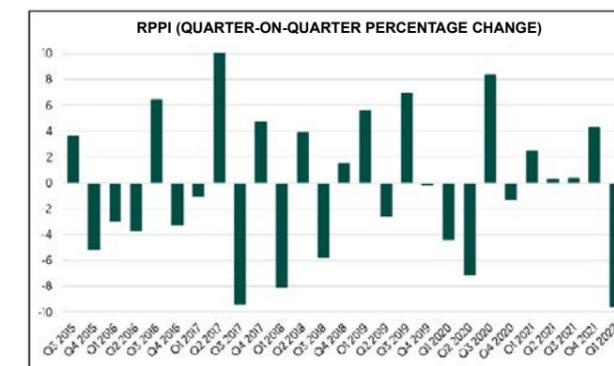
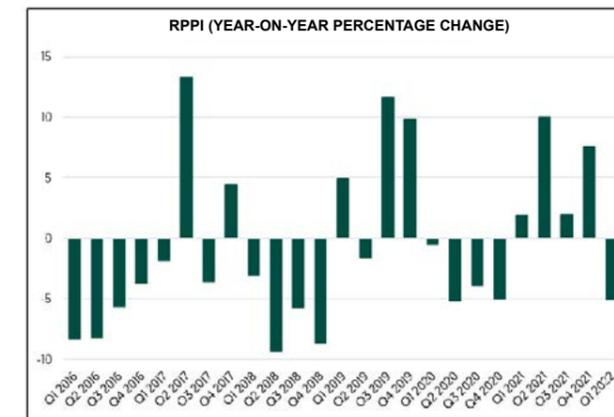
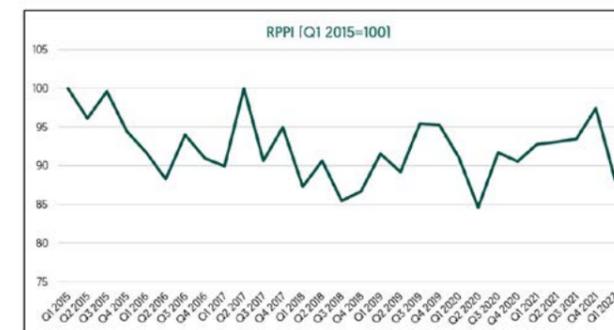
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The median price is widely used in RPPI compilation compared to the average or mean price as it is less influenced by unusually priced properties within the house price distribution.

BDCB would like to inform the statistics and index should be treated as general information only.

People should not rely solely on these data to draw specific conclusions on a particular private residential property as property values vary with location, land size, floor area and so on.

Period	Index (Q1 2015 = 100)	Change (%)	
		From Q1 2021	From Q4 2021
Q1 2022	88.1	-5.1%	-9.5%



Residential Property Price Index for Q1 2022

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 1 - Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB) has published the Brunei Darussalam Residential Property Price Index (RPPI) for the First Quarter (Q1) 2022.

The index is compiled using data sourced from the banks in Brunei Darussalam and is published with cooperation from the Ministry of Development, in particular the Authority for Building Control and Construction Industry (ABCi).

In Q1 2022, the RPPI was at 88.1, a decrease of 5.1 per cent year-on-year compared to Q1 2021, and a decrease of 9.5 per cent quarter-on-quarter compared to the previous quarter.

Based on mortgage data obtained from banks, there were 124 transactions for private residential properties in Q1 2022, indicating a decrease of 3.1 per cent in the number of transactions compared to Q4 2021, and an increase of 10.7 per cent compared to a year ago.

For Q1 2022, most of these transactions were for detached houses (66.1 per cent); followed by terrace houses (17.7 per cent); semi-detached houses (13.0 per cent); and apartments (3.2 per cent). No financing for the purchase of land was reported in Q1 2022.

The overall median purchase price for all types of private residential properties was \$246,500 in Q1 2022, a decrease of 0.2 per cent compared to Q1 2021 and lower by 6.6 per cent compared to Q4 2021.

The median purchase prices for specific types of properties were \$260,000 for detached houses; \$260,000 for semi-detached houses; \$203,000 for terrace houses; and \$216,500 for apartments.

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Total exports increase in 2021

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 2 - The Department of Economic Planning and Statistics (DEPS) has released for the first time a report on the International Merchandise Trade Index (IMTI) for the year 2021.

The IMTI report will subsequently be released for every quarter beginning the first quarter of 2022.

The publication of this report follows international practices as recommended by the United Nations (UN) Statistics Division.

The IMTI measures the changes in the levels of unit values and volume of merchandise exports and imports between Brunei Darussalam and trading partners of the rest of the world and can assist policymakers to assess the factors that contribute to the country's trade performance.

In 2021, the total exports increased by 62.8 per cent from \$9,121.8 million in 2020 to \$14,854.8 million.

The increase was due to the exports unit value index which rose by 50.1 per cent, contributed from the growth in the index of mineral fuels (+52.3 per cent); chemicals (+46.2 per cent); and food (+21.0 per cent), reflecting the increase in prices of such products in the world market.

The exports volume index fell by 10.9 per cent in 2021 compared to 2020, contributed by the decline in the exports volume index of chemicals (-24.1 per cent); machinery and transport equipment (-17.8 per cent); crude materials inedible (-11.6 per cent); and mineral fuels (-10.7 per cent).

The decline in export volume indicates a decline in terms of the quantity of goods exported abroad.

The total imports in 2021 also increased by 57 per cent due to the rise in imports unit value index by 4.3 per cent.

The increase in the imports unit value index was contributed by the mineral fuels index (+46.2 per cent), animal and vegetables oils and fats index (+14.1 per cent); and miscellaneous manufactured articles index (+11.5 per cent).

The increase in the index of value of the goods reflects the increase in prices for those goods from external markets. The imports volume index decreased by 12.5 per cent in 2021 compared to 2020.

The decline was mainly attributed to lower volume imported in the index of machinery and transport equipment (-27.1 per cent); manufactured goods (-26.2 per cent); and mineral fuels (-10.8 per cent).

The terms of trade registered an increase of 43.9 per cent in 2021, which entails that the unit value of exported goods is higher compared to the unit value of imported goods. The main contributor to the positive growth was chemicals at 37.3 per cent.

Terms of trade are a measure of the purchasing power of the Sultanate's exports and imports to and from abroad.

IMTI shows the trend of unit value and quantity of import and export commodities in NBD over a period.

The index can also be used in analysing the country's competitiveness, measuring, and making inflation projections, and compiling national accounts.