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His Majesty arrives in US, attends Dinner Reception

WASHINGTON D.C., UNITED STATES, May 12 – 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 attended a Dinner Reception hosted by His Excellency Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States (US) in honour of ASEAN Leaders and delegations attending the ASEAN-US Special Summit. The event was held at the White House, Washington D.C.

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

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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 with His Excellency Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States (US).

Junjung Ziarah Ceremony



His Majesty the 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 at the Audience and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony with state dignitaries in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri at the Istana Nurul Iman.

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Ministry of Energy abolished, Department of Energy formed under PMO

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 20 – 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 commanded for the abolishment of the Ministry of Energy (ME); and for the formation of the Department of Energy under the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to carry out portfolios under ME.

Following these changes, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mat Suny bin Haji Md. Hussien will no longer be the Minister of Energy – with effect from May 21.

Consequently, Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw is hereby transferred to PMO as the Deputy Minister of the Department of Energy under the ministry, effective the same date.



5. His Majesty presents and receives Letters of Credence



7. Hari Raya Aidilfitri: A celebration built on success



16. Youth as driving force, supporter of development



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31. Diplomacy and multilateralism as powerful tool in addressing challenges



36. National athletes bring SEA Games medals



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His Majesty receives audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman:

The Honourable Delfin N. Lorenzana, Secretary of National Defence of the Republic of Philippines on May 17.



His Excellency Carlos Garcia Dominguez III, Secretary of Finance of the Republic of Philippines on May 26.



His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on May 28.



Her Majesty receives audiences

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received separate audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman on May 26 from:

Her Excellency Caryn Roberta McClelland, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America (US) (right).



Her Excellency Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Philippines.



Her Excellency Sengdavanh Vongsay, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR).

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Datin Roslina binti Ismail, spouse of His Excellency Dato' Raja Reza bin Raja Zaib Shah, Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.



Dayang Hajah Hamidah binti Haris, spouse of His Excellency Pengiran Haji Sahari bin Pengiran Haji Salleh, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Audiences Ceremony with newly appointed envoys

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 (PMO) received in audience at the Qashr Al-Meezaan on May 25 from newly appointed Brunei Darussalam envoys and newly appointed Foreign Envoys to Brunei Darussalam, namely:



His Excellency Pengiran Haji Sahari bin Pengiran Haji Salleh, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Kingdom of Thailand.



His Excellency Wan Hadfi Lutfan bin Haji Abdul Latif, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.



His Excellency Bernard Regnaud-Fabre, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Maeda Toru, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam.



Her Excellency Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Philippines to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Luke Lazarus Arnold, Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.



Her Excellency Caryn Roberta McClelland, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America (US) to Brunei Darussalam.



Her Excellency Sengdavanh Vongsay, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Alok Amitabh Dimri, High Commissioner of the Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty presents and receives Letters of Credence

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 24 – 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 Letters of Credence to newly appointed Brunei Darussalam envoys; and received Letters of Credence from newly appointed foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman. After the ceremony, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience the said newly appointed envoys.

His Majesty first presented Letters of Credence to:



His Excellency Pengiran Haji Sahari bin Pengiran Haji Salleh, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Kingdom of Thailand.



His Excellency Wan Hadfi Lutfan bin Haji Abdul Latif, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

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His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Emmanuel Macron following his inauguration as the President of the Republic of France on May 7;
- His Excellency Yoon Suk-Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea (RoK) following his victory in the March 2022 Presidential Election on May 10;
- His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ruler of

Abu Dhabi following his appointment on May 15;

- Her Excellency Elisabeth Borne, Prime Minister of the Republic of France following her appointment on May 17;
- His Excellency Han Duck-Soo following his appointment as the Prime Minister of RoK on May 21;
- The Honourable Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia following his appointment on May 23; and
- His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and members of the royal family; as well as the government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the occasion of its Independence Day on May 25.

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 messages of condolences to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Defence, United Arab Emirates (UAE); His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces; members of the royal family; as well as the government and people of the UAE following the passing of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi on May 14.

His Majesty then received Letters of Credence from:



His Excellency Bernard Regnaud-Fabre, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Maeda Toru, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam.



Her Excellency Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Luke Lazarus Arnold, High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam.



Her Excellency Caryn Roberta McClelland, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America (US) to Brunei Darussalam.



Her Excellency Sengdavanh Vongsay, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Alok Amitabh Dimri, High Commissioner of the Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam.

Hari Raya Aidilfitri: A celebration built on success

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 1 – Expressing gratitude by praising and glorifying Allah the Almighty is part of the Bruneian culture. This culture needs to be preserved and is vital to be embraced by all.

“In our hardship and ease, we do not want to distance ourselves from Allah; but we want to be eternally with Allah. When we confide, we confide in Allah; and when we pray, we pray only to Allah. This is our belief as Bruneians – such a belief should continue to persist,” said 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) delivered in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1443 Hijrah/2022 Masihi at Istana Nurul Iman.

Earlier in the *titah*, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed his gratitude to Allah the Almighty for the ability to enter the gates of Syawal and celebrate the glorious month.

According to His Majesty, the first day of Syawal is a special and very much-awaited moment.

As Muslims, we do not just celebrate Hari Raya like any other occasion; but its festivity is built on our success in completing our fast.

“Hence, our way of celebrating the event begins with *takbir* and *tahmid*, as well as the Sunat Hari Raya Aidilfitri Prayer as a sign of our gratitude,” said the Monarch.

His Majesty also highlighted that we have remained steadfast in staying



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 Aidilfitri 1443 Hijrah/2022 Masihi at Istana Nurul Iman.

close to Allah, despite having faced the Coronavirus pandemic for three years.

On April 19, the nation’s *ummah* connected with Allah through the Berselawat Senegara Munajat Programme held in mosques – a unique and extraordinary approach, which was held for the first time in Brunei Darussalam. His Majesty was pleased to express his appreciation – especially to those who took part and were involved in the programme, be it at the mosque or at their respective homes.

The Monarch further mentioned that the entire nation’s hope is that with the blessings of the *selawat*, all our good intentions will be blessed by Allah the Almighty.

His Majesty then expressed confidence in

that Allah’s promise for those who recite *selawat* is certain, as Allah never breaks His promises. However, we should not forget that Allah’s blessings will only come when our requirements are fulfilled.

Citing a *firman* from Allah in Surah Al-A’raf, verse 96, His Majesty affirmed the two said requirements – *iman* (faith) and *takwa* (piety) – and hoped that the people of the country will be able to fulfil them.

In ending the *titah*, His Majesty extended Hari Raya Aidilfitri wishes from the Monarch and the royal family to all citizens and residents of the country; and prayed for everyone to be given prosperity, good health, and safety under the guidance and protection of Allah the Almighty.

Junjung Ziarah Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 2 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar ‘Ali Saifuddien Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the *Junjung Ziarah* Ceremony (get-together) with state dignitaries held in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri at Istana Nurul Iman.

The guests included Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran-Pengiran Cheteria; Yang



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 *Junjung Ziarah* Ceremony (get-together) with state dignitaries held in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri at Istana Nurul Iman.

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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; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah at the *Junjung Ziarah* Ceremony with state dignitaries held in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri.



Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati; 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; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam (above and below).



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Berhormat Cabinet Ministers; Yang Mulia Deputy Ministers; Yang Berhormat Members of the State Legislative Council (LegCo); diplomats and foreign representatives in the country; permanent secretaries; and senior officials as well as their respective spouses.

Also in attendance alongside Their Majesties were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal

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Among the state dignitaries; diplomats and foreign representatives; permanent secretaries; and senior officials who were present along with their respective spouses at the ceremony.

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Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati; 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; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; as well as the grandchildren of His Majesty and other members of the royal family.

At the ceremony, Their Majesties and the rest of the royal family also consented to receive Hari Raya Aidilfitri greetings.

Earlier, His Majesty joined the people of Brunei Darussalam for the Sunat Hari Raya Aidilfitri Prayer at Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Royalty grace Tahliil Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 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 attended a Tahliil Ceremony at the Royal Mausoleum, Jalan Tutong.

The ceremony was held especially for Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman, the late parents of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; as well as for Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Majesty's late son.

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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; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik joining the Sunat Hari Raya Aidilfitri Prayer at Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah (above and below).



The prayer was led by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Haji Mustafa bin Haji Murat, Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque Officer.

Meanwhile, the Aidilfitri sermon was recited by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim.



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 at the Tahliil Ceremony. Also in attendance were His Majesty's sons, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel.



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 pouring the *Aying Asah-Asahan* (scented water) onto the grave of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam (left) and the grave of Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman (right) during the Tahliil Ceremony at the Royal Mausoleum.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam pouring the *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the graves of Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim (left) and Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam ibni Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman (right).



His Majesty pouring the *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the graves of Al-Marhumah Pengiran Babu Raja Pengiran Anak Hajah Besar binti Pengiran Anak Haji Metassan (left) and Allahyarham Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr.) Haji Ismail bin Omar Abdul Aziz (right).

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Also in attendance were His Majesty's son and brothers: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; 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; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; and other members of the royal family.

The *tahliil* recitation was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti; followed by the *doa tahliil* and *doa Allah Peliharakan Sultan*.

At the ceremony, His Majesty consented to pour the *Aying Asah-Asahan* (scented water) onto the graves of the Monarch's late parents and late son. This was followed by His Majesty's

sons and brothers.

His Majesty then poured the *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the graves of Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam ibni Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman; Al-Marhumah Pengiran Babu Raja Pengiran Anak Hajah Besar binti Pengiran Anak Haji Metassan; and Allahyarham Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr.) Haji Ismail bin Omar Abdul Aziz.

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran-Pengiran Cheteria; Yang Berhormat Cabinet Ministers; members of the State Legislative Council (LegCo); deputy ministers; Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF); Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF); Pengiran-Pengiran Peranakan; Pehin-Pehin Manteri and Manteri-Manteri Bertauliah; as well as permanent secretaries and deputy permanent secretaries were also present at the event.



His Majesty's sons: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) pouring the *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the graves of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien (left); Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit (middle); and Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim (right).



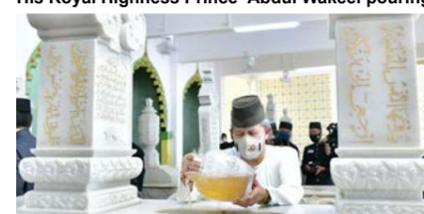
His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik pouring the *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the graves of His Majesty's late parents and son.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen) pouring the *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the graves of His Majesty's late parents and son.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel pouring the *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the graves of His Majesty's late parents and son.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah pouring the *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the graves of the late members of the royal family.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah pouring the *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the graves of the late members of the royal family.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah pouring the *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the graves of the late members of the royal family.



His Majesty arrives in US, attends Dinner Reception

From front page



Prior to the reception, His Majesty joined other leaders for a group photo session.

During the event, His Excellency President of the US delivered a speech welcoming the arrival of leaders and delegations at the Washington D.C.

His Majesty and His Royal Highness arrived at the Joint Base Andrews Airport, Washington D.C previously, on May 11.

Present to welcome the arrival of His Majesty were Ambassador Rufus Gifford, Chief of Protocol for the US; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs; and His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Serbini bin Haji Ali, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the US.

This year, ASEAN and the US are commemorating their 45th anniversary of Dialogue Relations. The leaders' discussions during the ASEAN-US Special Summit are expected to focus on efforts to advance relations and further enhance cooperation between ASEAN and the US in the years to come.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attending a Dinner Reception hosted by His Excellency President of the United States (US) in honour of ASEAN Leaders and delegations attending the ASEAN-US Special Summit. Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Excellency President of the US delivering a speech welcoming the arrival of leaders and delegations at the Washington D.C.



His Majesty in a group photo with ASEAN Leaders and His Excellency President of the US.

ASEAN SHIELD to ensure a collective, rapid and effective response

WASHINGTON D.C., UNITED STATES, May 13 - ASEAN has established the ASEAN SHIELD to ensure a collective, rapid and effective response to multi-dimensional emergencies and disasters in the future.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) at a Working Luncheon hosted by Her Excellency Kamala D. Harris, Vice-President of the US.

The Working Luncheon took place at the Benjamin Franklin Room, Department of State, and was attended by ASEAN heads of state and government; the US Secretary of State; as well as the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

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

In the *titah*, His Majesty also encouraged US agencies (such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and The US Centre for Disease and Control Prevention) to add value to ASEAN's efforts to build a more resilient region.

The Monarch then recalled the East Asia Summit Leaders' Statement on Mental Health Cooperation – which was co-sponsored by Brunei Darussalam and the US in 2021 – where His Majesty hoped that ASEAN and the US will be able to advance cooperation in mental health.

The Monarch additionally touched on



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attending the Working Luncheon hosted by Her Excellency Vice-President of the United States (US). Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

the importance of maritime security cooperation. His Majesty stated that Brunei Darussalam continues to work closely with regional partners in promoting maritime security through dialogue and cooperation – whereby the 9th Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (which focused on international laws and maritime environmental protection); and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (in which the ASEAN Direct Communications Infrastructure between military officials was expanded to include external partners such as the US) were held last year.

In concluding the *titah*, His Majesty urged ASEAN and the US to remain committed to peaceful engagement through dialogues and consultations within the various ASEAN-led mechanisms to ensure continued regional peace, stability, and prosperity.

The Working Luncheon began with welcoming remarks from the



Vice-President of the US delivering her welcoming remarks during the Working Luncheon.

Vice-President of the US highlighting that US remains committed in strengthening relationships with ASEAN and takes note in the strategic importance of the region for the prosperity and safety of the people of the US.

The leaders also discussed maritime cooperation as well as health and pandemic recovery.

ASEAN-US relations: Advancing towards a peaceful, prosperous future

WASHINGTON D.C., UNITED STATES, May 13 - Following the luncheon, 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 leaders then proceeded to the Loy International Conference Room for the ASEAN-US Special Summit.

The summit's Plenary Session One on Climate also commenced with welcoming remarks from Her Excellency Kamala D. Harris, who chaired the session. The session was attended by ASEAN heads of states and government; the US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate; US Secretary of Energy; US Secretary of Transportation; and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

At the session, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan

of Brunei Darussalam delivered another *titah* (royal speech) expressing his appreciation to the US for its renewed commitment to climate change – as seen at the 26th United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-26) in Scotland. His Majesty further congratulated the President of the US for his efforts in working with other major powers to implement the Paris Agreement.

As ASEAN is also placing greater emphasis on addressing climate change (such as the establishment of an ASEAN Climate Change Centre), His Majesty also thanked the US for its readiness to provide a science fellow to support the creation of the centre in Brunei.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the ASEAN-US Special Summit's Plenary Session One, which was held after the Working Luncheon hosted by the Vice-President of the US.

Looking ahead, the Monarch believed that there is more to be done in advancing commitments in climate action, such as capacity building.

His Majesty further affirmed that Brunei Darussalam is prioritising efforts to ensure that its economy remains resilient and sustainable through the utilisation of low carbon technologies, as well as promoting initiatives aimed at lowering net carbon emissions. His Majesty also welcomed the US' engagement in climate change initiatives in the region.

The leaders at the session also discussed climate action, clean energy transition, and sustainable infrastructure.

Afterwards, the Plenary Session Two on Regional and Global Issues was chaired by His Excellency Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the US, who presented his welcoming remarks at the start of the session.

The session saw the attendance of ASEAN heads of state and government; the US Secretary of State; as well as the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

In His Majesty's *titah* during the session, the Monarch expressed his delight in physically attending the ASEAN Summit with Dialogue Partners – which was held for the first time since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

His Majesty also thanked His Excellency President of the US for his support during Brunei's 2021 ASEAN chairmanship; and congratulated His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia as the Chairman of ASEAN for this year.

The Monarch was pleased for the 45th anniversary of the ASEAN-US dialogue relations, as the US has always been an important strategic partner of ASEAN in upholding peace; investing in its economies; and supporting development.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, ASEAN benefitted from the US' support through the provision of vaccines and medical equipment. His Majesty commended His Excellency President of the US's leadership on this matter – including the hosting of the second COVID-19 Summit.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other leaders during the Plenary Session One.



His Majesty attending the Plenary Session Two of the ASEAN-US Special Summit.

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Looking towards the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-US relations, His Majesty hoped for continued peace, stability, and sustainable development for all the peoples in the Indo-Pacific.

To realise this, it must be ensured that cooperation will bring greater benefit to as many people as possible, through a strategic and comprehensive approach. This would require a substantial increase in the depth and scope of exchanges, training, and capacity building for the peoples – including building up on initiatives such as the ASEAN Junior Fellowship Programme and the ASEAN-US Internship Programme.

His Majesty believed that such efforts will greatly enhance trust and understanding between the people – especially the youth, who are the foundation of the ASEAN-US relations in the future.

His Majesty further encouraged for new areas of common interest and work to be identified for mutual benefits – underscoring the management, safety, and security of the maritime domain as an important area to the peoples' livelihood.

ASEAN commenced work on the Blue Economy in 2021 to promote the sustainable use of maritime resources. With the release of the US Blue Economy Strategic Plan in 2021, His Majesty highlighted that it is time to expand cooperation in maritime, as ASEAN and the US can mutually benefit from each other's experiences.

His Majesty noted that cooperation in the maritime domain

His Majesty leaves the US

WASHINGTON D.C., UNITED STATES, May 13 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam departed from Washington D.C., United States (US) after attending the ASEAN-US Special Summit.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan

– including the South China Sea – is in line with international law and the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. With one-third of international shipping passing through the South China Sea, ensuring peace and security is of paramount importance globally. Therefore, all parties' adherence to international law – including upholding the principles of the UN Charter – is vital.

His Majesty affirmed that Brunei Darussalam will continue to foster a calm and peaceful environment; and encourage all countries to prioritise dialogue and cooperation. His Majesty also welcomed the US announcement of a plan to enhance involvement in education and people-to-people exchange among ASEAN; as well as the US proposal on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework to promote growth and create opportunities.

At the end of the *titah*, His Majesty welcomed the US' renewed commitment to ASEAN; and expressed confidence that the relations between ASEAN and US will advance towards a future that is peaceful, prosperous, and full of opportunities under His Excellency President of the US's leadership.

The session saw discussions on future ASEAN-US relations as well as issues regarding the Indo-Pacific region. The ASEAN-US Special Summit Joint Vision Statement was also adopted at the event.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen was also present to accompany His Majesty during both plenary sessions.

of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Present at the Joint Base Andrews Airport to bid farewell to His Majesty was His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Serbini bin Haji Ali, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the US.

Youths as a driving force, supporter of development

BERAKAS, May 19 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1443 Hijrah/2022 Masihi Celebration hosted by Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) at the International Convention Centre (ICC).



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 recitation of *doa selamat*.

Accompanying Their Majesties were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Chairman of the YSHHB Committee of Governors; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Also in attendance were Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA); Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; as well as other members of the royal family.

The celebration commenced with a recitation of *doa selamat* by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti as Deputy Chairman II of the YSHHB Committee of Governors. The highlight of the event was the *titah* (royal speech) delivered by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

In the *titah*, His Majesty expressed his gratitude to Allah the Almighty for allowing the people to celebrate Aidilfitri despite still facing the Coronavirus pandemic. Nevertheless, the circumstances have allowed us to lift several of the restrictive measures in the new normal.

"However," His Majesty stressed, "that there is still the need to remain vigilant by adhering to the health protocols and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure each other's well-being."

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1443 Hijrah/2022 Masihi Celebration hosted by Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) at the International Convention Centre (ICC).



One of the performances during the event.



His Majesty and other members of the royal family mingling with performers of the celebration.



Their Majesties as well as other members of the royal family upon arrival at the Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1443 Hijrah/2022 Masihi Celebration hosted by YSHHB at ICC.



His Majesty being briefed by one of the exhibitors during the event.

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"We are all aware that the world is still struggling with the pandemic and experiencing severe effects," said His Majesty.

Despite that, His Majesty expressed thankfulness that the country is still able to endure – through the selection of organised strategies in curbing virus transmissions – to a point where we are able to ensure the continuity of everyday life and economic progress.

At the same time, the country has not ceased to pray for Allah's protection through *istighfar*, Al-Quran recitation, *zikir*, and *selawat* to Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh).

"*InsyaaAllah*, this approach will continue to be practised by us as an initiative and measure to fulfil religious requirements," said the Monarch.

His Majesty was also pleased to welcome the youth to this year's YSHHB Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration. In certain situations, the involvement of the youth is much awaited.

"For example, if an undesirable incident occurs, the readiness of youths to contribute their services is highly admired – because of their active, agile, and energetic qualities when it comes to providing any form of help," the Monarch added.

"This is what the society and country expects from the youth. The society and country do not wish for anything else – except for the services of the youth in the form of energy and moral contributions.

"This is why the youth are highly praised through various titles: such as '*Belia Harapan Bangsa*'; '*Belia Wira Bangsa*'; or '*Belia Pelita Zaman*' and others," said His Majesty.

His Majesty then urged for the youth to truly live up to the said titles to honour them. Hence, it should be understood that these titles are accorded 'in recognition' of the



Their Majesties and other members of the royal family taking a group photo with performers of the celebration.



Her Majesty touring the exhibition.

youth as the driving force and supporter of development, with the potential to bring the country forward. This is why they are also known as heirs of the future.

knowledgeable personalities; instead of weakness lulled by less meaningful pleasures," the Monarch continued.

Before ending the *titah*, His Majesty called upon the youth and all parties to combine

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Yang Berhormat Second Minister of Defence as Chairman of the YSHHB Board of Directors delivering his welcoming remarks at the celebration.



The recitation of *doa selamat* by Yang Berhormat State Mufti as Deputy Chairman II of the YSHHB Committee of Governors.



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 the royal family at the Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1443 Hijrah/2022 Masihi Celebration hosted by Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB).

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their efforts to build and develop themselves as responsible, progressive, and empowered citizens. The Monarch also expressed his highest gratitude to all the members of YSHHB for their service and involvement in organising this year's Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusof, Second Minister of Defence as Chairman of the YSHHB Board of Directors also delivered his welcoming remarks prior to the *titah*, where he mentioned that this year's celebration saw a gathering of youths who have contributed in religious, community, entrepreneurship, volunteering, and creative programmes. Among them were those with the potential to assist in socio-economic development and community welfare.

Also joining the celebration were government agencies, private institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and foreign missions.

The Second Minister of Defence further explained that the theme for this year's celebration, "*Memperkasa Kecerdasan Belia Mampan* (Empowering Sustainable Youth Intelligence)", emphasises the need for today's youth to empower themselves through intelligence. This is so that they are always prepared to bear responsibility, as well as face national and global challenges with positivity, resilience, and competence.

"The selection of theme and participants," the Minister continued, "is in adherence to the *titah* and aspiration of His Majesty as well as the government to involve all parties in improving their attentiveness towards the youth through holistic guidance – so that they will grow into a determined and responsible generation."

After, His Majesty's *titah*, a video presentation was shown, which showcased the active involvement and achievements of the national youth – with support from the government, private agencies, and NGOs through the Whole of Nation Approach.

The celebration was further enlivened with stage performances by students from the YSHHB School (involving children from Taman Asuhan Kanak-Kanak, as well as primary and secondary school students) and Bengkurong Primary School – with the guidance of the Arts and Culture Division of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS).

The event also saw a performance by national Pencak Silat athletes, who recently won silver and bronze medals at the 31st South East Asian (SEA) Games in Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Afterwards, Their Majesties were invited to sign a commemorative parchment and to take part in a group photo session with members of the YSHHB Committee of Governors; the board of



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Chairman of the YSHHB Committee of Governors touring the exhibition (above and below).



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen mingling with one of the exhibitors.

directors; as well as the Executive Committee.

Their Majesties and other members of the royal family also toured an exhibition – which displayed the efforts, initiatives, and commitments made by the ministries, private sector, NGOs, and individuals in encouraging sustainable youth development. Their Majesties then consented to get-together with the participants of the event.

This year marks YSHHB's 18th time hosting the celebration since it was first organised in 2003.

Call to realise plans according to priorities



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 opening of the new Security Education Centre (PPS) building, Defence Security Branch, Defence Minister's Office and Directorate of Strategic Planning at Bolkiah Garrison.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signing the official plaque for the building.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 26 – 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 officiated the opening of the new Security Education Centre (PPS) building, Defence Security Branch, Defence Minister's Office and Directorate of Strategic Planning at Bolkiah Garrison.

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

Highness 920 Major (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Upon arrival, His Majesty received a royal salute and inspected the Guard of Honour – which consisted of six officers and 105 other rank personnel of the Second Battalion, Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF), led by Major Pengiran Abdul Hadi bin Pengiran Idris, Parade Commander from the Royal Guards Regiment.

His Majesty was then invited by Brigadier General Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Abd. Razak bin Haji Abd. Kadir, Commander of the RBLF and Director of the Defence Minister's Office, to officiate the opening of the new PPS building.

To bless the ceremony, a *doa selamat* was recited by Commander Haji Ainolnizam bin Haji Ibrahim, Director of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Religious Directorate, Royal Brunei Navy (RBN).

Following the inauguration, the Monarch proceeded to the auditorium and delivered a *titah* (royal speech), highlighting the RBAF as a pillar of defence that plays a very important role in preserving peace, prosperity, and security of the country. Hence, efficient and effective management is needed at all levels of leadership.

With the budget allocation for the financial years 2022-2023, His Majesty added, it is hoped that all plans listed in the Defence White Paper 2021-2035, Force 2035 and the Force Structure Review (FSR) will be realised following with their priorities and needs.

The Monarch further stated that the substantial budget allocation would improve the defence organisation's image. However, this alone is not enough, as there is still a need to depend on strong leadership values and capabilities. Because of this, RBAF senior officers cannot simply be proud of their external image if their leadership and authority are still weak. Similarly, an impressive appearance alone does not suffice if there is an unpleasant attitude hiding underneath.

"This should not happen with senior officers. Instead, it is important for them to possess a high sense of integrity, noble character, honesty, fairness, and trustworthiness – as model sources and examples to their subordinates in military service," His Majesty stressed.



His Majesty officiating the new PPS building, Defence Security Branch, Defence Minister's Office and Directorate of Strategic Planning at Bolkiah Garrison.

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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 receiving a royal salute at the Ministry of Defence. Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); and His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

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The Monarch thereby brought up a series of inquiries to the top management of the Ministry of Defence (MinDef) and RBAF – starting with a question posed to the Second Minister of Defence on the achievements obtained in fulfilling the ministry's visions and future direction since the Minister first took office. His Majesty also demanded transparency on the frequency of meetings held with the Defence Executive Committee (JEP) members; the scopes discussed; as well as the channelling of outcomes to the ministry's subordinate levels.

His Majesty also questioned the Commander of RBAF on the short-term, medium-term, and long-term plans that

have been outlined to enhance RBAF's capabilities in human resources and defence assets.

"With the capabilities of the existing military units, how are the land, maritime, and air patrol duties carried out? What plans are in place to fill the capability gaps in upholding national security; and what is the structure of the defence posture with the currently available capabilities?"

"It is heard or known that members of the military have been involved in criminal cases and disciplinary offences in and outside the camp. What has been done or considered in addressing this issue?" His Majesty asked.

"Thirdly, to the Acting Permanent

Secretary of MinDef: with the approved budget allocation for 2022-2023, what are MinDef and RBAF's plans that can be implemented to cover projects according to the priorities; where the utilisation of RBAF procurements and budget allocated can be optimised?" said the Monarch.

His Majesty then asked the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Finance and Administration) about the status of the career development process of the senior officers at MinDef – such as the filling of permanent posts on a permanent basis, promotion and welfare.

The Monarch also queried the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Development and Maintenance) on the management coordination of development projects and repair works; as well as infrastructure and facility maintenance (in view of the needs of the ministry and RBAF, as well as the well-being of military personnel).

His Majesty further touched on the Fourth Edition of the Defence White Paper 2021, which was launched on May 31, 2021, in which the Monarch raised another question to the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Policy and Strategy) on the measures taken to ensure that the Defense White Paper is carried out in accordance with the plans.

"To the Commander of the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF): what is the assessment for the capabilities, strengths and weaknesses up to date; and what are the steps considered to enhance the status of RBLF's capabilities?" His Majesty added.

The Monarch additionally asked about the plans thought out in enhancing RBLF's capabilities in terms of human resources and main assets.

His Majesty continued by addressing the next issue of concern to the Commander of the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) in his *titah*. In view of the construction of the Temburong Bridge, industrialisation of Pulau Muara Besar, and the increased commercial activities in Brunei Bay and Muara Port Terminal, the Monarch expressed his interest in RBN's plans for

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspecting the Guard of Honour – which consisted of six officers and 105 other rank personnel of the Second Battalion, Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF), led by the Parade Commander from the Royal Guards Regiment.



The recitation of *doa selamat* by the Director of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Religious Directorate, Royal Brunei Navy (RBN).



His Majesty being briefed while touring the new building.

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the construction of new bases outside of the existing Muara Naval Base; as well as the plans outlined to improve RBN's capabilities with regards to its human resources and main assets.

Referring to the Commander of the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF), His Majesty then pointed out that RBAirF's capabilities have yet to reach their optimum level; and called into question the ways through which RBAirF can maintain the airspace, as well as support the RBAF headquarters if required. With regards to the aforementioned problem, His Majesty further queried the plans looked into in upgrading RBAirF's capabilities in human resources and main assets.

The Monarch enquired the Commander of the RBAF Joint Force Commander on whether RBAF is capable of conducting rapid deployment with its current capabilities; as well as how RBAF forms its action plan if required.

His Majesty also touched on the Cyber Defence Unit (CDU) at RBAF, which was established in 2021. The Monarch requested transparency on its development to-date in providing human resources and infrastructure; as well as its

role in preparation for the Ekseksais Perisai Kebangsaan (EPK) this year.

On the other hand, the Joint Doctrine and Warfare Centre (JDWC) was established in 2013. His Majesty queried the doctrine's effectiveness in helping the joint movement since then.

The Monarch concluded the *titah* by opening up opportunities for the 10 aforementioned individuals to answer the questions raised.

Afterwards, His Majesty headed to the gallery area to view the security exhibits; and was subsequently invited to tour the classrooms on the building's first floor.

The Monarch then visited the administrative office and PPS instructors' office on the second floor, including a *surau*, canteen, and a library.

After the tour, His Majesty and members of the royal family were invited to the VVIP room for a Luncheon.



His Majesty and members of the royal family in a group photo with some of the officers and staff members at the new PPS building.

RBAF remains strong amid modernisation efforts

MUARA, May 31 - 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 attended the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) 61st Anniversary Grand Parade at the Muara Naval Base.

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

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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) the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) 61st Anniversary Grand Parade at the Muara Naval Base.



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'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was escorted to the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) Parade Square to receive the Royal Salute and inspect the Guard of Honour – which comprised 1,049 RBAF personnel from the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF); RBN; Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF); Special Forces Regiment; Women Military Personnel; as well as the RBAF band, and was led by Commander Mohammad Azrin bin Haji Mahmud, Guard Commander, RBN.

The Grand Parade then proceeded with the slow and fast march-past (which included the regimental flags of His Majesty and RBAF), followed by a march forward.

His Majesty also delivered a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the event, touching on RBAF's development since its establishment over six decades ago, including military personnel, assets, and equipment capabilities – which have enabled RBAF to remain as a strong defence institution alongside its ongoing modernisation efforts.

The Monarch further noted that RBAF is drafting its strategic plan based on the Defense White Paper 2021, coupled with the Force 2035 and Force Structure Review (FSR), which are currently being updated as means of guidance and direction – in line with the TEPIDOIL (Training, Equipment, People, Information, Doctrine, Organisation, Infrastructure, and Logistics) concept, which are pertinent in ensuring that the identified initiatives are



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 at the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) 61st Anniversary Grand Parade at the Muara Naval Base. Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

accomplished accordingly.

With regards to modernisation, His Majesty stressed the need for thorough and orderly planning to overcome any shortcomings or to cover any prevailing defective gaps. This is the main goal to be attained in the future.

In drafting RBAF's plans, the Monarch continued that it is also necessary to have a clear defence posture that is in accordance with the armed service's capacity, while empowering the Whole of Nation Approach, in the context of holistic defence. In other words, RBAF needs to continuously collaborate with relevant government agencies in jointly safeguarding the country's sovereignty – especially its land, sea, and air borders. Looking at RBAF's role and readiness

in reaching the Force 2035 vision, and in commemorating the RBAF 61st Anniversary Celebration, His Majesty was pleased to commission the RBAirF Squadron 39 Unmanned Aerial System (UAS); and consented the establishment of the RBLF Combat Boat Squadron and Intelligence Troop.

In relation to the matter, the Monarch also consented to the creation of the post of Field Commander of the RBLF and for the elevation of the Chiefs of Staff of RBN and RBAirF to the rank of Colonel – on par with the RBLF and the Joint Force Headquarters.

His Majesty further highlighted that the development of spiritual strength is as important as building physical strength. In this regard, the Monarch expressed his gratification with the recent publication of the RBAF Diamond Jubilee Mushaf Al-Quran.

His Majesty stated his confidence that with the sincere intention to glorify the Al-Quran, all Muslim RBAF personnel will be blessed with their ability to read the Al-Quran through their fondness in learning and by practicing Al-Quran reading as a daily habit.

"For Muslims, getting closer to Allah through Al-Quran reading is a strength grounded in its status as a miracle that cannot be overpowered by anything else," His Majesty added.

Hence, in line with the aim to empower security, reading the Al-Quran should thus be practised to gain blessings in the form of strength and protection, said the Monarch as he advised not to be complacent and careless in handling any shortcomings that can lower RBAF's credibility.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspecting the Guard of Honour which comprised 1,049 RBAF personnel from the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF); Royal Brunei Navy (RBN); Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF); Special Forces Regiment; Women Military Personnel; as well as the RBAF band.



His Majesty and members of the royal family being briefed on RBAirF's No. 39 Squadron Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) (left); and witnessing the launching of the UAS (right).



His Majesty signing a commemorative plaque after commissioning the RBN Kastila Simulation Centre for the Full Mission Bridge Simulator (FMBS) (left); and launching RBLF's equipment and capabilities (right).



His Majesty being briefed while touring the RBN Kastila Simulation Centre for the FMBS (left); and observing the RBLF static display exhibition (right).



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His Majesty further emphasised commitment as another important element to be preserved. The nation's commitment towards regional and international security and RBAF's involvement in peacekeeping and monitoring missions – through the International Monitoring Team (IMT) since 2004; the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) since 2008; the Information Fusion Centre (IFC) since 2013; and the International Decommissioning Body since 2019 in the Republic of Philippines; alongside their assignment in the Counter-Terrorism Information Facility (CTIF) since 2020 in the Republic of Singapore – has enhanced the RBAF personnel's professionalism and elevated the country's name.

The Monarch then expressed his belief that with the existence of a safe region, our country will also certainly be safe – where national development plans can implement smoothly and effectively.

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His Majesty and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince observing the static display on defence diplomacy by the Directorate of Intelligence.



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 members of the royal family during the Luncheon.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen joining the mass Fardu Maghrib Prayer led by Major Ariffin bin Amit @ Hamit from JAMA'AT at the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony held in conjunction with the RBAF 61st Anniversary at the Surau Ad-Difa', Bolkiah Garrison (above & below).



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Before concluding the *titah*, His Majesty congratulated those who participated in the parade, including RBAF personnel who were involved in making the RBAF 61st Anniversary.

The Monarch also extended his appreciation to the retired members of RBAF for their loyalty and preparedness in devoting their services to the country's security and peace.

"As for those who have passed, let us pray for their souls to be placed among the *syuhada* (martyrs)," said His Majesty.

The Monarch's *titah* was then followed



Acting Director of the RBAF Religious Directorate (JAMA'AT), RBN reciting the *doa selamat*.

by three cheers of "*Daulat Kebawah Duli Tuan Patik*" to further enliven the celebration.

To bless the ceremony, a *doa selamat* was recited by Commander Haji Ainolnizam bin Haji Ibrahim, Acting Director of the RBAF Religious Directorate (JAMA'AT), RBN.

Afterwards, His Majesty once again received the Royal Salute. This was followed by the RBAirF helicopter's fly-past; and the RBN sail-pass involving three ships: KDB Darulehsan, KDB Afiat, and KDB Serasa.

His Majesty and members of the royal family proceeded to the Naval Training Centre (NTC) for the RBAF units' static display exhibition; and subsequently viewed the exhibition by RBLF and RBN.

The Monarch then attended the commissioning of the RBN Kastila Simulation Centre for the Full Mission Bridge Simulator (FMBS); and observed the static display on defence diplomacy by the Directorate of Intelligence.

The event continued with a *junjung ziarah* (get-together) session with the recipients of the Supreme Commander of the RBAF Scholarship and the RBAF Scholarship,

who are currently in Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty and members of the royal family then headed to the Nakhoda Hall for the get-together session with RBAF junior non-commissioned officers (JNCOs), and shared friendly exchanges with officers and personnel who have completed their missions in the International Monitoring Team (IMT); Independent Decommissioning Body Verification, Monitoring, and Assistance Team (IDB VMAT); as well as the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) with the Malaysian Battalion (MALBATT).

The event also consisted of a static display exhibition by RBAirF and the launching of RBAirF's No. 39 Squadron Unmanned Aerial System (UAS). Subsequently, His Majesty visited the Warrant Officers' Mess of the RBN Chief Petty Officer and Petty Officer for a get-together with RBAF senior non-commissioned officers.

Prior to leaving the ceremony, His Majesty and members of the royal family were invited to the RBN Officers' Mess for a cake-cutting ceremony; followed by the recitation of *doa selamat* by the Acting Director of JAMA'AT and a Luncheon.

Previously, on May 30, a Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony was held in conjunction with the celebration at the Surau Ad-Difa', Bolkiah Garrison.

Attending the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The ceremony commenced with a recitation of Surah Al-Imran, verse 123 to 126 by Soldadu Muhammad Zainul Arifin bin Haji Haminuddin from the RBLF Second Battalion, who was also the champion of the Musabaqah Tilawah Al-Quran in conjunction with the 61st RBAF Anniversary.

A mass Fardu Maghrib Prayer was held, led by Major Ariffin bin Amit @ Hamit from JAMA'AT, who also led the mass Sunat Hajat Prayer; Surah Yasin and *tahlil* recitation; *doa kesyukuran* recitation; and the mass Fardu Isyak Prayer.

The Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony was also held simultaneously in all RBAF mosques and *surau*, including the mosque in Pulau Baru-Baru.

This year's theme, "*Bersama Menjayakan Wawasan Negara* (Together in Accomplishing the National Vision)", serves as reverence for RBAF as an organisation progressing and uniting in its loyalty to the Monarch and the country; while practising noble values in collectively achieving the national vision.

Maintain discipline, uphold Brunei Darussalam's good name



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the National Flag Handover Ceremony to the Brunei Darussalam Contingent to the 31st South East Asian Games.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah handing over the national flag to the Chef de Mission of the Brunei Darussalam Contingent to the 31st SEA Games.

BERAKAS, May 5 – Brunei Darussalam will be sending its contingent off to the 31st South East Asian (SEA) Games in Hanoi, Socialist Republic Viet Nam – which will officially take place from May 12 to 23. The contingent is made up of 39 members, comprising 23 athletes and 16 officers (including the Chef de Mission; secretariat; team managers; coaches; and medical officers).

With regards to the matter, the National Flag Handover Ceremony to the Brunei Darussalam Contingent to the 31st SEA Games took place at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

Present to officiate the event was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC).

At the event, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah delivered a *sabda* (royal speech), where he reminded all athletes and officers representing the country at the upcoming SEA Games to maintain discipline and uphold Brunei Darussalam's good name.

His Royal Highness explained that the athletes' participation is based on detailed assessments and evaluations made by the National Athletes Assessment and Selection Executive Committee; and supported by the secretariat. Thus, they should be proud and be fully driven in bringing glory to Brunei Darussalam at the 31st SEA Games.

His Royal Highness further congratulated the national sports associations and coaches involved, as well as the parents of the selected athletes for their continued guidance, support, and motivation.

In regards to the matter, His Royal Highness once again reminded all athletes and officers to always stay conscious in avoiding COVID-19; while adhering to the rules and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) provided and set by the organiser of the 31st SEA Games.

His Royal Highness also thanked the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, through the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) for the support given to BDNOC.

According to His Royal Highness, this year, Brunei Darussalam is sending its contingent in four sporting events: E-Sports (10 male athletes); Karatedo (two male and three female athletes); Pencak Silat (one male and three female athletes); and Wushu (four male athletes).

His Royal Highness lauded the selected athletes, expressing his confidence that all of them have been informed of the regulations for representing the country – particularly the anti-doping regulations.

Before concluding the *sabda*, His Royal Highness prayed for all representative athletes, officers as well as coaches to stay healthy, active, integral, and dignified; while remaining under the protection of Allah the Almighty.

Prior to that, Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports also delivered his welcoming remarks at the event.

In his remarks, the Minister stated that achieving excellence in high-performance sports is certainly among Brunei Darussalam's national priorities. Hence, the government has and will continue to make investments to develop sports and expand the pool of exceptional athletes.

"The best coaches have been brought in full-time for sports like Wushu, Karatedo, Taekwondo, Swimming, and Fencing," he added.

The Minister also emphasised the significance of strategic collaboration between all parties – particularly MCYS; national sports associations; coaches and athletes; as well as BDNOC – in identifying and developing sporting talents professionally and systematically. This shows the importance of continuous Whole of Nation commitment and dedication.

The Minister further expressed his confidence that the initiatives carried out when the circumstances are more favourable (including holding more sports competitions at the national level – especially the Brunei Darussalam National Games (SKBD) will be a key factor in ensuring the growth of sports to bring glory to Brunei Darussalam in current and upcoming championships.

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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) in a group photo with the members of the Brunei Darussalam Contingent to the 31st South East Asian Games.

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"We are also looking forward to the completion of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium upgrading and renovation project – which will provide more conducive platforms for sports, particularly martial arts training," said the Minister.

The Minister clarified that the athletes were selected following specific criteria; and an objective, unbiased as well as an evidence-based evaluation process. The selection was not an easy task, he added, because of the sacrifices and

energy-intensive investment made by the nation's best athletes – especially with the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following the welcoming remarks and *sabda*, His Royal Highness then handed over the national flag to Awang Haji Mohamad Rosfazilah bin Haji Yusly, Chef de Mission of the Brunei Darussalam Contingent to the 31st SEA Games.

The national contingent is expected to set off for the games according to stages – starting May 6.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports delivering his welcoming remarks at the ceremony.

Enlivening Aidilfitri with The Impian Project, Zahara Charity Foundation

GADONG, May 22 – To further enliven this year's Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration, The Impian Project and Zahara Charity Foundation jointly hosted an Open House Ceremony.

Present at the ceremony held at the Rizqun International Hotel was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, who was accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Muhammad Ruzaini bin Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd. Yakub.

Also in attendance was Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports and spouse, Datin Nurhayana Janis binti Abdullah.

Over 65 families (comprising those with members who are special needs individuals) attended the event, which was enlivened with a number of Hari Raya



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah in a group photo at the Open House Ceremony hosted by The Impian Project and Zahara Charity Foundation in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

Aidilfitri singing performances.

The event was supported by the Australian High Commission; the Bangladeshi High

Commission; the British High Commission; Progresif Sdn. Bhd.; Juta Jaya Sdn. Bhd.; Hitune; LZ Hussain & Co.; and Cityneon Sdn. Bhd.

Towards increasing activities in aquaculture sector

BERAKAS, May 24 – Barramundi Group (B) Sdn. Bhd. (BGB) has marked its inaugural harvest of 100 tonnes of Barramundi fish production in Brunei Darussalam, which will be available in domestic and export markets under the brand name Kuhlbarra.

With this success, the Hundred Tonnes of Barramundi Fish Breeding Achievement Ceremony and the Agreement Signing Ceremony with the Fisheries Department, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) took place at the Anjung Saujana Restaurant, Brunei International Airport (BIA).

Present as the Guest of Honour was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Second Minister of Finance and Economy; and His Excellency Desmond Tan, Minister of State for Sustainability and Environment, Republic of Singapore.

BGB is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Barramundi Group Limited (BGL), which is headquartered in Singapore. The company is also listed on the Euronext Growth Oslo in Norway.

The shareholders of BGL include the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, through the Strategic Development Capital Fund under the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE).

The establishment of BGB aims to increase the volume of fish farming



The signing agreements by the Director of the Fisheries Department on behalf of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT); and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Barramundi Group Limited (BGL) on behalf of Barramundi Group (B) Sdn. Bhd. (BGB), with Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism; and Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Second Minister of Finance and Economy as witnesses.

activities in the aquaculture sector while supporting Brunei Darussalam's efforts towards economic diversification; and is expected to contribute to the increase in exports.

Andreas Peter Illum Wildfang von Scholten, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BGL also presented his speech at the event, where he shared the harvesting activities and the global supply of Barramundi fish; the background of BGL; as well as BGB's development since it first started operating in 2021.

The ceremony then saw the signing of two agreements between the Government of His Majesty through the Fisheries Department, MPRT and BGB for the usage of the Sungai Mangsalut Aquaculture Site, Kampung Tanah Jambu (measuring 17 hectares); and the Pelong Ocean Fish Farm Site (measuring 776 hectares).

Signing on behalf of MPRT was Dayang

Noraini binti Haji Anggas, Director of the Fisheries Department; while Andreas Peter Illum Wildfang von Scholten signed on behalf of BGB.

With the agreements, BGB will be able to expand its farming activities – including its offshore farming, fish hatchery, and processing.

The company also plans to establish a farm-to-fork value chain from hatcheries; nurseries; sea cage farms; processing to the brand marketing of Kuhlbarra. The company is expected to produce 3,000 metric tonnes of Barramundi fish annually by 2026, with an approximated value of US\$30 million.

To promote Kuhlbarra products in the domestic market, BGB will be collaborating with Royal Brunei Culinary (RBC) to feature some of its dishes at their restaurants (Anjung Saujana and Dynasty), starting June 2022.

Strengthening existing bilateral defence, military relations

BERAKAS, May 17 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence received a courtesy call from Yang Berhormat Delfin Negrillo Lorenzana, Secretary of National Defence of the Republic of Philippines, who is in Brunei Darussalam from May 16 to 18.

Upon arrival at the Bolkiah Garrison, the Secretary of National Defence of the Republic of Philippines was accorded with a Guard of Honour comprising personnel from the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF).

During the meeting, both parties reiterated their commitment to strengthen the existing bilateral defence and military relations; and to enhance cooperation in various defence and military sectors through bilateral and multilateral platforms.

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Yang Berhormat Second Minister of Defence receiving a courtesy call from Yang Berhormat Secretary of National Defence of the Republic of Philippines, who is in Brunei Darussalam from May 16 to 18.

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On the same day, the Secretary of National Defence had the opportunity to visit the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Museum and the CAE Brunei Multi-Purpose Training Centre (MPTC) (where the Philippines Air Force pilots have been and will be trained). He also delivered a talk to the students of the 12th Command and Staff Course at the Defence Academy RBAF – where he interacted with officers, including a course participant from the Philippines.

As part of his official visit, the Secretary of National Defence will additionally visit interesting and historical sites around Bandar Seri Begawan.

The Secretary of National Defence will also attend a formal dinner reception and formal luncheon, which will be respectively hosted by the Second Minister of Defence; and Major General Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of RBAF.

Developing innovative ways to empower health system

BALI, INDONESIA, May 15 – The 15th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) and Related Meetings convened in Bali, Indonesia for two days, starting yesterday.

Representing Brunei Darussalam at the meeting was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health.

The 15th AHMM was preceded by the AHMM Retreat to discuss ASEAN's efforts in developing the Mutual Recognition Agreement on COVID-19 Health Certificates and the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases.

The meeting aimed to provide a platform for strategic discussions on the trajectories and health priority areas needing attention in the ASEAN region; while strengthening health cooperation between ASEAN, as well as relevant dialogue and development partners.

The event focused on building regional health system resilience and accelerating COVID-19 recovery.

In his speech, the Minister of Health highlighted the challenges encountered by the health system during the post-COVID-19 pandemic; and suggested the increase in efforts – not only to restore health aspects but also to further develop innovative ways to empower a resilient health system to prepare for future public health emergencies.

The Minister then called for the continuation of ASEAN cooperation in health development through the exchange of views and information, to understand the success and challenges faced by ASEAN countries; while implementing strategies with health priorities in mind.

The ASEAN health ministers also agreed to approve a joint statement highlighting agreements on matters of interest: including strengthening the prevention and preparedness in public health emergencies; improving the detection of health emergencies; enhancing mitigation strategies in addressing current and future public health emergencies; increasing access to vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics (including essential medical supplies for action and preparation against pandemics); strengthening the capacity and capability at the national and regional level through the ASEAN Centre for Public



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health representing Brunei Darussalam at the 15th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) and Related Meetings.

Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases; and tightening cooperation in various sectors through the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda 2021-2025.

The 15th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting also followed by the First ASEAN-Republic of Korea (RoK) Health Ministers Meeting; Ninth ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Health Ministers Meeting; Eighth ASEAN-China Health Ministers Meeting; and the Special ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting with the United States of America (US).

At each meeting, the health ministers agreed to issue a joint statement describing the agreements based on their areas of cooperation.

While in Bali, the Minister also conducted bilateral meetings with His Excellency Budi G. Sadikin, Minister of Health of the Republic of Indonesia; and His Excellency Ong Ye Kung, Minister of Health of the Republic of Singapore to discuss and exchange views on the development of health sectors and to review the implementation of cooperation in the field of health between the two countries.

Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health. The delegation included Dayangku Nooraslena binti Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Sallehuddin, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations (UN) in Geneva, Switzerland; Dr. Ang Swee Hui, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Professional) at the Ministry of Health (MoH).

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Brunei Darussalam among countries with high vaccination rate

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, May 25 – Health ministers and representatives of 153 member states of the World Health Organisation (WHO) are attending the 75th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland starting from May 22 to 28.

Leading the Brunei Darussalam delegation at the assembly was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad Isham bin

community is still experiencing the effects of COVID-19.

The Minister added that Brunei Darussalam is one of the countries that have achieved a high level of vaccination rate – with more than 98 per cent of its population have received two-dose of COVID-19 vaccine; and nearly 70 per cent already receiving the booster shot. The country has also begun the transition to the management of COVID-19 as an endemic disease.

The Minister also acknowledged that not many countries are as fortunate as Brunei Darussalam, with its provision of universal health coverage.

The COVID-19 pandemic, the Minister explained, has shown that instability in the supply chain of basic medicines can threaten not only health systems but also global peace and security. Even in times of crisis, countries must still be guided by the principle of universal health coverage.

The Minister said that countries should also address various issues concerning

the dissemination of wrong and incorrect information. Brunei Darussalam will be working in collaboration with WHO to set up the Behavioural Insights Unit – which will facilitate unity between the government and society listen to grievances and build trust on health concerns.

The 75th World Health Assembly has reached the agreement and consensus of member states on various important public and global health issues – including those related to the control of communicable and non-communicable disease; standardisation of nomenclature for medical devices; health workforce; action and preparedness for public health emergencies; the nutrition of infants and mothers; as well as global strategies on food safety.

While in Geneva, the Minister also paid a visit to His Excellency Dr. Takeshi Kasai, Regional Director of WHO for the Western Pacific Regional Office; held a discussion with the Swiss Medical Network; and subsequently conducted visits to explore aspects of advanced training in several areas of medical expertise.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health delivering a speech at the 75th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

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The Minister of Health also delivered a speech at the assembly's plenary session, where he stated that Brunei Darussalam welcomes the theme for this year's assembly – 'Health for Peace, Peace for Health' – which implies that the global

Extending knowledge to improve nursing practices

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 27 – In conjunction with International Nurses and Midwives' Day, the Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC), in collaboration with the Department of Nursing Services, Ministry of Health (MoH), held the first International Nurses and Midwives Virtual Conference. The event was themed 'Creativity and Innovation in Nursing'.

The virtual conference was attended by over 1,500 individuals from Brunei Darussalam and neighbouring countries. It was aimed at extending knowledge on ways to improve nursing practices, as well as to adapt to any situation.

The conference began with a welcoming speech from the Guest of Honour, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health.

According to the Minister of Health, the pandemic has undone things that took healthcare professionals decades to build. Without dedicated teams of healthcare professionals, we would not have seen light at the end of this tunnel.

"At the core of those teams are outstanding nurses and midwives. Let's not forget, the pandemic may be a worldwide concern but, we also have other patients suffering other conditions and ailments," said the Minister.

The theme of the event was explored



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health delivering a welcoming speech at the first International Nurses and Midwives Virtual Conference.

into three different perspectives: clinical nursing practice; leadership; and education.

Speakers from Hong Kong, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Republic of the Philippines – including local speakers from local education institutions, government hospitals, and private healthcare institutions – participated in the conference.

Local speakers representing JPMC included Dayang Salbiah binti Haji Daud, Deputy Director of Nursing; Chakkaravarthy Karpagam, Clinical Nurse Specialist (Educator); and Hajah Jerada

Uddin Al-Raschid, Staff Nurse.

Other local speakers were Chandra Devi Durairajoo, Director of Nursing of Gleneagles JPMC; Sallehkamal bin Haji Baharudin, Nursing Officer Special Grade at Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah Hospital; Dr. Khadzah binti Haji Abdul Mumin, Senior Assistant Professor at Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkihah Institute of Health Sciences (PAPRSB IHS), Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD); Puan Armah binti Tengah, Head of School of Health Sciences, Politeknik Brunei; and Puan Hajah Kartini binti Haji Suhai, Nursing Officer Special Grade and Head of Nursing Administration at Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital.

Insightful perspectives from neighbouring countries were also shared by Christopher Soh Kok Keng, Nursing Assistant Director at the Lead for Centre for Asian Nursing Studies, Tan Tock Seng Hospital from the Republic of Singapore; Neugene Rowan Cu, Lecturer at Far Eastern University from the Republic of the Philippines; Professor Sally Chan, President of Tung Wah College from Hong Kong; and Duangduan Bunyasartphan, Nursing Director at BNH Hospital from Bangkok.

The event concluded with a video appreciating the sacrifices and hard work that all nurses and midwives have contributed – especially over the past years with the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19: Over 6,000 new cases in May

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 31 – A total number of 6,824 new cases were recorded throughout the month May – bringing the overall number of positive COVID-19 cases in Brunei Darussalam up-to-date to 148,674.

On the other hand, five deaths were recorded – none of which were categorised as deaths due to COVID-19.

A total of 6,666 cases were reported to have recovered – which brings the overall number of recovered cases in the country up-to-date to 146,854. Currently, the total number of active cases stands at 1,597 cases.

Among the cases that are currently being treated at the NICs, one case is currently reported under Category 4 – whereby the patients would require assistance from oxygen respirators and are placed under close observation. Meanwhile, there are no cases identified under Category 5 – whereby the patients require assistance from oxygen respirators and heart/lung machines (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation – ECMO) under the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

The cases were announced by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health; and Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusof, Second Minister of Defence as Acting Minister of Health in a series of press conferences on the current situation of COVID-19 infections in Brunei Darussalam held throughout the month at the Al-Afiah Hall, Ministry of Health (MoH); as well as in the daily infographics issued by MoH.

On May 30, With the consent 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, and in reference to a media release issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on the extension of the temporary suspension on cross-border activities dated May 14, the ministry would hereby like to announce that the temporary suspension on cross-border activities is extended by 15 days from June 1 to 15.

The temporary suspension applies to the entry of foreign nationals via land and sea ports – including transits through the country, except for entry and transit travels that have been granted approval by the Government of Brunei Darussalam. Entry and transits through Brunei Darussalam may only be considered for transit vehicles with transit permits issued by the Government of Brunei Darussalam – provided that the travellers have attained endorsement from their local authorities for their travels, and will be subject to existing entry conditions and procedures for

official government travel; students required to attend school; emergency services (such as ambulances, police, and military); and vaccinated foreign-registered transport operators with cross-country permits issued by the government for import deliveries of essential goods.

It also applies to the entry and exit-country travels of commuters via land and sea ports for the purpose of work.

The conditions for the consideration of entry and exit travel mentioned above are subject to review by the COVID-19 Steering Committee.

In a session held on May 6, the closures of several swab centres in Brunei-Muara District and Tutong District (effective May 7) were announced: namely the Bridex Drive-Through Swab Centre; Berakas Health Centre Swab Centre; Pengkalan Batu Health Centre Swab Centre; and the Sungai Kelugos Health Centre Swab Centre.

These closures were decided upon taking into account the progressively stable and controlled COVID-19 situation in Brunei Darussalam, as well as the reduced demand for swab services in the country.

On the other hand, members of the public from these two districts requiring the service could obtain it at the Sports Complex Swab Centre, Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital.

On May 22, it was also announced that the Jubli Emas Kampung Bunut Perpindahan Health Centre vaccination services would also be ceased starting from May 23. Those who had booked their slots at the centre would be given new appointments at the Indoor Stadium Vaccination Centre.

From Wednesday, June 1, the centre will resume its operations, including its primary healthcare services: chronic diseases clinic; general clinic; flu clinic; maternal care services; child healthcare services; pharmacy services; nurse-led clinic; national health screening programme; and community nutrition services.

On May 26, the public was also informed of the Tutong District Community Hall Vaccination Centre's ceasing of operations from May 30; and residents wishing to get the COVID-19 vaccination would have to book appointments at either a health centre in the district, or at the Vaccination Unit of the Tutong District Health Office.

Another change was announced earlier on May 10, in which the handling of Antigen Rapid Tests (ART) for all inbound travelers had been revised. With regards to this, ART on arrival will be done by the passengers themselves when they arrive at their homes or hotels. Each passenger will be given three ART kits to be used on the day of arrival, Day 2 and Day 3; and the results must be uploaded to the BruHealth app.

The BruHealth colour code for each passenger arriving in the country will automatically change to red. However, passengers who upload negative ART test results will be given a day pass through the BruHealth app which allows them to enter any premises in the country. The directive is in accordance with the provisions under Section 62(A), Chapter 204 of the Infectious Diseases Act whereby failure to comply may result in legal action.

On May 19, the public was then notified of the BruHealth application update (BruHealth version 3.0), which would be set to motion starting May 22 – with the introduction of several new features.

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With this upgrade, the application can now be used as a digital health app for users to plan healthy lifestyle activities (health plan) that can be tailored to their needs.

The upgrade consisted of a user interface (UI); biometric ID or password login; all-in-one code scanner that can automatically scan QR codes for vaccination certificates; BruHealth QR code in premises and recovery certificate; and updated help features that will make it easier for users should they encounter issues when using the app. BruHealth 3.0 will also have two new health programmes: BN on the Move; and the Check-in Challenge – which will be launched and used in the near future.

Later on, with the consent 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 was announced on May 24 that the Early Endemic Phase under the National COVID-19 Recovery Framework was set to end on May 31.

With this, starting June 1, the guidelines for COVID-19 control measures will be updated: there will be no limitation on the capacity of mass gatherings (regardless of location, either at home or halls); all sporting activities including competitions are allowed with no limitation on the number of spectators; food preparation for any event at any premises will be allowed without any restrictions, including buffet meals; and there will be no age

restrictions for all congregations at mosques to perform the Friday prayers and five-time daily prayers. However, the requirement to use personal prayer mats for Friday prayers and five-time daily prayers is nevertheless maintained.

Meanwhile, face masks should still be worn in public buildings. The public is encouraged to wear face masks outdoors, especially in crowded places, and be screened for COVID-19 using antigen rapid testing (ART) kits prior to attending events and when not feeling well or are symptomatic; whereas body temperature checks to enter premises are no longer required. These changes are in view of the COVID-19 situation and taking into account the vaccination rate in the country.

Under the National Vaccination Programme, it was reported that 70.6 per cent of the nation's population have completed three doses of COVID-19 vaccination.

On the other hand, as of May 30, 254 first COVID-19 doses have been given to children between the age of five to 11 – which sums up the total number of first doses given to 34,755 doses (81 per cent of children within this age range). At the same time, 605 second COVID-19 doses have been given to children between the age of five to 11 – which sums up the total number of second doses given to 20,946 doses (48.8 per cent of children within this age range).

In the past 24 hours, a total of 318 samples have been tested for the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Diplomacy, multilateralism as powerful tools in addressing challenges

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 28 – His Excellency Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly delivered a public lecture entitled 'Multilateralism and The Role Of Regional Organisations' at the Muzakarah Hall, International Convention Centre (ICC), Berakas.

The lecture's main point included the complex and interlinked crisis the world is currently facing – from the climate crisis; to COVID-19; to the occurring military conflicts – which are threatening global peace and security.

The core outcome of all this, said His Excellency, is that people are suffering and our world, our collective societies, are being challenged.



His Excellency President of the 76th Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly delivered a public lecture at the Muzakarah Hall, International Convention Centre (ICC), Berakas.



Also in attendance at the public lecture were Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); Yang Berhormat Minister at PMO and the Second Minister of Finance and Economy; Yang Berhormat Second Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

He added that society has a responsibility to do far more to address the suffering and protect the vulnerable. His Excellency then highlighted multilateralism and diplomacy as powerful tools; and the role of regional organisations – such as ASEAN – in addressing regional global challenges.

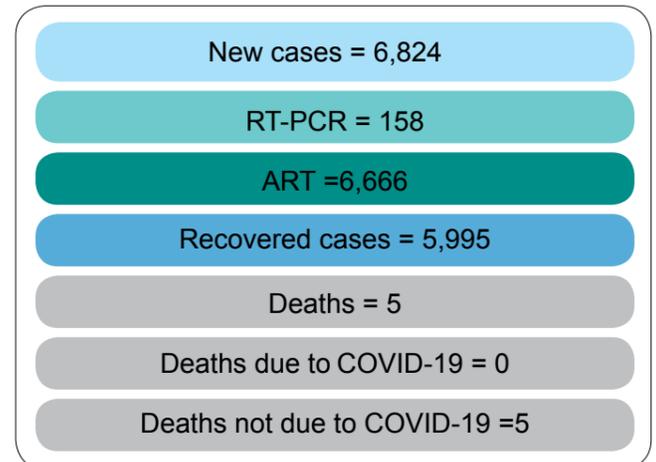
The public lecture was conducted by Haji Mohd. Yusra bin Haji Mohd. Salleh, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) as the moderator.

The lecture ended with a question and answer session with the officers attending the event.

Also in attendance were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Mokti

bin Haji Mohd. Daud, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at PMO and the Second Minister of Finance and Economy; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Also present were Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiaries to Brunei Darussalam; permanent secretaries; deputy permanent secretaries; department directors and senior officials from various agencies.



Call to accelerate progress towards universal health coverage

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 23 – A common agenda is crucial to ensure that the region can get back on track toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The matter was stated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) while virtually attending the 78th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

In mobilising a collective effort to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Minister at PMO said that progress toward universal health coverage by 2030 must be accelerated.

By leveraging bilateral and multilateral ties, resilience in healthcare systems can be further strengthened. Thus, the contribution from the existing collaboration under ESCAP is valued, and further progress is welcomed.

The Minister further highlighted the importance of responsive regional action to the threat of climate change; as such action is instrumental in supporting Brunei Darussalam's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 20 per cent by 2030.

To keep up with ESCAP's commendable momentum in environmental protection, the Minister added that ESCAP could do more in building efficient pathways to reduce GHG.

In his concluding remarks, the Minister recognised ESCAP's vital role in fostering collaboration and guiding the region once the common agenda is endorsed; and expressed appreciation for



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) virtually attending the 78th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

the cooperation with ESCAP, especially through capacity building and technical assistance.

The 78th session brought together all ESCAP members to discuss the future of regional cooperation in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The session is expected to endorse the Bangkok Declaration commemorating the 75th anniversary of ESCAP entitled 'A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific' – which fundamentally reaffirmed the members' commitment to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Meeting discusses post-pandemic recovery

WASHINGTON D.C., UNITED STATES (US), May 14 – The meeting between ASEAN Leaders and United States (US) Business Leaders was held on May 12 at The Willard InterContinental, Washington D.C., US.

Present as a representative of Brunei Darussalam was 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.

The meeting discussed issues related to ASEAN-US post-pandemic future economic recovery – particularly on the energy sector, climate, and digitalisation.

During the policy discussion on energy, the Minister at the PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy highlighted that ASEAN and US have embarked on initiatives, such as the ASEAN-US Energy Cooperation Work Plan 2021-2025; and the ASEAN-US Climate Future Initiative.

The Minister also said that the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) – which was adopted in 2020 at the 37th ASEAN Summit – emphasised the importance of sustainable energy and the promotion of green growth to boost the



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy attended the meeting between ASEAN Leaders and United States (US) Business Leaders which was held on May 12 at The Willard InterContinental, Washington D.C., US.

region's economy.

The Minister further shared that ASEAN has introduced a few initiatives to align the region's capital markets with the sustainability agenda – such as the adoption of the ASEAN Green Bonds Standards and ASEAN Sustainability Bonds Standards; as well as the endorsement of the regional taxonomy for sustainable finance.

The Minister believed that there is an opportunity to mobilise private capital to

finance the initiative, with ASEAN actively promoting a conducive ecosystem to attract sustainable investments and financing. In this regard, businesses in the US can play an important role in channelling the critical investments, required expertise, and technology transfer to ASEAN Member States.

The meeting was also attended by businesses in the US; and was aimed at enhancing close cooperation between the government and private sectors in the ASEAN region.

Discussing recovery efforts, addressing regional issues



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy attended the ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Special Meeting – which took place recently in Bali, Indonesia.

BALI, INDONESIA, May 20 – 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 attended the ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Special Meeting – which took place recently in Bali.

The special meeting was chaired by His Excellency Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce of the Kingdom of Cambodia; with the participation of economic ministers from the ASEAN Member States and His Excellency Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN.

The ASEAN economic ministers discussed and exchanged views on ASEAN's recovery efforts and strategies in addressing regional and global issues – including pushing for ASEAN centrality in ensuring a relevant, competitive, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient ASEAN Economic Community in the post-COVID-19 era.

At the meeting, the Minister emphasised the important role of post-COVID-19 intra-ASEAN trade and investment; and affirmed the exigency of strengthening ASEAN centrality in navigating the uncertainty and rapidly evolving economic landscape.

The meeting took note of the optimistic outlook on the growth of gross domestic product (GDP) – which is expected to reach 4.9 per cent in 2022; and 5.2 per cent in 2023.

ASEAN also noted that the recovery momentum and growth prospect are vulnerable to geopolitical situations; supply chain disruptions; shortages in key commodities; and inflationary

pressures.

Meanwhile, the meeting highlighted the need for ASEAN to remain vigilant and accelerate the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) so that the region's economy can bounce back better and stronger.

The meeting then agreed that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement can potentially be a significant contributor to post-pandemic economic recovery efforts; and welcomed the establishment of the RCEP Secretariat to provide support to the RCEP Joint Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

The event underscored the significance of the success of the Twelfth World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC12) – which will take place from June 12 to 15 in Geneva, Switzerland – in securing a transparent, non-discriminatory, and open multilateral trading system.

The meeting continued with a discussion on issues related to the environment – including policies and strategies imposed by international organisations – with possible implications to trade policies and activities in the region.

The AEM Special Meeting was preceded by the Preparatory Senior Economic Officials Meeting (Prep-SEOM) on May 17. The meeting was attended by Dr. Hajah May Fa'ezah binti Haji Ahmad Ariffin, Permanent Secretary (Economy) at the Ministry of Finance and Economy.

Call to strengthen ASEAN-US trade relations

CAPITOL HILL, May 12 - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs attended a working lunch for ASEAN leaders and representatives hosted by Her Excellency Nancy P. Pelosi, Speaker of the United States (US) House of Representatives at the Capitol Hill.

Her Excellency Pelosi delivered her remarks at the event, underlining the importance of the partnership between

ASEAN and the US in the Indo-Pacific in terms of security and stability of the region. The Speaker also urged for ASEAN-US trade relations to be strengthened to promote shared economic growth; and called for joint efforts in addressing challenges to further strengthen ties between ASEAN and the US.

The leaders also discussed ASEAN-US relations, as well as regional and global issues that are of mutual interest.

Strengthening human capital toward global market dynamics

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 11 – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education virtually participated in the 39th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Human Resources Development Working Group Education Network (APEC HRDWG EDNET).

The meeting is also held physically in Bangkok, Thailand from May 11 to 12.

The annual meeting involves delegates from APEC member economies and other relevant organisations convening to summarise and evaluate their work (which are related to joint educational projects, initiatives, and activities over the previous 12 months), as well as to formulate future work plans.

The event comprises 12 sessions; and is hosted by Thailand as the Chair of APEC for 2022.

The meeting commenced with welcoming remarks from Her Excellency Treenuch Thienthong, Minister of Education of Thailand; followed by pre-recorded statements from Education Ministers of APEC member economies – who shared their vision of education towards 2030, and the priorities of education development in their economy and in the APEC region.

In his statement, the Minister of Education shared Brunei Darussalam's key initiatives in providing its students equitable access to quality education. These include access to technological knowledge, highlighting the need for educators to cope and be knowledgeable of the Fourth Industrial Revolution technological developments in ensuring excellent delivery of quality education.

The Minister also shared that the Ministry of Education (MoE) is constantly addressing disparity gaps to stay responsive and relevant to the future of work for the overall development of the economy; and stressed the importance of strengthening human capital towards the global market dynamics.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Education virtually participating in the 39th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Human Resources Development Working Group Education Network (APEC HRDWG EDNET).

The meeting also shared Thailand's key deliverables and presentations of APEC projects.

The meeting will continue on May 12, with presentations from APEC member economies on the 'Future of Student Learning in Digitalised World'; and 'Development Skills for Potential Future'.

Presentations on 'Cross-Fora Collaboration for a Shared Future' will also be included to exchange views on the future of education towards 2030; as well as to discuss APEC's potential opportunities for collaboration in the future.

Also present in the meeting were officials from MoE of Brunei Darussalam.

Supporting aviation sector's recovery initiatives

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, May 20 – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications attended the Changi Aviation Summit 2022 (CAS 2022) – which was held on May 17 and 18 at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Republic of Singapore.

The CAS 2022 was officiated by His Excellency S. Iswaran, Minister for Transport and Minister-in-charge of Trade-Relations of the Republic of Singapore.

Themed 'Readying for Take-off: A Brighter and Cleaner Tomorrow', the summit was also attended by transport ministers from the ASEAN Member States, government representatives aviation experts, and leaders from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and International Air Transport Association (IATA).

During the summit, the transport ministers released and adopted the 'Joint Support for the Recovery of the Civil Aviation Sector' – which, among others, supports the initiatives towards the aviation sector's urgent recovery.

A joint communique was also issued – bolstering the acceleration of the sector's recovery at a global level while promoting environmental sustainability and supporting development through inclusive innovation.

The Minister was also invited as a member of the panel



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications during the courtesy call with Minister for Transport and Minister in-charge of Trade-Relations of the Republic of Singapore.

discussion on 'Inclusive Innovation' – in which he shared Brunei Darussalam's experiences and challenges (particularly in the aviation sector) in facing the COVID-19 pandemic; as well as the opportunities it represents with accelerated digital transformation, where the targets for the adoption of digital technologies in 2023 were achieved in 2020.

The Minister further highlighted that Brunei Darussalam will continue to strive for greater innovation and technological advancements through a Whole-of-Nation Approach. The Minister explained that this progress requires close cooperation through strengthened safety and security systems to address challenges, including cybersecurity.

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Several side programmes also took place throughout the CAS 2022 courtesy calls between the Minister and His Excellency Iswaran; as well as with Datuk Seri Ir. Dr. Wee Ka Siong, Minister of Transport of Malaysia – discussed aviation and land transport matters.

The Minister and the delegation also conducted working visits to several agencies related to the transport sector in the Republic of Singapore, including the Changi Airport Group and the Land Transport Authority (LTA) – with the main objectives of exchanging information and learning best practices in the development of the land transport and aviation sectors.

Also joining the CAS 2022 was the delegation from the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC), consisting of its Permanent Secretary and senior officials.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Info-communications attending the Changi Aviation Summit 2022 (CAS 2022).

Recognising the roles, achievements of ASEAN NGOs, CSOs

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 12 – The Fifth ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (5th ASEAN RDPE) Leadership Awards – with its theme 'Accelerating Recovery and Strengthening Resiliency of ASEAN for Sustainable Rural Development and Poverty Eradication' – took place today via video conference.

The event – which was hosted by the Republic of Philippines through the National Anti-Poverty Commission as the Chair of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE) – was attended by the ASEAN Member States responsible for rural development affairs and poverty eradication.

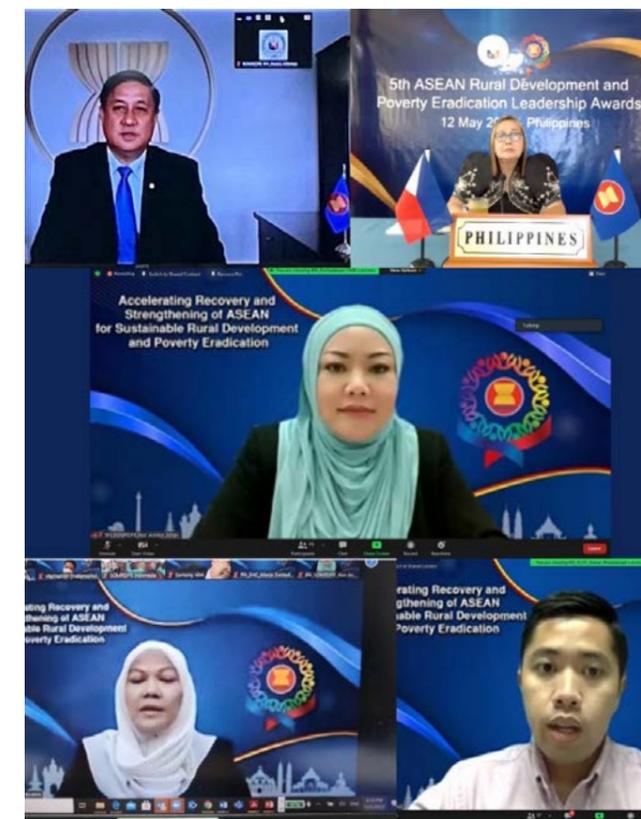
Brunei Darussalam's delegation was led by Hajah Nor Ashikin binti Haji Johari, Permanent Secretary (Community and Culture) at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS).

The two award recipients from Brunei Darussalam were Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (TAIB) under the Private Sector Category, represented by Datin Hajah Hasnah binti Haji Ibrahim, Managing Director of TAIB; and the Society for Community Outreach and Training (SCOT) under the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Category, represented by Anwar bin Haji Mohammad, Chairman of SCOT.

The ceremony commenced with welcoming remarks from His Excellency Ekkaphab Phanthavong, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community; followed by an officiating speech from Her Excellency Paterna M. Ruiz, Deputy Director General of the National Anti-Poverty Commission as the Chair of the Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (SOMRDPE).

The award recipients were then given opportunities to present their roles, achievements, and contributions to the community through a video presentation, before virtually receiving their trophies and e-certificates.

Also present online were Pengiran Muhammad Ameer Mubaarak bin Pengiran Haji Hashim, Acting Temburong District Officer as a representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA); as well as



Brunei Darussalam's delegation was led by Permanent Secretary (Community and Culture) at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) at the Fifth ASEAN Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (RDPE) Leadership Awards.

senior officials from MCYS, TAIB, and SCOT.

The ceremony is a biennial activity carried out by SOMRDPE to recognising the roles, achievements, and contributions of NGOs/civil service organisations (CSOs) and the private sector in rural/community development, livelihood, and poverty reduction in local communities.

National athletes bringing home medals from the SEA Games



Mohammad Adi Salihin bin Roslan won a gold medal under the men’s Wushu Nanquan event (left); and the national Pencak Silat secured two medals the 31st South East Asian (SEA) Games (right).

HANOI, THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM, May 14 - Mohammad Adi Salihin bin Roslan, Brunei Darussalam wushu athlete won a gold medal under the men’s Wushu Nanquan event at the 31 South East Asian (SEA) Games.

During the men’s Wushu Nandao event, Mohammad Adi Salihin earned 9.65 points – a few points short from earning the bronze medal, which was snatched by Van Huu Nong from the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, with 9.67 points.

However, the national athlete bounced back earlier today, defeating Harris Horatius from Indonesia and Van Huu Nong from the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam with 9.71 points.

Previously, on May 11, the national Pencak Silat team also managed to secure two medals at the Bac Tu Liem Sporting Hall:

one silver medal in the women’s artistic team event; and a bronze medal in the men’s singles artistic event.

The women’s artistic team comprised national Pencak Silat athletes: Anisah Najihah binti Abdullah; Norleyermah binti Haji Raya; and Nur Wasiqah Aziemah binti Rosihan.

Meanwhile, during the men’s singles artistic event, Muhd. Adi Saifullah bin Haji Muhd. Suhaimi lost to competitor from the Republic of Singapore, after defeating a candidate from the Philippines – putting him in the third place, alongside another athlete from Malaysia. As for the women’s singles artistic event, no medals were won by Anisah Najihah, who was the national representative under the category.

The national contingent is set to compete in the e-Sports event, which will take place on May 16; and the Karate event, which will take place on May 18.

UNISSA-Qatar University sign MoU

QATAR, May 26 - Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) and Qatar University recently inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Administration Building of Qatar University.

Signing on behalf of UNISSA was Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA; while Qatar University was represented by Dr. Hassan Rashid Al-Derham, President of the university.

Prior to the signing, a briefing was presented by the President of Qatar University on the history and programmes offered at the higher institution, as well as the developments it has achieved since its inception in 1973. A commemorative speech was also delivered by the Rector of UNISSA.

The signing serves as a platform towards further collaborative plans – especially in student exchange and specialisation in Arabic language, as well as the publication of scientific materials from UNISSA and Qatar University professionals.

Also present to witness the signing was His Excellency Haji Awang Mohamed Bahrin bin Dato Paduka Haji Abu Bakar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Qatar;



Signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of UNISSA was the Rector of UNISSA; while Qatar University was represented by the President of the university.

Dr. Eiman Mustafawi, Deputy President (Student Affairs) of Qatar University; Dr. Haji Hambali bin Haji Jaili, Acting Assistant Rector (International and Service) at UNISSA; and key officials from Qatar University.