



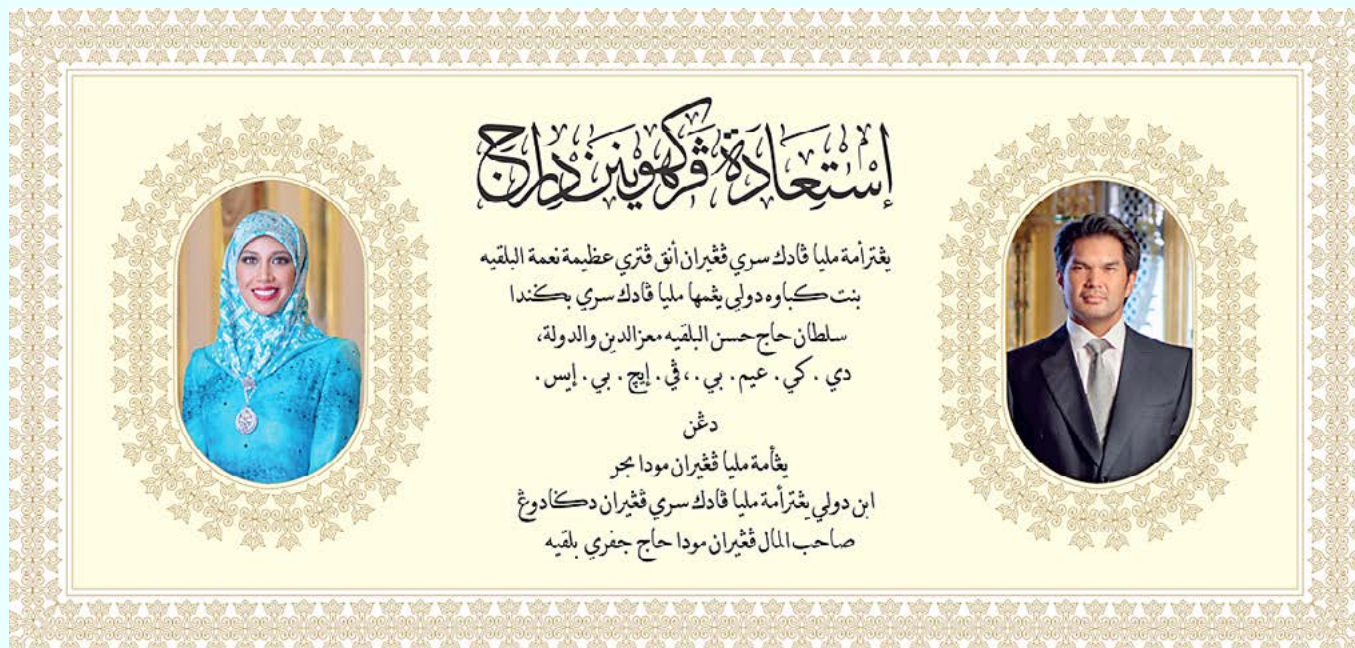
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Brunei Darussalam

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Royal Bersanding Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 15 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the Royal Bersanding Ceremony for the Royal Wedding Ceremony between Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah at Balai Singgahsana Indera Buana, 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 conducting the ceremonial placement of the royal bridegroom's hand on the royal bride's head during the Royal Bersanding Ceremony for the Royal Wedding Ceremony between Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.





3. His Majesty receives audiences



4. Her Majesty receives audiences



5. Royal Bersuruh Ceremony marks start of Royal Wedding Ceremony



6. Opening and Receiving of the Gendang Jaga-Jaga Ceremony



7. Presentation of the Royal Token and Royal Engagement Ceremony



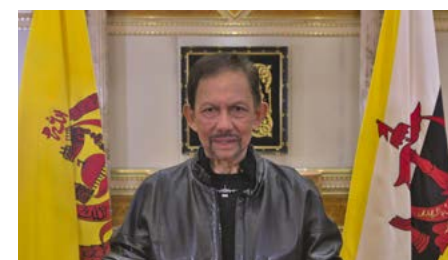
8. Berbedak Ceremony for the Royal Bride and the Royal Bridegroom



10. Royal Akad Nikah Ceremony



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19. Pandemic shows improvements in digital capacity



21. Enhance credibility, learning capacity at OCS



23. New LegCo members sworn-in



27. Brunei-UK reaffirm longstanding defence relations



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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:



His Excellency Hok Sophea, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam on January 4.



His Excellency Dr. Sujatmiko, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam on January 19.



His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Republic of Singapore on January 19.



Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Diraja Dr. Zambry Abdul Kadir, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia on January 24.

Her Majesty receives audiences

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience on January 19 at Istana Nurul Iman:



Madamme Nani Sujatmiko, spouse of outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam.



Madamme Loo Tze Lui, spouse of His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Republic of Singapore.

HRH The Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman received in audience His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madamme Loo Tze Lui at Qashr Al-Meezaan on January 19.



His Excellency Hok Sophea, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam on January 5.



His Excellency Dr. Sujatmiko, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam on January 24.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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 Negara Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency The Right Honourable Chris Hipkins, following his appointment as the new Prime Minister of New Zealand on January 25;
- His Excellency General The Honourable David John Hurley AC DSC (Retd)., Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia; The Honourable Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia; the government and people of Australia on the occasion of Australia Day on January 26; and
- Her Excellency Droupadi Murmu, President of the Republic of India; His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India; the government and people of India on the occasion of its 74th Republic Day on January 26.

Royal Bersuruh Ceremony marks start of Royal Wedding Ceremony



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 attending the Royal Bersuruh Ceremony at the Balai Persantapan, Istana Nurul Iman. Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech).

Persantapan, Istana Nurul Iman. This marked the start of the Royal Wedding Ceremony between Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 8 – 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 Bersuruh Ceremony, which took place at the Balai



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah seeking audience with His Majesty.

The Royal Bersuruh Ceremony taking place in full custom and tradition.



Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The Royal Bersuruh Ceremony commenced at Assana' in Jerudong. The delegation was led by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Maharaja Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim bin Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak (Dr.) Kemaludin Al-Haj; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Basit bin Pengiran Datu Penghulu Pengiran Haji Apong; and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Ratna Wijaya Brigadier General (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Hasnan bin Pengiran Ahmad.

Opening and Receiving of the Gendang Jaga-Jaga Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 9 – The Opening of the Gendang Jaga-Jaga Ceremony for the Royal Wedding Ceremony between Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah took place at the Lapau.

The ceremony was carried out in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince as representative of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince as representative of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the Opening of the Gendang Jaga-Jaga Ceremony for the Royal Wedding Ceremony between Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar. Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien attending the Receiving of the Gendang Jaga-Jaga Ceremony at Assana' in Jerudong.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

A *doa selamat* was read at the event by Yang Berhormat Pehin

Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti.

The Receiving of the Gendang Jaga-Jaga Ceremony was also held today at Assana' in Jerudong, attended by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.



A *doa selamat* was read by Yang Berhormat State Mufti.



Yang Berhormat the State Mufti (left); and Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar (right) reading the *doa selamat* at the ceremony.

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His Royal Highness then proceeded to the Balai Persantapan, Istana Nurul Iman along with the delegation to seek an audience with His Majesty and convey his intention. His Majesty delivered

a *titah* (royal speech) accepting the intention and welcomed the arrival of the delegation.

After the ceremony, the delegation returned to Assana'.

Presentation of the Royal Token and Royal Engagement Ceremony



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah as representative of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attending the Presentation of the Royal Token and Royal Engagement Ceremony at Balai Persantapan at Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 10 – The Presentation of the Royal Token and Royal Engagement Ceremony for the Royal Wedding Ceremony between Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah took place earlier today.

The Tanda Diraja and Pertunangan Diraja were presented in the presence of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik as representative of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Presentation of the Royal Token and Royal Engagement Ceremony at Balai Persantapan, Istana Nurul Iman.



The Delegation entering the ceremony (above and below).



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, father of the bridegroom during the Presentation of the Royal Token and Royal Engagement Ceremony at Assana', Jerudong.



The delegation was led by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Basit bin Pengiran Datu Penghulu Pengiran Haji Apong.

The ceremony began with the Presentation of Royal Token and Royal Engagement at Assana' in Jerudong, attended by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The delegation, led by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Basit bin Pengiran Datu Penghulu Pengiran Haji Apong, then proceeded to Istana Nurul Iman.

Upon the delegation's arrival, the Tanda Diraja was handed over to Yang Mulia Pengarah Awang Jaini bin Haji Mahmud; while the Petunangan Diraja was handed over to Yang Mulia Pengarah Awang Haji Kilali bin Haji Abd. Rahman and Yang Mulia Pengarah Awang Haji Ibrahim @ Momin bin Haji Mohd. Yusof. This was followed by a 17-gun salute to mark that the Royal Token and Royal Engagement have been received.

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Berbedak Ceremony for the Royal Bride and Royal Bridegroom



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 gracing the Berbedak Ceremony for the Royal Bride and Royal Bridegroom for the Royal Wedding Ceremony between Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 11 – The Berbedak Ceremony for the Royal Wedding Ceremony between Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty



Their Majesties performing the *Istiadat Menculiki Bedak Diraja* for Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar.

Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah took place separately for the royal bride and bridegroom at Balai Singgahsana Indera Buana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Present to grace the *Istiadat Menculiki Bedak Diraja* were 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.

Also present to perform the *Istiadat Menculiki Bedak Diraja* were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran

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Presentation of the Royal Token and Royal Engagement Ceremony (continued)

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Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja then sought audience to present the Tanda Diraja dan Pertunangan Diraja to His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, who then delivered a *sabda* (royal speech) upon acceptance.

The Tanda Diraja dan Pertunangan Diraja were then brought to



The delegation before proceeding to Istana Nurul Iman.



the Dewan Resepsi, before being led out of the ceremony to be presented to His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri.

Afterwards, the delegation returned to Assana' to inform His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah that the Presentation of the Royal Token and Royal Engagement Ceremony had been duly carried out.

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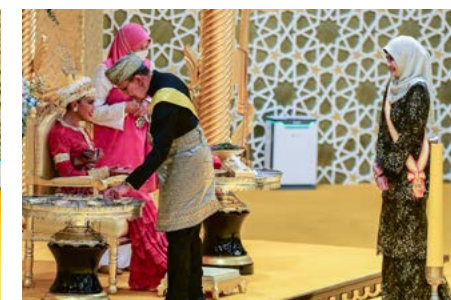
Other members of the royal family at the ceremony.



Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, alongside Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah and Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Seri Hajah Mariam binti Haji Abd. Aziz.

Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; as well as Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam also took part in the ceremony.

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Other members of the royal family performing the *Istiadat Menculiki Bedak Diraja* for Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah.

Royal Akad Nikah Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 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 the Royal Akad Nikah Ceremony for the Royal Wedding Ceremony between Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

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The Royal Akad Nikah Ceremony for the Royal Wedding Ceremony between Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

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Other members of the royal family performing the *Istiadat Menculiki Bedak Diraja* for Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar.

The ceremony also involved the parents of the bridegroom: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati binti Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman.

The ceremony commenced with the recitation of *Zikir Marhaban*. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri then led the *Istiadat Menculiki Bedak Diraja* alongside a 17-gun salute, marking the start of the event.

After the Berbedak Ceremony for the royal bride was duly carried out, the ceremony then continued with the bridegroom.

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Upon the ceremony's commencement, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered a *titah* (royal speech) appointing Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar as a representative in conducting the ceremony.

After signing the solemnisation form, His Majesty consented for Yang Berhormat to begin the ritual with the recitation of *Khutbah Nikah* (Solemnisation Sermon); followed by the *Lafaz Ijab dan Qabul*. A 17-gun salute was then performed to mark the conclusion of the ritual.

Afterwards, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar signed the solemnisation form (along with four other witnesses comprising the Begawan Pehin Khatib) and recited the *Lafaz Ta'liq*.

A *doa selamat* was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti.



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar signing the solemnisation form (along with four other witnesses comprising the Begawan Pehin Khatib).



Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.



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 signing the solemnisation form.



Royal Bersanding Ceremony

From front page

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; His Royal



Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah being seated on the royal dais.

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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 gracing the Royal Bersanding Ceremony.



Other members of the royal family, as well as the royalties of Pahang Darul Makmur and Johor Darul Ta'zim at the ceremony (above and below).



Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati binti Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Nasibah.

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Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah (above) and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar (below) being escorted to the royal dais.



Their Majesties receiving a *junjung ziarah* from the royal couple.

From page 12

Other members of the royal family, as well as the royalties of Pahang Darul Makmur and Johor Darul Ta'zim were also in attendance.

The ceremony began with the Istiadat Menjunjung Pengantin Diraja Perempuan, where His Majesty instructed Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah; Her Royal Highness



Also receiving a *junjung ziarah* were the parents of the royal bridegroom and the mother of the royal bride.



Their Majesties in group photos with the royal couple, as well as the parents of the royal bridegroom and the mother of the royal bride.

Princess Hajah Masna; and the wives of state dignitaries to proceed to invite Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah to Balai Singgahsana Indera Buana.

After the royal bride was seated, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Maharaja Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim; and Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti sought consent to welcome and escort Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar to the royal dais.

At the royal dais, His Majesty conducted the ceremonial placement of the royal bridegroom's hand on royal bride's head.

The ceremony proceeded with the recitation of *selawat* by Yang Berhormat the State Mufti, alongside a 17-gun salute; followed by a *doa selamat*.

Afterwards, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen accompanied the royal couple as they left the ceremony.



Her Royal Highness Princess and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar leaving the ceremony.

Prior to their departure, Their Majesties consented to receive a *junjung ziarah* (greeting) from the royal couple. Also receiving a *junjung ziarah* were the parents of the royal bridegroom: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati; and the mother of the royal bride: Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Seri Dayang Hajah Mariam bin Haji Abdul Aziz.

Royal Banquet Ceremony



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam at the Royal Banquet Ceremony for the Royal Wedding Ceremony between Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 16 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the Royal Banquet Ceremony for the Royal Wedding Ceremony between Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.



Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati binti Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah



Other members of the royal family during the recitation of *doa selamat* by Yang Berhormat State Mufti.

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Their Majesties; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman during the recitation of *doa selamat* by Yang Berhormat the State Mufti.



Their Majesties in a group photo with Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar.



Rashidah Sa'adatol Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam and other members of the royal family.

Also in attendance was Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Seri Dayang Hajah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz.

Before the event began, a *doa selamat* was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti.



Other members of the royal family during the recitation of *doa selamat* by Yang Berhormat the State Mufti.



Recital of *Doa Selamat* and Closing of the Gendang Jaga-Jaga Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 17

– The Gendang Jaga-Jaga Ceremony for the Royal Wedding Ceremony between Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, which ran for ten days since January 8, was officially closed with the Recital of *Doa Selamat* and Closing of the Gendang Jaga-Jaga at Istana Nurul Iman.

The event took place in the presence of Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien during the Recital of *Doa Selamat* and Closing of the Gendang Jaga-Jaga held at Assana' in Jerudong.



The Recital of *Doa Selamat* and Closing of the Gendang Jaga-Jaga at Istana Nurul Iman took place in the presence of Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

The ceremony commenced upon consent from 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.

The *Zikir Syarafil Anam* was recited by Begawan-Begawan Pehin Khatib and Begawan-Begawan Mudim, where the '*Ya Habibi*' verse was followed by a 21-gun salute. At the same time, the royal regalia were taken down one by one.

The *doa zikir* was read by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hamidon bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Hamid; while the *doa selamat* was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti.

A similar event was also held in the morning at Assana' in Jerudong, attended by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The ceremony also saw the recitation of *zikir marhaban*, where the '*Ya Habibi*' verse was followed by a 17-gun salute, alongside the gradual taking down of the royal regalia.



The *doa selamat* for the event held at Istana Nurul Iman was read by Yang Berhormat the State Mufti.

The *doa zikir* was also read by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hamidon bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Hamid; while the *doa selamat* was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar.

Moving into recovery phase together



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 receiving in audience Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister of Malaysia and spouse at Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 25

– 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 received in audience Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Dato' Seri Dr. Wan Azizah binti Dr. Wan Ismail at Istana Nurul Iman.

Other members of the royal family were

also present at the ceremony.

Also present were Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as Accompanying Minister and spouse.

After the ceremony, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Yang Amat Berhormat held a four-eye meeting.

His Majesty and Yang Amat Berhormat also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

between the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) and the Brunei Investment Agency (BIA), which took place at Baitul Mesyuarah.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty was Awang Haji Sofian bin Mohammad Jani, Acting Managing Director of BIA; while the Government of Malaysia was represented by Yang Berbahagia Datuk Wira Arham bin Abdul Rahman, Chief Executive Officer of MIDA.

The MoU provides an initial understanding for both parties to hold negotiations towards the implementation and preparation of further agreements on bilateral investments that can be carried out by certain parties between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. The MoU will also include bilateral cooperation and investment in the downstream oil and gas sector; digital economy; smart manufacturing; smart agriculture; artificial intelligence; tourism; and the halal food industry.

An Official Luncheon with Yang Amat Berhormat and spouse, as well as the royal family and Malaysian delegates was also held today.



Other members of the royal family during the Audience Ceremony.



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Their Majesties during the Official Luncheon with Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The session commenced with a *doa selamat* recited by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti.

At the luncheon, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) congratulating Yang Amat Berhormat for his appointment as the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

His Majesty stated that Brunei and Malaysia have enjoyed a close relationship between the royal family, the government and people of all levels, which stems from the similarities in history, religion, community and language.

Furthermore, the challenges of COVID-19 have further strengthened these bonds of kinship and allowed both countries to move into the recovery phase, with the determination to intensify mutual cooperation that have been affected during the pandemic. Hence, His Majesty welcomed joint initiatives towards regenerating economic growth in various fields.

His Majesty also underscored the importance of the Annual Leaders' Consultation as the main mechanism in enhancing bilateral cooperation and formulating future directions, as well as ensuring the continued commitment in implementing the Exchange of Letters agreed by both countries more than 10 years ago.

The Monarch further highlighted that ASEAN has a role in maintaining regional peace and stability, and that ASEAN Centrality should continue to be emphasised. In that regard, His Majesty expressed confidence that Malaysia's leadership as the Permanent Shepherd in producing the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision will ensure that ASEAN remains relevant in the region.

His Majesty's *titah* was followed by a speech by the Prime Minister of Malaysia.



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) during the Official Luncheon.



Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister of Malaysia delivering a speech.

Yang Amat Berhormat and spouse are in the country for a two-day official visit.



Other members of the royal family during the recitation of *doa selamat* by Yang Berhormat the State Mufti.



Pandemic shows improvements in digital capacity

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 31 – 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 at Istana Nurul Iman in conjunction with the New Year 2023 Masihi, reflected on the past three years of facing COVID-19 – which, despite its impact on life, has also produced opportunities to be independent and strengthen key areas such as food security, education, finance and health.

"These are wisdom that have never come across our minds," said His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. "The pandemic has also improved digital capacity, allowing all parties to enjoy efficient and fast services in the field of work and virtual learning."

The Monarch further emphasised that it will be even more meaningful if this experience can instil the spirit of working hard to diversify the economy and join hands to create job opportunities for locals. Such enthusiasm will spark great interest among the youth to venture into new fields.

Towards achieving the goals of Brunei Vision 2035, His Majesty noted that the government is implementing the Economic Blueprint; as well as devising strategies through the Social Blueprint and Manpower Blueprint. His Majesty hopes that the said strategies will receive strong support from various stakeholders.

The Monarch further highlighted that the economic challenges faced by the country – including inflation driven by geopolitical tensions at a global level – have exposed Brunei Darussalam to the bitter challenge of 'imported inflation', which brings about the increase in prices of goods. Nevertheless, His Majesty assured that the government will continue to minimise the effects of price increase by ensuring that the supply and food-security are stable and sufficient.

His Majesty then urged the people to continue living a clean life in starting the New Year, without the influence of bad elements.



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 the New Year 2023 Masihi.

The Monarch was also pleased to note that several of his visits overseas in 2022 have resulted in the signing of a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding with international organisations and institutions, which are expected to help the development and professional recognition of human resources.

In ending the *titah*, His Majesty expressed his highest gratitude to all civil servants; the Royal Brunei Armed Forces; the Royal Brunei Police Force; other uniformed forces; frontliners and volunteers; as well as those serving in the private sector and non-governmental organisations for their commitment and hard work in 2022. The Monarch further thanked all members of society for their cooperation and support in dealing with disease outbreaks, and in upholding the national development agenda; as well as friendly countries and international organisations for their cooperation and assistance.

Call for RB to resolve weaknesses and flaws

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 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 made an unscheduled visit to Royal Brunei Airlines (RB) Campus in Jalan Kustin.

During the visit, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam toured the Rose building (where the Finance Department is located); the Orchid building (one of the centres for RB's development training and counselling); the Simpur building (which accommodates the Executive Office, People and Performance Division, as well as Information Technology Division); and the Commercial Department at the Hibiscus and Lily buildings.

His Majesty ended the tour at the Brunei International Airport: RB Line Maintenance Division.

His Majesty also delivered a *titah* (royal speech) highlighting the need for an experienced and effective mechanism and firmness in ensuring RB's excellent management.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) during an unscheduled visit to Royal Brunei Airlines (RB) Campus in Jalan Kustin.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam touring the buildings of the RB Campus during the visit.

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“Evaluation is still required as to whether the organisation’s executive management had already achieved the desired level – and if not, efforts are still needed towards this,” said His Majesty. “Such efforts include evaluating RB’s leadership, the achievements obtained, along with the integrity, capability and transparency of the officials.”

The Monarch further stated the need to give reasonable orders; and highlighted that it is vital to identify and tackle obstacles hindering the management from excellence.

“As a prestigious organisation, RB should resolve weaknesses and flaws – instead of setting them aside without making any efforts to tackle the issues,” His Majesty stressed.

His Majesty also reminded to not make light of matters such as health, safety and environment (HSE) affairs, as it would violate national and international airline standards, expose the staff to risks and jeopardise RB’s reputation.

Minister of Development appointed as Chairman

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 17 – By command of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar ‘Ali Saifuddien Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, it is hereby announced that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to the appointment of Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid, Minister of Development as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Royal Brunei Airlines, in replacement of Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism. The appointment is effective starting January 18.



The Monarch then queried the Board of Directors’ approval to eliminate bad debts from several parties due to reasons resulting in failure of collection – including dispute in invoices, owing to insufficient supporting documents. According to His Majesty, these documents should have been reviewed before the issue of claims for payment arise.

“RB has good potential in the airline industry, as proven by the awards won in the previous years,” said His Majesty. “Such potential needs to be continuously maintained to generate excellence – not only in the airline industry, but in all aspects of RB management.”

Throughout the visit, His Majesty was escorted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, 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 Second Minister of Finance and Economy; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism as Chairman of the Board of Directors of RB; Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Mohammed Riza bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohammed Yunos, Deputy Minister (Civil Service Governance) at PMO; Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Sufian bin Haji Sabtu, Deputy Minister (Security and Law) at PMO; and Captain Sabirin bin Haji Abdul Hamid, Chief Executive Officer of RB.

Enhance credibility, learning capacity at OCS



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) during the Sovereign’s Parade Ceremony for the 21st intake of the Officer Cadet School (OCS).



Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince ‘Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah.

TANAH JAMBU, January 26 – A total of 64 officer cadets (45 males and 19 females) were commissioned during the Sovereign’s Parade Ceremony for the 21st intake of the Officer Cadet School (OCS). Among the numbers, 31 were commissioned as Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF) officers; 14 as Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) officers; and 19 as Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF) officers.

Gracing the ceremony held at the Parade Square of the Defence Academy (DA), Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) in Kampung Tanah Jambu was 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.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of

Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince ‘Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah.

The event saw a march-past by the officer cadets, followed by a *titah* (royal speech) delivered by His Majesty, in which the Monarch explained that various measures have been intensified to enhance the credibility and capacity of learning at OCS, including involvement in the Singapore Armed Forces Training Institute-Military Institute’s (SAFTI-MI) Joint Urban Operations, which included RBLF, RBN and RBAirF for the first time; the SAFTI-MI International Cadet Conference; and International Army Cadet Week in the People’s Republic of China.

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His Majesty presenting the Sword of Honour to Officer Cadet Awang Muhd. Asyraf bin Haji Awang Amin (left); the Best Academic Award to Midshipman Awang Wan Afifi bin Wan Ali, RBN (right).



His Majesty presenting Best Military Skills Award to Officer Cadet Awang Mohammad Norhafiz bin Mohd. Sani (left); and the Best in Physical Training Award to Officer Cadet (U) Awang Haji Mohammad Nasrullah bin Haji Mohammad Hidin (right).



His Majesty having a get-together (left); and taking a group photo (right) with newly commissioned officer cadets and their family members.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness in group photo sessions.



His Royal Highness interacting with a newly-commissioned officer cadet.

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In its efforts to enhance learning and produce highly knowledgeable military officers, His Majesty urged DA to collaborate with universities and military education institutions locally and abroad.

“Apart from producing credible military leaders, such commitment can also enhance its academic accreditation to meet the level of military education institutions abroad,” said the Monarch.

His Majesty also highlighted that the RBAF leadership model plays a key role in shaping the characters of military leaders. With such a framework, the selection of future RBAF officers at OCS will be more refined, taking into account the uncompromised high standards of learning and training.

The Monarch was also pleased to note that starting from the 22nd intake this year, OCS will enrol officer cadets from overseas. Apart from improving diplomatic military ties, the enrolment of foreign officer cadets will provide value and international recognition to OCS.

Earlier in the *titah*, His Majesty stated that the passing out of 64 officer cadets has brought the number of leaders produced by OCS to 752 since its establishment 14 years ago.

Afterwards, the Monarch proceeded with an award presentation to the best officer cadets of the 21st intake.

His Majesty presented the Sword of Honour (the highest award bestowed for the highest overall achievements) to Officer Cadet Awang Muhd. Asyraf bin Haji Awang Amin; the Best Academic Award to Midshipman Awang Wan Afifi bin Wan Ali, RBN; the Best Military Skills Award to Officer Cadet Awang Mohammad Norhafiz bin Mohd. Sani; and the Best in Physical Training Award to Officer Cadet (U) Awang Haji Mohammad Nasrullah bin Haji Mohammad Hidin.

A *doa* was read by Commander Awang Haji Ainolnizam bin Haji Ibrahim, RBN, Acting Director of RBAF Religious Directorate.

His Majesty then received a *pesambah* themed “*Nahwa Attafawuq*” which means “Towards Excellence”.

Afterwards, the Monarch consented to have a get-together and received a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from the newly-commissioned officer cadets and their families, before taking part in group photo sessions.

New LegCo members sworn-in

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 28 – The Swearing-in Ceremony for the new members of the Legislative Council (LegCo), who were recently appointed on January 20, took place today at the Conference Hall, Department of Councils of State. Present at the ceremony was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of LegCo.

The ceremony commenced with the ex-officio members, comprising cabinet ministers; followed by appointed member - titled person; appointed members - distinction achievers; and appointed members - district representatives. At the end of the ceremony, Yang Berhormat Speaker congratulated all members of LegCo for their appointments.



Yang Berhormat Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) during the Swearing-in Ceremony for the new members of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Di-Raja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa bin Pehin Dato Perdana Menteri Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Ibrahim, Special Advisor to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) as ex-officio member of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs as ex-officio member of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusoff, Minister at PMO as ex-officio member of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health Affairs as ex-officio member of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy as ex-officio member of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs as ex-officio member of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism as ex-officio member of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid, Minister of Development as ex-officio member of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md. Salleh, Minister of Education as ex-officio member of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications as ex-officio member of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Haji Mohd. Yusuf, appointed member (titled person) of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Dayang Hajah Safiah binti Sheikh Haji Abd. Salam, appointed member (distinction achiever) of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Awang Lau How Teck, appointed member (distinction achiever) of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Chong Chin Yee, appointed member (distinction achiever) of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Dr. Awang Haji Mahali bin Haji Momin, appointed member (distinction achiever) of LegCo.

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Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Salleh Bostaman bin Haji Zainal Abidin, appointed member (distinction achiever) of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Dayang Hajah Rosmawatty binti Haji Abdul Momin, appointed member (distinction achiever) of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Pengiran Haji Isa bin Pengiran Haji Aliuddin, appointed member (distinction achiever) of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Awang Amran bin Haji Maidin, Penghulu of Mukim Lumapas, Brunei-Muara District as appointed member (district representative) of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Awang Lawi bin Haji Lamat, Village Head of Kampung Subok, Brunei-Muara District as appointed member (district representative) of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Awang Zainol bin Haji Mohamed, Village Head of Kampung Putat, Brunei-Muara District as appointed member (district representative) of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Awang Mohammad Ali bin Tanjong, Village Head of Kampung Lumapas 'B', Brunei-Muara District as appointed member (district representative) of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Daud bin Jihan, Village Head of Kampung Belimbing, Brunei-Muara District as appointed member (district representative) of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Awang Salleh bin Haji Othman, Penghulu of Mukim Bukit Sawat, Belait District as appointed member (district representative) of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Awang Mohammad bin Abdullah @ Lim Swee Ann, Village Head of Kampung Bukit Sawat, Belait District as appointed member (district representative) of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Mohamad Danial @ Tekpin bin Ya'akub, Penghulu of Mukim Ukong, Tutong District as appointed member (district representative) of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Awang Abdul Aziz bin Haji Hamdan, Village Head of Kampung Sengkarai, Tutong District as appointed member (district representative) of LegCo.



Yang Berhormat Haji Awang Sulaiman bin Haji Nasir, Village Head of Kampung Labu Estate and Piasau-Piasau, Temburong District as appointed member (district representative) of LegCo.

Launching of new books at Islamic Literature Night

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 31 – A total of six new books published by the Islamic Da'wah Centre (PDI) were launched at the Islamic Literature Night in conjunction with the Maulud Nabi Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wassallam Celebration for 1444 Hijrah/2022 Masihi, held at the Main Conference Hall of the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

The books launched during the night were 'Pemerintahan Negara Brunei Darussalam menurut Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah'; 'Islam Teras Pembangunan'; 'Menjana Ekonomi Islam Melalui Zakat dan Wakaf'; 'Himpunan Ayat-ayat Al-Qur'an dan Hadits Mengenai Perubahan'; 'Himpunan Ayat-ayat Al-Qur'an dan Hadits Mengenai Amar Ma'ruf'; and 'Himpunan Ayat-ayat Al-Qur'an dan Hadits Mengenai Nahi Mungkar'.

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Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs officiating the launching of the newly published books.

Present to officiate the launching as the Guest of Honour was Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs and spouse.

Also in attendance were Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti and spouse.

The event also saw the presentation of prizes to the winners of the Creative and Non-Creative Islamic Arts Writing Contest in conjunction with the celebration; followed by the presentation of souvenirs to the judges of the competition, as well as to the writers of the newly-launched books.

PDI received some 77 creative entries: five under the Drama Script Category; 16 under the Short Story Category; and 41 under the Poetry Category. Meanwhile, there were 15 non-creative entries under the Essay Category.



Yang Berhormat the State Mufti at the event.

Easing the burden of those in need

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 5 – Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah held a Donation Presentation Ceremony for the Pakistan Flood Humanitarian Fund 2022, victims of collapsed houses and house fires, as well as for home repair aids. The ceremony took place at the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) Headquarters in Jalan Kumbang Pasang.

The donations were presented by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health as Deputy Chairman of the YSHHB Board of Directors. A sum of \$50,000 was donated to the Pakistan Flood Humanitarian Fund 2022, received by Dayang Hajah Nor Ashikin binti Haji Johari, Permanent Secretary (Community) at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports as Co-Chairperson of the Pakistan Flood Humanitarian Fund 2022 Committee.

Meanwhile, donations amounting to \$29,900 were presented to six families who were victims of house fires and collapsed houses at several villages in the country at the end of 2022. YSHHB also donated financial aids for home repair totaling up \$47,000 to two families who are in need.

Also present was Dr. Dayang Nor Imtihan binti Haji Abdul Razak, Permanent Secretary (Planning, Land Use and Environment) at the Ministry of Development as Acting Managing Director of YSHHB.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health as Deputy Chairman of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Board of Directors presenting the donations.

COVID-19: Over 7,000 recovered cases in January

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 31 – A total number of 7,204 cases were reported to have recovered in January 2023 – bringing the overall number of recovered COVID-19 cases in Brunei Darussalam up-to-date to 274,186.

The cases were announced by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, 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.

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Yang Berhormat Minister of Health during one of the press conferences on the current situation of COVID-19 infections in Brunei Darussalam.

Among those currently being treated at the National Isolation Centres, there are no cases identified under Category 4 – whereby the patients would require assistance from oxygen respirators and are placed under close observation; as well as Category 5 – whereby the patients require assistance from oxygen respirators and heart/lung machines (Extracorporeal

Membrane Oxygenation) under the Intensive Care Unit.

Under the National Vaccination Programme, it was reported that as of today, 87.8 per cent of children between 5 to 11 years old have received their second doses; whereas 62.7 per cent of teenagers between 12 to 17 years old have completed three doses. On the other hand, 79.0 per cent of the country's people and residents have completed three doses; while 11.8 per cent have received their fourth doses.

Indian High Commission celebrates Republic Day

JERUDONG, January 26 – The Indian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam celebrated the 74th Republic Day of India with a reception held at the Berkshire Hall, Tarindak D'Polo Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

Present as a representative of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs.

At the event, His Excellency Alok Amitabh Dimri, Indian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam delivered a speech.

The ceremony commenced with the singing of national anthems of both countries; as well as a cake-cutting session conducted by the Minister of Home Affairs and His Excellency Indian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the reception.

Hajj Management Understanding Agreement inked

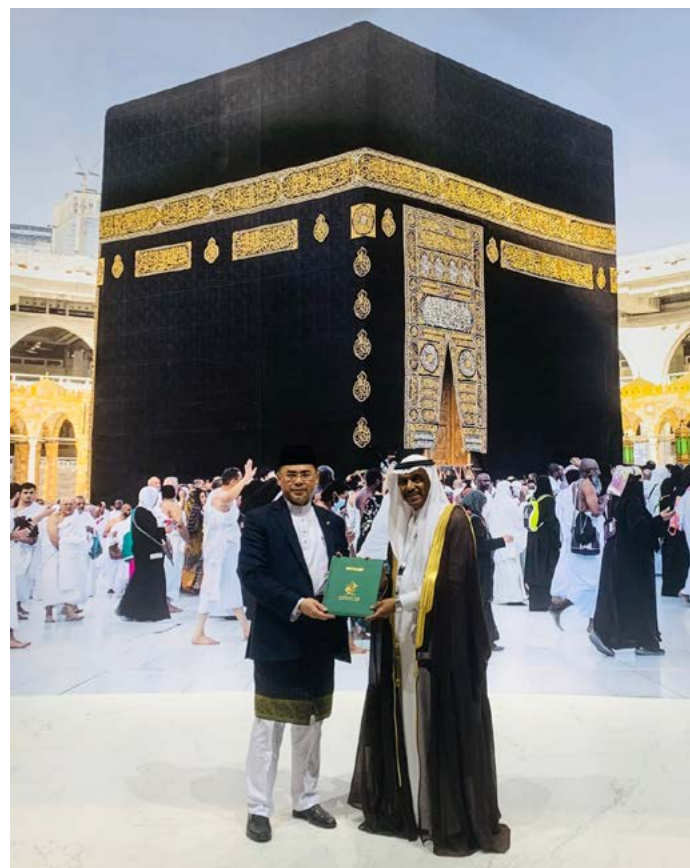
ARAB SAUDI, January 11 – A delegation from the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, led by Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohammad Tashim bin Pengiran Haji Hassan, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, attended the signing of the Hajj Management Understanding Agreement for Brunei Hajj Pilgrims for 1444 Hijrah/2023 Masihi at Jeddah Superdome, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on January 9.

The signing was the result of the Brunei Darussalam Hajj Pilgrim Affairs Management Meeting for 1444 Hijrah/2023 Masihi held online on December 27, 2022.

The agreement was signed by Yang Mulia Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs; and Dr. Abdulfattah bin Suleiman Mashat, the Deputy Minister of Hajj and Umrah of Saudi Arabia.

The delegation had the opportunity to visit the Hajj and Umrah Exhibition organised by the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah of Saudi Arabia.

Yang Mulia Deputy Minister also attended the Opening of Hajj and Umrah Conference officiated by His Royal Highness Prince Khaled Al-Faisal, Advisor to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and Governor of Makkah Province, Saudi Arabia.



Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs attending the signing ceremony held at Jeddah Superdome, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Brunei-UK reaffirm longstanding defence relations

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, January 25 – The Ministry of Defence of Brunei Darussalam (MinDef) and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom (UK) held their 16th Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting at the Ministry of Defence Main Building in London on January 20.

The meeting was co-chaired by Colonel (Rtd) Norsuriati binti Haji Sharbini, Permanent Secretary (Policy, Finance and Administration) at MinDef; and Jonathan Knight, Head of Indo-Asia Pacific at the Ministry of Defence of UK. Defence and military officials from both countries were also in attendance.

At the meeting, both sides reaffirmed the strong and longstanding defence relations between Brunei Darussalam and UK; and expressed their satisfaction on the active defence and military interactions in the recent years, despite the challenges of



Permanent Secretary (Policy, Finance and Administration) at MinDef; and Head of Indo-Asia Pacific at the Ministry of Defence of UK with Defence and Military officials from both countries.

the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting also discussed ways to enhance bilateral defence cooperation and exchanged views on areas of mutual interest.

19 participate in civil service exchange programme



Permanent Secretary (Civil Service Governance) at the Prime Minister's Office in a group photo with the participants of the 20th Second Echelon Brunei-Singapore Civil Service Exchange Programme.

RIMBA, January 30 – The Opening Ceremony for the 20th Second Echelon Brunei-Singapore Civil Service Exchange Programme was held at the Ittisal Hall, Civil Service Institute.

The four-day programme commenced today and will conclude on February 2, with the participation of 11 senior officials from the Brunei Darussalam civil service; and 10 senior officials from the Singapore civil service.

Present to launch the programme as the Guest of Honour was Awang Ajman bin Haji Meludin, Permanent Secretary (Civil Service Governance) at the Prime Minister's Office, who also

delivered a welcoming speech at the event.

The programme is held physically this time, whereas the previous two were held online. The theme for this year is "Resilience in a Changing World".

The programme, which is jointly organised by the Civil Service Institute and Singapore Civil Service College, includes lectures by relevant agencies, strategic conversations with ministries and learning journeys to several Agricultural Development Areas (KKP) under the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism; Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; Universiti Brunei Darussalam; and Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD).

CSC: Expand professional academic knowledge

TANAH JAMBU, January 12 - Some 35 officials - 18 Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) officers; one Royal Brunei Police Force officer; and 16 international military officers from 14 countries - are joining the 13th Command and Staff Course.

The international military officers comprise those from Australia; the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Republic of India; Republic of Indonesia; the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Sultanate of Oman; Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Republic of the Philippines; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Republic of Singapore; Kingdom of Thailand; and the United States of America.

The opening ceremony for the course was held at the Auditorium of the Defence Academy, RBAF.

Present to officiate the ceremony as the Guest of Honour was Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of RBAF. Also in attendance was Dr. Hazri bin Haji Kifle, Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

The course is a 40-week programme delivered in partnership with



Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces officiating the Opening Ceremony for the 13th Command and Staff Course.

UBD as its primary academic provider. The programme aims to expand the participants' professional and academic knowledge towards a contemporary strategic environment, and provide insights of its implications on their nature of work as defence and security specialists.

Ministry of Health and BDNAB receives braille books



Her Excellency delivering the donations to Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health; and President of the Brunei Darussalam National Association of the Blind (BDNAB).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 4 – In conjunction with World Braille Day, the Canadian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam contributed two sets of braille books worth \$400.

Her Excellency Ambra Dickie, Canadian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam was present to deliver the books to Awang Haji Maswadi bin Haji Mohsin, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health on behalf of the Acute Paediatric Unit of the Women and Children's Centre, Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital; and Awang Muhammad Hamzi bin Omar, President



of the Brunei Darussalam National Association of the Blind (BDNAB) on behalf of the association.

The books cater to pre-schoolers and children up to the age of 10, and come with English text and braille. Some have additional features such as colourful pictures and illustrations.

The books are works of Canadian authors and illustrators describing the unique elements of Canada's indigenous traditions and the everyday lives of children in Canada.

IBTE-Yunus Emre Institute sign MoU

BERAKAS, January 16 – The Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE) and Yunus Emre Institute, Republic of Turkiye signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the efforts to strengthen, promote and develop academic exchange and cooperation in education, training, research and supervision.

The signing took place at the Lecture Theatre, School of Aviation of IBTE Sultan Saiful Rijal Campus.

The ceremony saw a welcoming speech by Pengiran Hajah

Hamidah binti Pengiran Haji Hidup, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Development at IBTE, who stated that the MoU signing is also aligned with IBTE's third strategic goal of effective strategic collaboration with stakeholders.

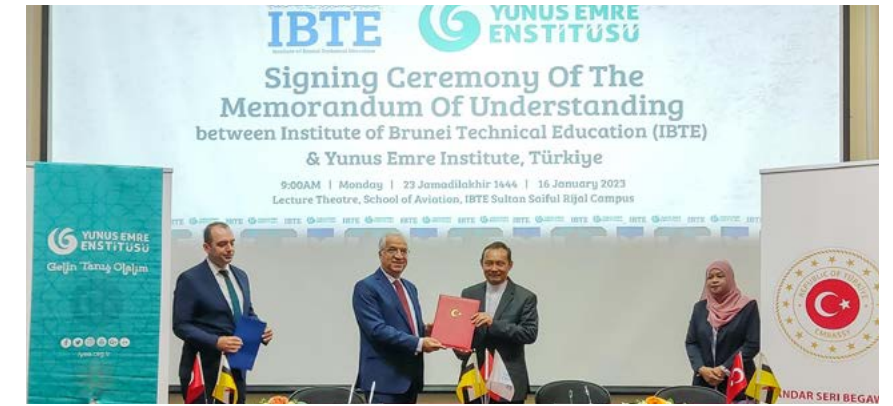
Meanwhile, His Excellency Professor Dr. Hamit Ersoy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkiye stated in his speech that the MoU will lead to more opportunities and exposure in vocational schools of both countries.

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Signing on behalf of their respective institutions were Dr. Haji Mohd. Zamri bin Haji Sabli, CEO of IBTE; while Professor Seref Ates, President of Yunus Emre Institute. Both Pengiran Hajah Hamidah and His Excellency Professor Dr. Hamit Ersoy witnessed the signing.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing Ceremony between the Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE) and Yunus Emre Institute, Republic of Turkiye.



KUPU SB receives visit from Malaysia

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 10 – The Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB) received a visit from 18 officials from the Negeri Kelantan Education Department, Malaysia.

Present were Dr. Haji Adanan bin Haji Basar, Ra'ees of KUPU SB; and Dr. Mat Asuar bin Awang, Chief Assistant Senior Director at the Secondary School and Sixth Form Unit of the Negeri Kelantan Education Department.

Among the contents of the discussion were the latest policy regarding the assessment method practised in schools of both countries, as well as the teachers' preparation in applying the method.



Ra'ees of Seri Begawan and Chief Assistant Senior Director at the Secondary School and Sixth Form Unit of the Negeri Kelantan Education Department, Malaysia during the visit.

Signing of MoU between UBD and UEA

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 19 – Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with University of East Anglia (UEA) to promote cooperation, dialogue and positive academic relations between the two institutions.

Signing on behalf of UBD was Dr. Joyce Teo Siew Yean, Assistant Vice-chancellor (Global Affairs) of UBD; while Professor Stephen Ashworth, Professor of Physics and Science Communication signed on behalf of UEA.

Present to witness the signing at Simpung Herbal Café in UBD campus was Dr. Hazri bin Haji Kifle, Vice-Chancellor of UBD.



Assistant Vice-chancellor (Global Affairs) of UBD signing on behalf of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD); while signing on behalf of University of East Anglia was Professor of Physics and Science Communication.

Philippines: Host for 21st ACWO

GADONG, January 6 – The Council of Women of Brunei Darussalam (CWBD) hosted the 21st ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organisation (ACWO) President Task Handover Ceremony. The event was held at the Wafa Hotel and Apartment, Kampung Beribi.

Datin Hajah Siti Hajar binti Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mohd. Yusof, Yang Di-Pertua of CWBD as the 20th President of ACWO handed over the ACWO presidency to Dr. Cecila Dy, President of Philippine Women's Development Council as the 21st President of ACWO.

Present as the Guest of Honour was Dayang Hajah Nor Ashikin binti Haji Johari, Permanent Secretary (Community and Culture) at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

CWBD was this year's host for the 20th ACWO Bi-Annual General Assembly.



Yang Di-Pertua of the Council of Women Brunei Darussalam (CWBD) as the 20th President of the ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organisation (ACWO) handing over the confederate flag to the 21st President of ACWO.

Opportunity to join virtual seminars, discussions

BERAKAS, January 16 - The Ministry of Education, through the Centre for the Development of Gifted and Talented Education, coordinated the participation of students and teachers at the 12th Online ASEAN+3 Student Camp for the Gifted in Science; and 14th Online ASEAN+3 Teacher Workshop for the Gifted in Science.

The event was held by the ASEAN+3 Center for the Gifted in Science and Korea Foundation for the Advancement of Science and Technology, funded by the Ministry of Science and ICT of the Republic of Korea (ROK), and supported by the ASEAN Secretariat and Society of International Gifted in Science of ROK.

It took place virtually for five days - from January 7 to 8; and from January 13 to 15.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by six students, who were divided into two teams under the supervision of Awang Haji Eddy Masirwan bin Haji Dolah, Education Officer from Maktab Sains Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan (MSPSBS).

Team A was represented by Awangku Md. Aiman Basyir bin Pengiran Mas Zaimuliani; Awang Joshua Hung Ji Chien; and Dayang Lee Jing Jing, Year 10 students from MSPSBS.

Meanwhile, Dayang Ting Pei Tong, Year



The 12th Online ASEAN+3 Student Camp for the Gifted in Science taking place.

11 student from Chung Hwa Secondary School, Bandar Seri Begawan; and Dayang Rabi'atul Nur Qistina Aqilah binti Juperi and Awang Arsh Hannan Qays bin Haji Suhardy, Year 10 students from Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar Secondary School represented Team B.

The programmes were themed "Learning Together through Online Inquiry" and "Preparing Students for the Future".

Both teams won the bronze medal for Best Presentation, while Team A also

received the Cultural Night Award. In the individual category, Dayang Ting Pei Tong was the recipient of the Outstanding Student Award; while Awang Joshua Hung Ji Chien won the Mascot Contest Award.

Throughout the programme, students took part in activities, such as listening to speeches, attending lectures and discussions for presentations.

Teachers also had the opportunity to attend seminars, discussions and gain new ideas on education, while networking with other educators.

BDCB publishes RPPI for Q3 2022

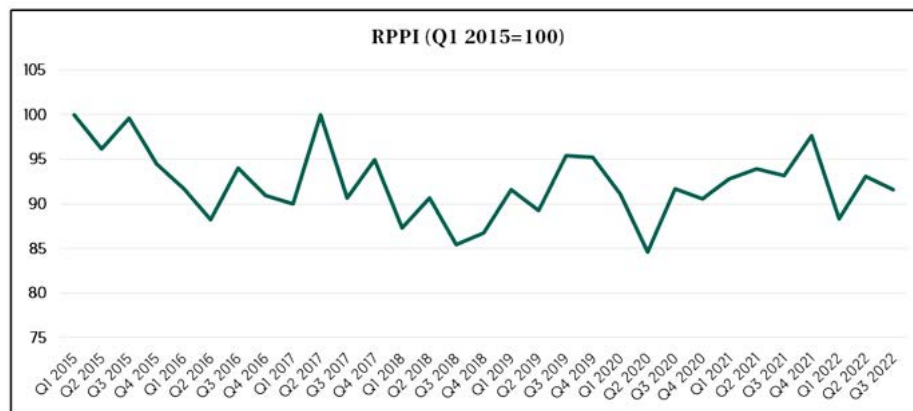
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 9 - Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB) published Brunei Darussalam's Residential Property Price Index (RPPI) for the third quarter of 2022 (Q3 2022).

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

Based on the mortgage data obtained from banks, there were 135 transactions for private residential properties in Q3 2022. This indicates an increase of 3.8 per cent in the number of transactions compared to the second quarter of 2022 (Q2 2022) and an increase of 1.5 per cent compared to a year ago.

For Q3 2022, majority of these transactions were for detached houses (58.5 per cent); followed by semi-detached houses (17.0 per cent); terrace houses (23.0 per cent); and apartments (1.5 per cent). No financing for purchase of land was

Period	Index (Q1 2015 = 100)	Change (%)	
		From Q3 2021	From Q2 2022
Q3 2022	91.6	-1.63%	-1.57%



reported in Q3 2022.

The overall median purchase price for all types of private residential properties was \$255,000. This shows an increase of 2.0 per cent compared to Q3 2021; and an increase by 2.2 per cent compared to Q2

2022.

The median purchase prices for specific types of properties were \$278,000 for detached houses; \$260,000 for semi-detached houses; \$197,000 for terrace houses; and \$316,000 for apartments.

BIBD presents postcards to space

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 13 - Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) presented postcards to Network Integrity Assurance Technologies (NIAT) in support of the company's initiative to deliver 4,000 postcards into space.

Awang Junaidi bin Haji Masri, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BIBD handed over the postcards to Dayang Siti Nur Aazzah binti Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Aziz, Deputy CEO of NIAT at an event held at the BIBD Headquarters.

The postcards containing creative messages, pictures and expressions by the bank's employees, family members, friends and students from the BIBD ALAF programme will be part of Brunei Darussalam's collection of postcards to be sent to space via the New Shepard Rocket, owned by Blue Origin. They will be stamped 'Flown to Space' and delivered back to their respective addresses.

The initiative is in line with BIBD's support of the United Nations' fourth sustainable development goal, which is Quality Education, to raise awareness on space research and realise Brunei's efforts, under NIAT, in building the country's very own satellite.



Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of BIBD handing over the postcards to Deputy CEO of Network Integrity Assurance Technologies.

Poni Divers recognised in Brunei Book of Records

MUARA, January 25 - Poni Divers received an honorary certificate and a recognition from the Brunei Book of Records after recently performing the world's first underwater lion dance at open sea.

The performance, which took place at the Poni Divers operation centre at Serasa Beach involved 14 divers, 10 snorkelers and a free diver.

The event began with a traditional lion dance performed by Unity Charity Association on land. Afterwards, a team of expert divers dressed in the traditional lion dance costume performed an underwater choreography at Pelong Rock, 35 minutes from Serasa Beach.



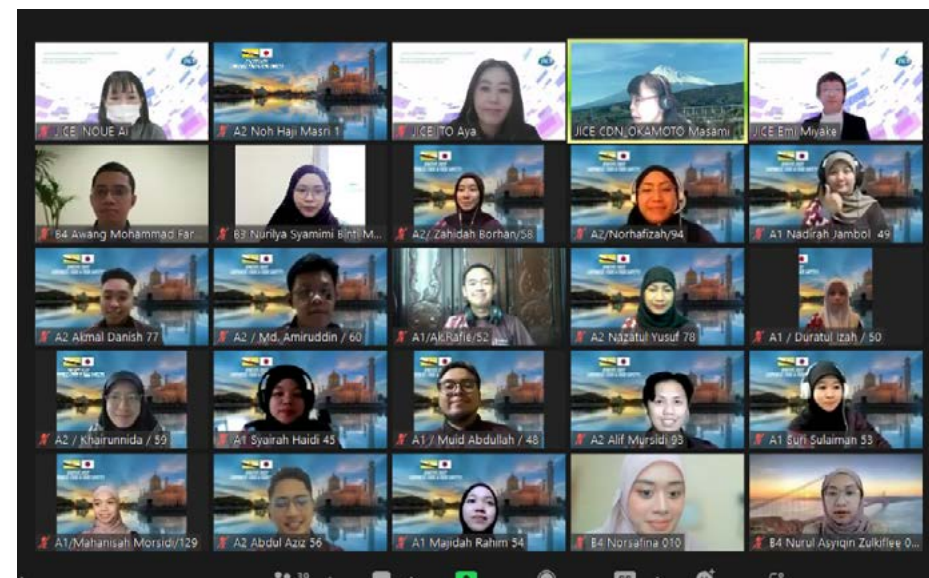
Poni Divers members in a group photo.

JENESYS 2022: Establishing bilateral relations and friendship

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 19 - The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, through the Youth and Sports Department, has selected 20 youths (comprising officers from the department and students from higher education institutions) to represent Brunei Darussalam for the JENESYS2022 Online Programme.

JENESYS2022, themed 'Japanese Food, Food Safety', is held online from January 18 to 24. It is a youth exchange programme organised and sponsored by the Government of Japan to establish bilateral relations and friendship, while promoting culture, traditions and understanding of the Japanese way of living.

Throughout the programme, the representatives will participate in activities including orientation; food company observation by Kewpie Corporation, Kobe Factory; virtual school exchange with Kurashiki Amaki High School, Okayama;



The participants at the JENESYS2022 Online Programme.

virtual visit to Osaka Convention and Tourism Bureau; virtual home visit; session.

SEAMEO VOTECH Regional Centre receives visit from CENTEXTS

GADONG, January 21 – The South East Asian Ministers of Education Organisation for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (SEAMEO VOTECH) Regional Centre recently welcomed Ruhazlina Syam Abdol Hazis, Deputy Director of Administration, from Centre for Technology Excellence Sarawak (CENTEXTS).

The visit also included delegates from CENTEXTS; and its training partner Blue Point School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts, led by Alvin Leong, Managing Director of the institution.

The visit was aimed to get better acquainted with the personnel, TVET programmes and activities at the centre.

During the visit, the two centres exchanged information on their role and mission.

SEAMEO VOTECH presented its corporate video, highlighting programmes, achievements and partnerships over the years.

The Director of SEAMEO VOTECH Regional Centre also elaborated on the achievements; and identified the



A group photo session during the visit.

digitalising and greening of TVET as the centre's emphasis for its upcoming five-year development plan.

Faheezah Mohamad Ibrahim, Head of Corporate Strategy and Communication Department spoke on the corporate profile of CENTEXTS, enumerating the training programmes offered by its Industry Academy and its Digital Academy.

The presentations followed with a dialogue session between the centres to discuss potential collaborations and capacity development on hotels, as well as digital and green initiatives of TVET.

The regional centre will soon make a working visit to CENTEXTS for a possible signing of a memorandum of understanding and a closer look at training programme offered by CENTEXTS.

BKISHHB welcomes former Chief of TNI

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 16 – Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (BKISHHB) received a visit from Yang Terhormat General Tentara Nasional Indonesia (Purn.) Dato Paduka Seri Muhammad Andika Perkasa, former Chief of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), who was in the country for the Royal Wedding Ceremony between Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

During the visit at BKISHHB, Yang Terhormat former Chief of TNI signed a commemorative parchment; and received a souvenir from Dr. Haji Awang Mohammed Hussain bin Pehin Penyurat Haji Awang Ahmad, Acting Director of BKISHHB.

The delegation was then brought on a tour of the BKISHHB gallery, before concluding their visit with a group photo.



Yang Terhormat former Chief of the Indonesian National Armed forces receiving a souvenir from Acting Director of Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.

Non-Oil and Gas Sector continues to show positive growth

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 12 – In the third quarter of 2022 (Q3 2022), Brunei Darussalam's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by economic activity was mainly contributed by the Industry Sector, which was about 66.4 per cent. This was followed by the Services Sector by 32.5 per cent and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Sector by 1.1 per cent.

According to a press release issued by

the Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Brunei Darussalam's GDP at current prices in Q3 2022 was valued at \$5.8 billion, compared to \$4.7 billion in Q3 2021.

The Oil and Gas Sector, comprising of oil and gas mining and manufacture of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), accounted for 51.7 per cent of the total Gross Value Added (GVA).

Meanwhile, the Non-Oil and Gas Sector, which includes downstream activities such as the manufacture of petroleum and chemical products, contributed 48.3 per cent of GDP.

GDP value at constant prices recorded a growth of 0.9 per cent year-on-year. This was due to an increase in the Non-Oil and

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Gas Sector by 4.6 per cent. On the other hand, the Oil and Gas Sector decreased by 2.7 per cent.

The Non-Oil and Gas Sector remained positive with an increase in the subsectors such as downstream; Finance; Air Transport; Wholesale and Retail Trade; and Fishery.

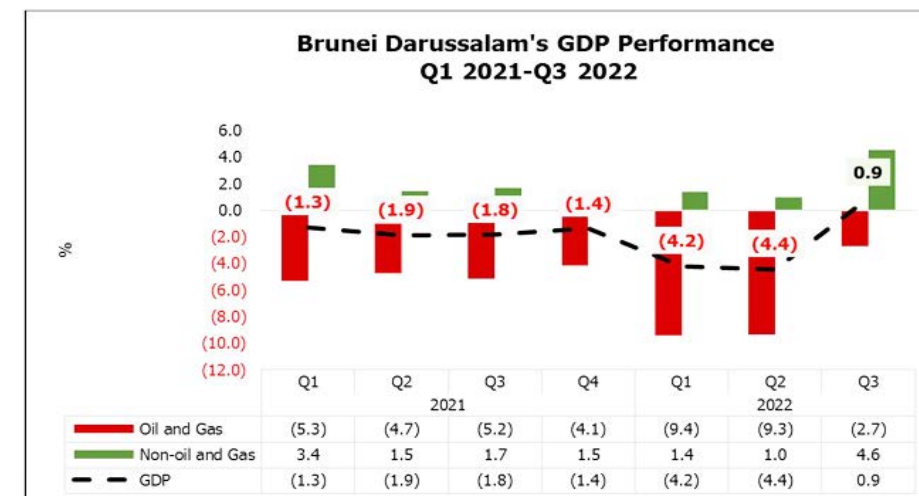
An increase in the downstream activities was due to increased methanol production by 16.1 per cent, from 129,778 metric tonnes in Q3 2021 to 150,674 metric tonnes in Q3 2022; as well as the new production of the chemical product, specifically Urea Fertiliser.

Meanwhile, the increase in the Finance Subsector was in line with an increase in the income of financial and banking activities.

The increase in Transport Subsector was mainly contributed by the rise in air transport. The increase in air transport activity was in line with the increase in passenger air arrivals, from 4,494 in Q3 2021 to 79,730 in Q3 2022; and air departures, from 8,140 in Q3 2021 to 71,595 in Q3 2022, which corresponded to permission to enter and exit the country.

The increase in the Wholesale and Retail Trade Subsector was due to the rise in domestic demand, in line with the reduction in control measures following the cessation of the COVID-19 Early Endemic Phase; as opposed to Q3 in the previous year, where most movement restrictions were reinstated to control the spread of COVID-19.

The increase in this subsector was also



in line with the rise in retail sales mainly driven by an increase in sales of textiles, wearing apparel and footwear cent, sales of hardware, paints and glass in specialised stores and sales at petrol station.

Furthermore, the increase in the Fisheries Subsector resulted from the expansion of the capture and aquaculture industries. The growth of the capture industry was primarily attributable to small-scale fishermen's activities. Meanwhile, farm prawn was the main contributor to the aquaculture industry.

However, the decline in the Oil and Gas Sector was due to a decrease in the production of crude oil, from 97.1 thousand barrels per day in Q3 2021 to 86.2 thousand barrels per day in Q3 2022.

Natural gas production also recorded a decrease, from 28.7 million cubic metres per day in Q3 2021 to 28 million cubic metres per day in Q3 2022. The reduction

in crude oil and natural gas production was due to scheduled and unscheduled maintenance and rejuvenation activities for the offshore platform.

This has limited the natural gas supply to the LNG plant and caused low gas intake for the purpose of LNG production. In addition, maintenance activities were also carried out at the LNG plant. Thus, LNG production has declined from 750,944 MMBtu per day in Q3 2021 to 731,975 MMBtu per day in Q3 2022.

By expenditure approach, an increase in GDP growth in Q3 2022 was due to a rise in the exports of goods and services by 14.3 per cent, mainly the export of mineral fuel goods.

This was followed by an increase in the household final consumption expenditure (12.2 per cent); private gross capital formation (2.4 per cent); and government final consumption expenditure (0.4 per cent).

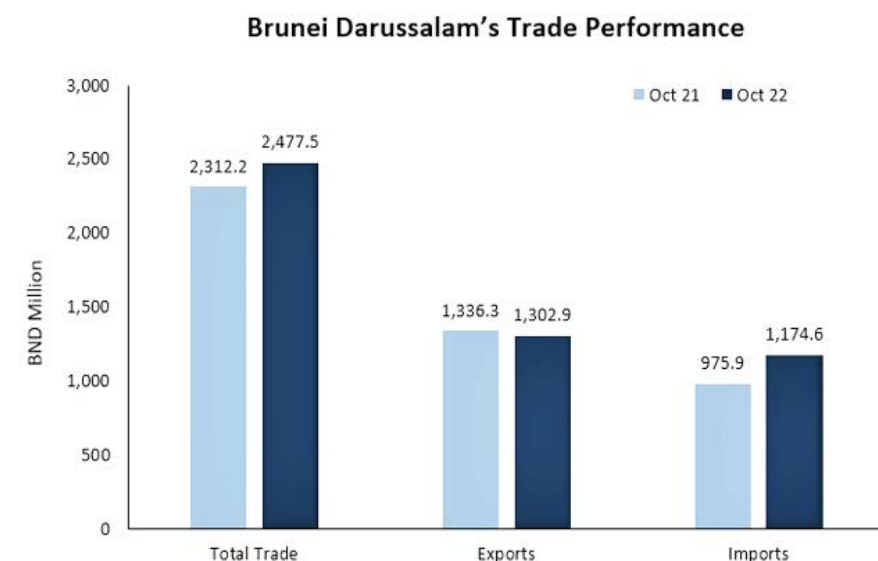
Total trade records 7.1 per cent increase in October

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 12 – The total trade recorded a 7.1 per cent increase, from \$2,312.2 million in October 2021 to \$2,477.5 million in October 2022, contributed by a rise in import value between this period.

Compared to September 2022, total trade fell by 3.7 per cent due to a fall in exports, mainly mineral fuels.

Total exports decreased by 2.5 per cent, from \$1,336.3 million in October 2021 to \$1,302.9 million in October 2022. This was mainly due to the decrease in mineral fuels exports, from \$1,097.2 million to \$1,005.7 million in the same period.

The decrease in mineral fuels exports was primarily due to the lower export value of crude oil. This was attributed to



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a reduction in export volume by 88.6 per cent, from 85.11 kbbbl/day in October 2021 to 9.68 kbbbl/day in October 2022.

In terms of export commodities, mineral fuels represent the major contributor to the Brunei Darussalam's exports at 77.2 per cent; followed by chemicals (20.2 per cent); and machinery and transport equipment (1.1 per cent).

The main exports market in October 2022 was China (25.7 per cent), followed by Australia (18.4 per cent), and Japan (17.6 per cent).

The largest export commodity to China was chemicals, whereas to Australia and Japan was mineral fuels.

Total value of imports increased, from \$975.9 million in October 2021 to \$1,174.6 million in October 2022 – mainly due to a significant increase in imports of mineral fuels, particularly crude oil as production input for the downstream petrochemical industry.

The five main imports by commodity for October 2022 were mineral fuels (74.3 per cent); followed by machinery and transport equipment (7.7 per cent); food (5.9 per cent); manufactured goods (4.3 per cent); and chemicals (3.8 per cent).

The biggest import partner by share was United Arab Emirates (37.0 per cent); followed by Malaysia (23.8 per cent); and Qatar (12.3 per cent), with mineral fuels as the largest import commodity.

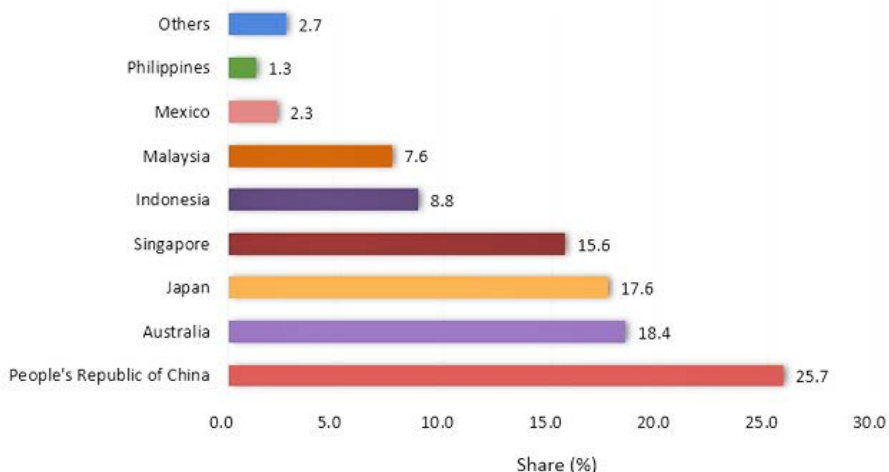
Most of Brunei's imports (59.8 per cent) are used as intermediate goods for processing; followed by capital goods (37.5 per cent) for business operations; and consumption goods (2.7 per cent) for

household use.

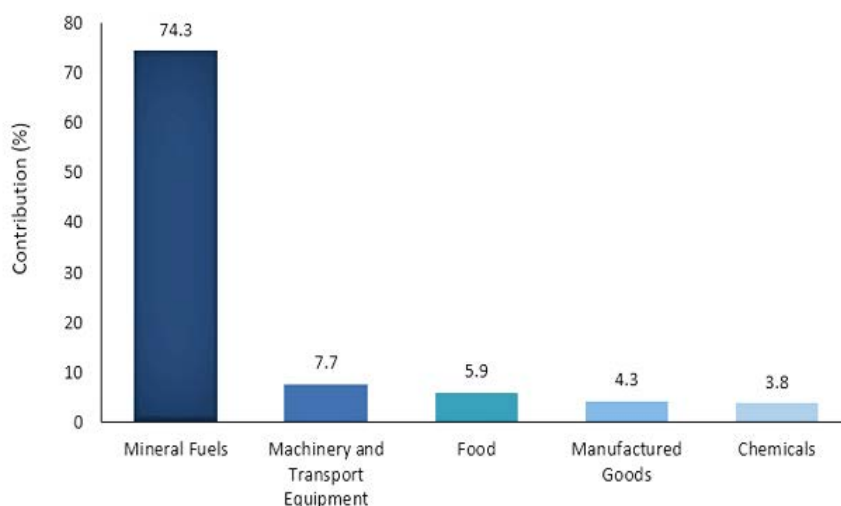
Transport by sea accounted for the highest share for both exports and imports, which

amounted to \$2,384.8 million or 96.3 per cent. This was followed by air transport (\$60.6 million or 2.4 per cent); and via land (\$32.1 million or 1.3 per cent).

Share of Exports by Trading Partner



Five Main Imports by Commodity



Q3 2022 records increase in trade

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 6 – Brunei's trade registered an increase of 29.2 per cent in third quarter (Q3) 2022 compared to Q3 2021. This was mainly contributed by the growth of chemicals index at 30.4 per cent, followed by food (+25.3 per cent) and beverages (+9.4 per cent).

Total exports increased by 32.2 per cent, from \$3,923.2 million in Q3 2022 to \$5,187.5 million in Q3 2021.

This increase was due to a rise in the exports unit value index by 41.8 per cent, which was mainly contributed by mineral fuels (+43.8 per cent), food (+25.4 per cent) and beverages (+17.3 per cent).

The Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, in a press release on the International Merchandise Trade Index for Q3 2022, also noted the rising prices of these commodities in the world market was the key driving force towards the increase in

exports unit value index.

The exports volume index fell by 25.9 per cent compared to Q3 2021, contributed by the decline in the exports volume index of crude materials inedible (-39.8 per cent), chemicals (-36.5 per cent) and miscellaneous manufactured articles (-29.0 per cent).

The total imports in Q3 2022 also increased by 23.3 per cent compared to Q3 2021 due to the rise in the import unit value index and the imports volume index by 9.8 per cent and 1.3 per cent, respectively. The rise in the imports unit value index was mainly contributed by mineral fuels (+42.1 per cent), vegetables oils and fats (+37 per cent) and manufactured goods (+30.7 per cent).

Meanwhile, the increase in the imports volume index was attributed by an increase in the imports volume index of food (+17.6 per cent); crude materials inedible (+7.5 per cent); and manufactured goods (+6.0 per cent).