



Ensure well-being of citizens and residents

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15
– His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, in a *titah* (royal speech), highlighted that the world today is going through various uncertainties, such as geopolitical tensions, climate change, high inflation rates and the like.

Brunei Darussalam is also not exempted from being affected by these uncertainties.

In the *titah* delivered in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 77th Birthday Celebration, held at Balai Singgahsana Indera Buana, Istana Nurul Iman, His Majesty stated that as a country that is dependent on import goods, Brunei Darussalam also faces a high rate of inflation, compared to the rate in the years prior to the spread of COVID-19.

"However, *alhamdulillah*, through the joint efforts of various government agencies,

Royal Banquet in conjunction with His Majesty's 77th Birthday Celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 16
– His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam last night graced a Banquet in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 77th Birthday Celebration.

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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) in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 77th Birthday Celebration, held at Balai Singgahsana Indera Buana, Istana Nurul Iman.

we are still able to manage the country's rate of inflation at a low rate compared to other countries in the region," said His Majesty.

"I urge citizens and residents to strengthen their spirits and determination in facing this difficult situation. Let us together shoulder this effort and be brave in moving forward more confidently," said His Majesty.

His Majesty added, "To ensure the well-being of the citizens and residents, I have consented to the implementation of the National Retirement Scheme (SPK) on July 15 to replace the Employee Trust Fund and Supplemental Contribution Pension Scheme."

His Majesty was pleased to highlight that SPK not only aims to strengthen the members' well-being during retirement, but the scheme will also provide a better retirement income.

"I hope all employees, either in the formal and non-formal sectors together make SPK contributions," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also touched on the introduction of the Minimum Wage Order across all industry sectors for private sector employees in stages, in line with the best practices at regional and international levels.

"I would like to see all relevant parties, especially the business sector, support this initiative as it is a progress towards strengthening the citizen and residents' lives and well-being.

"To ensure the well-being of the citizens and residents, I would like to see stakeholders be more active in researching and further enhancing their respective achievement levels, in line with international benchmarks," stressed His Majesty.

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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 delegation from the Australia-ASEAN Muslim Exchange Programme on July 18.



Their Majesties receive 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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's special guests, who are in the country to attend the Monarch's 77th Birthday Celebration. The Audience Ceremonies took place at Istana Nurul Iman on July 15.



His Excellency Tun Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Haji Juhar bin Datuk Haji Mahiruddin, Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Sabah and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Datuk Seri Panglima Hajah Norlidah binti Tan Seri Datuk R.M. Jasni.



His Excellency Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Health of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madame Kuik Sin Leng.

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Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji bin Haji Noor, Chief Minister of Sabah and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Panglima Datuk Hajah Juliah Salag.



Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Deputy Premier of Sarawak, Second Minister of Natural Resources and Urban Development and Minister of International Trade, Industry and Investment and spouse, Yang Berbahagia Dato Hajah Dayang Morliah binti Datuk Awang Daud.



His Excellency Dato Paduka Seri General Chalermphon Sisawad, Chief of Defence Force of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and spouse, Madame Budsakorn Sisawad.

Their Royal Highnesses receive 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 Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezan, His Excellency Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Health of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madame Kuik Sin Leng on July 15.



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, President of the French Republic, as well as to the government and people of France on the occasion of Bastille Day on July 14;
- His Excellency Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR); and His Excellency Dr. Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of Lao PDR on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Brunei Darussalam and Lao PDR on July 27; and
- His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, King of the Kingdom of Thailand on the occasion of His Majesty's 71st Birthday Anniversary on July 28.

His Majesty confers 110 State Honorary medals

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 26 – In conjunction with the 77th Birthday Celebration of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, 110 recipients were conferred with Brunei Darussalam State Decorations at Balai Singgahsana Indera Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's sons and brother: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

His Majesty first conferred the Darjah Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei Yang Amat Mulia Darjah Ketiga, or The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei Third Class (S.M.B) to 14 recipients.

His Majesty also conferred the Darjah Setia Negara Brunei Darussalam Yang Amat Bahagia Darjah Keempat, or The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei Fourth Class (P.S.B) to 93 recipients.

Three recipients were conferred the Darjah Seri Ugama Islam Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bersinar Darjah Kelima, or The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei Fifth Class (P.U.B), comprised of officers from the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

To bless the ceremony, a *doa selamat* was recited by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

Also, in attendance at the ceremony 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 Brunei Darussalam conferring the Honorary State Medals to recipients (above and below).



Pengiran-Pengiran Cheteria, Cabinet of the Privy Council, Pengiran-Pengiran Ministers, Deputy Ministers, members Peranakan, and government officials.

Ensure well-being of citizens and residents (continued)

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In the *titah*, His Majesty also emphasised the importance of all parties working together to operate strong governance.

For the business, trade and investment sectors, the government has signed several agreements and Memoranda of Understanding with a number of countries to further expand opportunities under those sectors.

"I hope the relevant parties will be able to continuously provide information to the business sector or even interested parties, specifically vendors and Chambers of Commerce, so that

they are informed of the platforms available at the bilateral as well as multilateral levels such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership; Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement. All parties need to collaborate together in handling a strong governance for economic growth and sustainable businesses," said His Majesty.

In the *titah*, His Majesty also stated that Brunei Darussalam also needs to move much faster by encouraging more Foreign Direct Investments of quality to help diversify the economy and at the same time provide employment opportunities and 'spin-offs' for local Small and Medium Businesses.

Investiture and Grand Parade 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 conferring The Most Exalted Order of Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang First Class (D.P.K.T) to His Excellency General Chalermporn Sisawad, Chief of Defence Force of the Royal Thai Armed Forces (left); The Most Distinguished Order of Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Yang Amat Berjasa First Class (P.S.L.J) to Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Deputy Premier of Sarawak, Second Minister of Natural Resources and Urban Development and Minister of International Trade, Industry and Investment (centre); and The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, First Class (S.P.M.B) to Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, Former Secretary-General of ASEAN (right).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam attended the Audience and Investiture Ceremony, following a Grand Prade Ceremony

held in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 77th Birthday Celebration. The Audience and Investiture Ceremony was held at Balai Singgahsana Indera Buana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present were His Majesty's children and siblings, as well as other members of the royal family: 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 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;

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferring The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, Second Class (D.P.M.B) to the Permanent Secretary (Security and Law) at the Prime Minister's Office (left); and the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (centre); as well as The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei Third Class (S.N.B) to the Assistant Commissioner of Police (right).



His Majesty conferring State Decorations to recipients (above and below).

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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; 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 Fadzhiah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA); and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

Also present were His Majesty's special guests: His Excellency Tun Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Haji Juhar bin Datuk Haji Mahiruddin, Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Sabah and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Datuk Seri Panglima Hajah Norlidah binti Tan Seri Datuk R.M. Jasni; His Excellency Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Health of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madame Kuik Sin Leng; Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri

Panglima Haji Hajji bin Haji Noor, Chief Minister of Sabah and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Panglima Hajah Juliah Salag; Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Deputy Premier of Sarawak, Second Minister of Natural Resources and Urban Development and Minister of International Trade, Industry and Investment and spouse, Yang Berbahagia Dato Hajah Dayang Morliah binti Datuk Awang Daud; and His Excellency General Chalermphon Sisawad, Chief of Defence Force of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and spouse, Madame Budsakorn Sisawad.

His Majesty conferred Brunei Darussalam State Decorations to 26 recipients. His Majesty first conferred The Most Exalted Order of Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang First Class (D.P.K.T), which carries the title 'Dato Paduka Seri', to His Excellency General Chalermphon Sisawad.

The Most Distinguished Order of Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Yang Amat Berjasa First Class (P.S.L.J), which carries the title 'Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa', was conferred to Yang Berhormat Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan.



The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, First Class (S.P.M.B), which carries the title 'Dato Seri Paduka', was conferred to Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, Former Secretary-General of ASEAN.

Meanwhile, the Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, Second Class (D.P.M.B), which carries the title of Datin Paduka, were conferred to Hajah Nor Hashimah binti Haji Mohammed Taib, Permanent Secretary for Security and Law at PMO; and Pengiran Datin

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Also present at the Ceremony were members of the royal family.



Also present at the ceremony were members of the royal family.



Yang Berhormat State Mufti reciting the *doa selamat*.

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Shazainah binti Pengiran Dato Paduka Shariffuddin, Permanent Secretary at MFA.

Seven recipients received the Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei Third Class (S.N.B): Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Mohammed Saifullah bin Pengiran Indera Setia Diraja Sahibul Karib Pengiran Anak Haji Idris, Assistant Commissioner of Police; Zulhusam bin Haji Abdul Samad, Deputy Director of Internal Security; Syed Azmal bin Syed Ali, Deputy Director of the Anti-Corruption Bureau; Haji Abdul Karim bin Haji Abdul Wahab, Senior Special Officer in His Majesty's Office; Morshidi bin Haji Metussin, Acting Assistant Director of the Anti-Corruption Bureau; Mohammad Khairul Faizal Rizal bin Haji Paijan, Chief Special Investigator of Anti-Corruption Bureau; and Hajah Rahimah binti Haji Hassan, Assistant Director of the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

Meanwhile, 14 recipients received the Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, Third Class (S.M.B): Dr. Haji Mohammed Hussain bin Pehin Penyurat Haji Awang Ahmad, Director of Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji



Among those present at the ceremony.

Hassanal Bolkiah; Haji Sofian bin Mohammad Jani, Acting Managing Director of the Brunei Investment Agency; Colonel Muhamad Wata bin Abdullah Awat, Deputy Commander of the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF); Captain Sahibul Bahari bin Haji Zainal Abidin, Royal Brunei Navy (RBN); Commander Haji Ainolnizam bin Haji Ibrahim, RBN, Director of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Religious Directorate; Colonel Udara Norudin bin Salleh, Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF); Colonel Udara Hishamuddin bin Abidin, Acting Deputy Commander of Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF); Colonel Udara Hismawadi bin Haji Mohd Said, Head of Joint Warfare Doctrine Centre, Ministry of Defence; Colonel Pengiran Noor Rumaizi bin Pengiran Othman, Commandant of the RBAF Training Institute; Lieutenant Colonel Muhamad Roasri Erwan bin Haji Tasrif, Acting Chief of Staff of RBAF; Dr. Hajah May Fa'ezah binti Haji Ahmad Ariffin, Permanent Secretary (Economy, Trade and Industry) at the Ministry of

Finance and Economy; Aldila binti Haji Muhamad Salleh, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Corporate Law) at the Ministry of Development; Hajah Mastura binti Haji Sulaiman, Director of Estate Planning and Management Department at the Ministry of Education; and Hajah Rashidah binti Haji Sabtu, Deputy Managing Director (Regulatory and Supervision) at the Brunei Darussalam Central Bank.

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

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

Upon arrival, His Majesty was greeted by miniature Brunei Darussalam flags proudly waved by school students, alongside the beating of *hadrah*.

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Shortly after, His Majesty received the Royal Salute, while 21-cannon shots echoed in the air to the accompaniment of the National Anthem.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were His Royal Highness 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 tradition-filled ceremony was also attended by His Majesty's special guests, among them: His Excellency General Dato Paduka Seri Andika Perkasa, Chief of the Indonesian National Armed Forces and spouse, Ibu Hetty Andika Perkasa; Yang Berbahagia General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Haji Affendi



His Majesty and sons receiving a Royal Salute, with the accompaniment of the National Anthem.



His Majesty with sons and brothers during the Grand Parade Ceremony at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin.

Buang, Commander of the Malaysian Armed Forces and spouse, Yang Amat Mulia Tengku Puteri Seri Teja Dato' Hajah Tengku Muhaini binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah; as well as Mr. Carlos Garcia Dominguez the Third and spouse, Madame Cynthia Andrews Dominguez, from the Republic of the Philippines.

His Majesty then inspected the Guard of Honour, mounted by personnel from RBLF, RBN, RBAirF, the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF), government departments, as well as uniformed public organisations. The Guard of Honour was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Fakrul Ammar bin Haji Mohammad Isa. The combined RBAF and RBPF bands

accompanied the march past in front of the Royal Dais.

The parade symbolises the dexterity of every personnel and agency as the main fortress of national defence and security. Three cheers of '*Daulat Kebawah Duli Tuan Patik*' resounded in the air, representing a pledge of undivided loyalty to the Monarch. The culmination of the Guard of Honour Ceremony was a fly-past by RBAirF helicopters.

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His Majesty during the Grand Parade Ceremony at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin (above and right).



Royal Banquet in conjunction with His Majesty's 77th Birthday Celebration (continued)

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The ceremony took place at the Banquet Hall of Istana Nurul Iman.

Prior to the Royal Banquet, Their Majesties received in audience His Majesty's special guests from friendly nations who are in the country to attend the Monarch's 77th Birthday Celebration.

His Majesty and Her Majesty then proceeded to the Banquet Hall.

In attendance at the banquet were His Majesty's children and siblings, as well as other members of the royal family: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and

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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 gracing a Royal Banquet in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 77th Birthday Celebration.

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Also present were His Majesty's special guests (above and below left).



The 21-cannon-shots being fired by 20 personnel from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (right).



Their Majesties during the recitation of *doa selamat*. Also present were His Majesty's children and siblings, as well as other members of the royal family: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir (above and below).

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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 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 Rashidah Sa'adatul



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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 Wakeel; 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 Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafzah 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).





Among those present at the Royal Banquet (above and below).



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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.

Also present were His Majesty's special guests: His Excellency Tun Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Haji Juhar bin Datuk Haji Mahiruddin, Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Sabah and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Datuk Seri Panglima Hajah Norlidah binti Tan Seri Datuk R.M. Jasni; His Excellency Ong Ye Kung, Minister for

Health of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madame Kuik Sin Leng; Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji bin Haji Noor, Chief Minister of Sabah and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Panglima Hajah Juliah Salag; Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Deputy Premier of Sarawak, Second Minister of Natural Resources and Urban Development and Minister of International Trade, Industry and Investment and spouse, Yang Berbahagia Dato Datin Hajah Dayang Morliah binti Datuk Awang Daud; and His Excellency Dato Paduka Seri General Chalermphon Srisawasdi, Chief of Defence Force of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and spouse, Datin Budsakorn Srisawasdi and other special guests.

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

His Majesty and Her Majesty then received a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from His Majesty's special guests.



Yang Berhormat State Mufti reciting the *doa selamat*.

Get-Together and Junjung Ziarah Ceremonies in all four districts

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 30 – Brunei-Muara District was the last district to welcome His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for a Get-Together and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony. The ceremony took place at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 77th Birthday Celebration.

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

This year's special performance



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 a portrait in an exhibition at the Get-Together Ceremony in the Brunei-Muara District.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and sons, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, in a group photo with the performers.

was themed '*Raja Pengasih Rakyat Bahagia*'. The theme revolved around the people's undivided loyalty to the Monarch's sovereignty as the nation's pioneer. The special performance was brought about by 400 participants, including the Brunei-Muara District youth members, primary and secondary students, and higher education institutions.

Following the performance, His Majesty and other royal family members proceeded to the field to congratulate the performers and greet the citizens and residents of the district.

The gathering came to an end with a Luncheon at Dewan Persantapan Lapau.



The Performance carrying the theme '*Raja Pengasih Rakyat Bahagia*'.

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His Majesty and members of the royal family in a group photo with the performers.

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Prior to event, on July 22, Belait District became the first district to welcome His Majesty in the series of Get-Together Ceremonies conducted in each four districts.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Hundreds of students lined up along the streets waving miniature national flags, to greet the arrival of His Majesty and other members of the royal family.

His Majesty consented to witness a performance with the theme '*Raja Berdaulat, Berjiwa Rakyat*' from 377 participants, comprising students from government and private schools, as well as Belait youth members, held at the districts's municipal field. The concept of the performance expressed the people's happiness and blissfulness, living under His Majesty's just and fair leadership.

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

Following the session, His Majesty and other members of the royal family attended a Luncheon at the Belait District Officer's residence.

The Tutong District was the second to welcome His Majesty in a Get-Together Ceremony on July 25.



Students waving the miniature Brunei flags welcoming His Majesty and the other members of the royal family to the Get-Together Ceremony in the Belait District.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

The ceremony featured a special performance, with the theme '*Kekal Beraja, Kekal Bernegara*' by a total of 446 participants, including Tutong District civil servants and private sector employees, primary and secondary school students, and Tutong District youth members.

The special performance demonstrated the people's devotion and admiration for His Majesty's benign leadership. The performances were divided into three segments: '*Raja Terunggul Di Rahmati Tuhan*'; '*Raja dan Rakyat Berpisah Tiada*'; and '*Kekal Beraja, Kekal Bernegara*'.

Following the performance, His Majesty

and other royal family members went to the stage platform to mingle with the performers, as well as to and meet the citizens and residents of the Tutong District.

His Majesty and other royal members then proceeded to the Tutong District Civic Centre Complex Hall for a Luncheon.

On July 28, the Temburong district became the third district to welcome His Majesty in a Get-Together Ceremony.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

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The ceremony was enlivened by a special performance by 277 participants with the theme *'Raja untuk Rakyat, Rakyat untuk Raja,'* which articulated the mutually supportive relationship between the Monarch and the people.

After the performance, His Majesty and other members of the royal family proceeded to the stage platform to mingle with the citizens and residents of the Temburong District.

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



His Majesty in a group photo with the performers of the Tutong District.



His Majesty viewing the longest Tikar Mengkuang ever weaved in the country. Four Temburong youths weaved the 77-foot and 1-inch long mat for two months, which was recorded in The Book of Brunei Records as one of the longest mats in the country.



Snapshots of performances during the Get-Together and Junjung Ziarah Ceremonies.

Employment (Minimum Wage) Order, 2023 takes effect July 12

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15 – 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, the Department of Labour, Ministry of Home Affairs announced that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented for the Employment (Minimum Wage) Order, 2023 under the Employment Order, 2009, effective starting July 12.

The Employment (Minimum Wage) Order, 2023 sets the minimum wage rate that must be paid by the employer to each employee for the work carried out in a certain period, which cannot be reduced according to the written service contract agreement prepared by the employer and signed by the employer and the employee.

It aims to set a reasonable basic wage to meet the subsistence needs of workers; protect workers from excessively low wages; drive the motivation and productivity of local workers, as well as to stimulate socio-economic growth. The minimum wage policy will be implemented in phases. The first phase will involve two sectors, namely the Banking and Finance

Sector and the Infocommunications Technology Sector.

The details of the minimum wage rate set for the two identified sectors is as follows. While the next phase will be announced later. For Banking and Finance, as well as Infocommunications Technology Sectors, the minimum wage rate for full-time employees is \$500 per month. Whereas for part-time workers, the minimum wage per hour is \$2.62. Employers will be given a transition period of six months from the effective date of the Order, in order to take appropriate preparatory steps, such as making changes to service contracts and so on.

The minimum wage policy will cover local workers and foreign workers working in all private companies either full-time or part-time. This minimum wage policy will be exempted for employees in the Government sector, apprentices, and foreign workers who hold a Professional Visit Visa, or who are employed by employers through a Special Authorisation Work Pass.

The minimum wage rate set is the total salary before contributions to the Employee Trust Fund and Supplemental Contributory Pension or the National Retirement Scheme. Employers are required to take the appropriate steps

during the six month transition period as follows:

1. The employer is required to provide a written service contract for re-signing by the employer and employee (foreign or local workers) towards the new terms, which include the minimum wage rate. However, for wages that exceed the minimum wage rate, it is not necessary to re-sign the agreement;
2. The employer is required to store the re-signed service contract and provide a copy to the employee; and
3. The employer is required to fill in the information in the minimum wage policy implementation verification form provided.

Every employer is reminded that it is an offence if found to be in violation of the Employment (Minimum Wage) Order, 2023. Under Employment Order 2009, Chapter 148.

If found guilty, the employer may be fined not more than \$3,000, sentenced to imprisonment for a period no more than a year or both. Cooperation from employers towards supporting the Employment (Minimum Wage) Order, 2023 is expected to assist the Government's efforts in improving the welfare of workers and socio-economics.

Ensure *halal* status of food, winners of National Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults 1444H announced

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 6 – 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 graced the Prize Presentation Ceremony of the National Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults for 1444 Hijrah, held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

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

The ceremony commenced with the recitation of Al-Quran verses by Ahmad Azfar bin Azraie, invited Qari from Malaysia, who is a special award recipient for the Kafa Madani Student at National Level and champion for the



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the Opening of the Knowledge Convention 2023 held in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 77th Birthday Celebration.

International Mazamir Dawud Al-Quran Reading Competition in Algeria for the Under-15 Category.

His Majesty also consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech) reminding that the law of food is that it must be *halal* and that all parties entrusted to ensure the *halal* status of food must properly carry out their duties, guided and holding fast to the *syarak* law, and not be considerate by easing the law.

"Muslims are obligated to obey Allah's commandment by only consuming *halal* food, as stated in verse 168 of Surah Al-Baqarah," said His Majesty.

"On supplications and the relation with *halal* food, it should be handled in a transparent, courageous and trustworthy manner guided by the *syarak* law," reiterated His Majesty.

"Finally, let us together endeavor ourselves to the Al-Quran, by reading its verses with *tadabbur*, so that a soul that is asleep will waken and a darkened heart will be illuminated," concluded His Majesty.

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Haji Abdul Rajid bin Haji Mohd Salleh, Director of the Islamic Da'wah Centre, as the Chairman of the Judging Committee, then announced the champions, runners-up and second runners-up of the annual national competition.

Pengiran Muhd. Amirul Aiman bin Pengiran Haji Marjuki was announced the champion in the Qari Category, with a score of 91.74 per cent; whereas Dayangku Fauziah Nadhirah binti Pengiran Haji Jofri was announced the champion in the Qariah category, with 92.76 per cent.

The first runner-up in the Qari Category, scoring 90.02 per cent, was Awangku Adi Nazri bin Pengiran Haji Jofri; while the second runner-up, scoring 89.37 per cent, was Haji Nasrul Fakhri bin Haji Yahya.

Dr. Hajah Siti Wardah binti Major (Rtd) Haji Abdul Rahman received 88.65 per cent, securing her spot as the first runner-up, while Dayangku Siti Ummi Syazana binti Pengiran Haji Marjuki was the second runner-up with a score of 86.54 per cent in the Qariah Category.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah during the recitation of *doa selamat*.

The ceremony continued with Al-Quran recitations from the Qari and Qariah champions.

Each champion in the Qari and Qariah Categories received a championship trophy, cash prizes of \$7,000 and accompanying prizes: a haj package;

His Majesty consented to handover trophies, prizes and souvenirs to the winners.

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His Majesty presenting trophies to the champion Qari (left); and to the champion Qariah (right).

Yang Berhormat State Mufti reciting the *doa selamat* (right); and the recitation of Al-Quran verses by the invited Qari from Malaysia, who is a special award recipient for the Kafa Madani Student at National Level and champion for the International Mazamir Dawud Al-Quran Reading Competition in Algeria for the Under-15 Category (rightmost).



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a certificate; a Tekad Haji account worth \$2,000 contributed by Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (TAIB), Insurans Islam TAIB Holdings Sdn. Bhd. and Darussalam Holdings Sdn. Bhd. and a set of Brunei woven cloth contributed by Syarikat Little Ummi.

The first runners-up each received a \$5,000 cash prize as well as other prizes: a certificate; a Tekad Haji account worth \$1,500 contributed by Perbadanan TAIB, Insurans Islam TAIB Holdings Sdn. Bhd. and Darussalam Holdings Sdn. Bhd. Meanwhile, the second runners-up each received a \$3,000 cash prize, which was accompanied by other prizes: a certificate,

a Tekad Haji account worth \$1,000, contributed by Perbadanan TAIB, Insurans Islam TAIB Holdings Sdn. Bhd. and Darussalam Holdings Sdn. Bhd.

Prior to leaving the ceremony, His Majesty and members of the royal family received *junjung ziarah* with the winners of the competition and their families.

Establishment of Zakat, Waqaf and Baitulmal Management Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 18 – 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 on the occasion of the New Year 1445 Hijrah Celebration, highlighted the importance of Maqasid Syariah, which is to ensure that life goes well, be it in personal matters or even matters in the form of the country's administration.

This year's celebration theme is '*Ugama Dipelihara, Negara Sejahtera* (Religion Safeguarded, Prosperous Country)'.

"The theme's concept is taken from one of the Maqasid Syariah, which is safeguarding the religion. The religion meant is none other than Islam.

"The function of this religion is to organise the life of the people. It is the beginning of the existence of prosperity for its followers," said His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty noted that the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MORA) initiated steps to disseminate the understanding of Maqasid Syariah, not only in the government sector, but also in the private sectors.

His Majesty advised for the relevant parties to disseminate this matter to all levels of society in the country, not only in urban areas, but also in the villages.

"I am confident that as a result of safeguarding the religion, the people of this country will continuously enjoy prosperity, whereby the government is always striving to ensure that not a single citizen will be left destitute without being defended," stated His Majesty.

Earlier, His Majesty expressed gratitude



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) on the occasion of the New Year 1445 Hijrah Celebration.

to Allah the Almighty for the opportunity to welcome the year 1445 Hijrah.

Starting from this year, the New Year Hijrah Celebration will be known as the 'Ilal Hijrah' Celebration, signifying a move towards change and improving life for the better.

In this regard, His Majesty announced his consent for the upgrading of the Zakat Collection and Distribution Division, Islamic Religious Council Department, which is now known as the Zakat, Waqaf and Baitulmal Management Department under MORA.

The Department will officially be in operation on Wednesday, July 19.

"With the Department's establishment, *zakat* (tithe) management affairs in terms of distribution and efficacy, including the implementation of other programmes, are expected to be more effective and efficient," said the Monarch.

"Also, matters concerning the management of *waqaf* (endowments) and Baitulmal assets will focus on efforts towards diversifying management, as well as the use of endowments, aside from managing and expanding Baitulmal properties," His Majesty added.

His Majesty further expressed his pleasure in taking the opportunity to urge all citizens and communities in the country to work together in carrying out their respective responsibilities to maintain the prosperity that we enjoy regardless of status, background and the like, because even though we are different physically, but the objective is the same – which is to safeguard the prosperity of our beloved country with the guidance of the Al-Quran and *hadith*.

In concluding the *titah*, His Majesty and members of the royal family extended their wishes to the nation for the Ilal Hijrah 1445 Celebration.

His Majesty graces Ilal Hijrah 1445 Celebration



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 sons and brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah during the Ilal Hijrah 1445 Celebration.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWN, July 18 – 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 graced the Ilal Hijrah 1445 Celebration, which was

held at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was accompanied by the Monarch's sons and brother His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime

Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

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 the Chairman of the Executive Committee of Ilal Hijrah 1445 Celebration led the recitation of Doa Akhir Tahun 1444 Hijrah (End of Year Prayer for 1444 Hijrah), which was then followed by a 21-canon shot.

The mass Maghrib prayer was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Syar'ie Judge, who also led the recitation of *doa selamat* to bless the ceremony.

Prior to leaving the ceremony, His Majesty received a *junjung ziarah* with the congregants present.

The theme for this year's celebration is '*Ugama Dipelihara, Negara Sejahtera* (Religion Safeguarded, Prosperous Country)'.

His Majesty graces Charity Polo Day



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddein Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with children and brother, as well as other members of the royal family, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul 'Ali Yil-Kabier bin Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz, in a group photo with the polo players at the Charity Polo Day 2023.

JERUDONG, July 9 – The Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club hosted a charity polo match that was sponsored by the Brunei Polo Team, the Brunei Royal Polo Association, and Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam.

Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was present to witness the presentation of the tournament prize.

Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah.

His Highness Tunku Idris Iskandar Al-Haj ibni Sultan Ibrahim, Tunku Temenggong of Johor Darul Ta'zim also attended the competition.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni

Also in attendance were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's daughters: Her Royal

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkihah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkihah and His Highness Tunku Idris Iskandar Al-Haj ibni Sultan Ibrahim, Tunku Temenggong of Johor Darul Ta'zim.

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This time around, three teams competed for the trophy, including Team Sonic the Hedgehog, led by His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Mateen.

Team Pacman was led by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkihah, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar, and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul 'Ali Yil-Kabier bin Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz were among the other team members. Meanwhile, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkihah led Team Super Mario Bros.

Team Sonic the Hedgehog won the championship after defeating Team Pacman and Team Super Mario Bros in two chukka matches.

In the first match, Team Sonic the Hedgehog defeated Team Pacman with a score of 1 - 0; while Team Sonic the



His Majesty upon arrival at the Charity Polo Day 2023.

Hedgehog defeated Team Super Mario Bros in the second match with the score 2 - 1.

In the third match, Team Pacman defeated Team Super Mario Bros team by a score of 4 - 3.

With these results, Team Pacman managed to clinch second place in the tournament, while Team Super Mario Bros was set in third place.

The Charity Polo Day 2023, was also enlivened with a carnival, accompanied by local food and drinks for sale, as well as numerous activities.

The event also featured performances from members of the Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam and the Royal Brunei Polo Junior Academy Challenge.

The competition was further included a lucky draw, with the chance to win numerous special and interesting prizes donated by the organisers.

All proceeds from the event will be fully donated in full to Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam.

Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam is committed to enhancing the quality of life for persons with special needs in this country, particularly for children placed under the care of the centre.

As a non-governmental welfare organisation, the center also guides young people, trains and educates them to help them learn and adapt to their families and social community.

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His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkihah; and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkihah during the matches.



His Majesty at the Charity Polo Day 2023 at the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club in Jerudong.



His Majesty presenting prizes to His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (left); and to His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah (right).



His Majesty presenting prizes to Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah (left); and to Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar (right).



His Majesty presenting the championship trophy to the champions, Team Sonic the Hedgehog, led by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Majesty in a group photo with the participants of the Royal Brunei Polo Junior Academy Challenge.

No nepotism and cronyism in administration and management

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 11 – 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) reminded the officers and staff of His Majesty the Sultan's Flight (HMSF) to not be careless in carrying out their responsibilities and to never misuse the trust given by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty stressed that leaders must be aware of this trust in order to steer it to the most excellent level, and that excellence will only be achieved if the leadership is honest and is carried out with integrity, instead of prioritising personal interests over the betterment of the organisation, including the welfare of its officers and staff.



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 His Majesty the Sultan's Flight (HMSF) in Rimba.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being welcomed by HMSF staff.



His Majesty also warned against cronyism and nepotism in administration and management, be it in HMSF or any other organisation.

The management of expenses needs to be deliberate to ensure quality operations without going over-budget.

His Majesty then touched on the management of assets, noting that there are buildings under the authority of HMSF that have been left abandoned and unutilised. His Majesty suggested to turn them into resting areas for the staff.

“Instead, employees have been using containers as resting spots, which begs the question: ‘Is it the ideal way to handle employee welfare?’” said His Majesty.

His Majesty highlighted that the employees’ career, progression, and capacity building must be given attention to ensure continuity and skilled officers.



His Majesty visiting the administration office.

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"I wish to know if the flight office has succession plans and competency framework, especially for the staff," asked His Majesty.

His Majesty added that those in leadership positions must be aware of the issues and grievances faced by their staff, and find ways to help them overcome these challenges.



His Majesty visiting the X-Ray building at Rapiscan Eagle A10 Cargo X-Ray Machine (left); and taking a group photo with HSMF officers and personnel (right).

Royal Banquet with uniformed personnel

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 20 – 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 for security and uniformed personnel as well

as civilian uniform organisations in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 77th Birthday celebration 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 at the Royal Banquet for security and uniformed officers and personnel as well as civilian uniform organisations in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 77th Birthday Celebration at Istana Nurul Iman.



His Majesty's children and siblings, as well as other members of the royal family: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Accompanying Their Majesties were His Majesty's children and siblings, as well as other members of the royal family: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal

Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; as well as other members of the royal family.

A *doa selamat* was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar.

During the event, His Majesty was introduced in a meet-and-greet session to 629 officers and personnel of the Ministry of Defence, along with other officers and personnel from the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPf), Gurkha Reserve Unit, Royal Customs and Excise Department, Fire and Rescue Department, Department of Immigration

and National Registration, Prison Department, as well as uniform youth organisations, including the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Military Cadets, RBPF Cadets, Cadets of the Fire and Rescue Department, Scouts Association of Brunei Darussalam, Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent and the National Service Programme.

The banquet was also attended by Pengiran-pengiran Cheteria; Cabinet Ministers; Members of the Privy Council; Deputy Ministers; Pengiran-pengiran Peranakan; Pehin-pehin Manteri; Manteri-manteri Hulubalang; Ambassadors; High Commissioners; Permanent Secretaries; Deputy Permanent Secretaries; and Heads of Government Departments.



His Majesty mingling with members of the Scouts Association of Brunei Darussalam.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar reciting the *doa selamat* (above); and among those present at the Royal Banquet (left).

Doa Kesyukuran 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 with sons and brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah during the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony.

KIARONG, July 14 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined congregants

at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah for a Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony to mark His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 77th Birthday Celebration. Accompanying His Majesty were the Monarch's sons

and brother: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.



Among those present at the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony.

This was followed by a *doa kesyukuran* read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar.

A mass Maghrib prayer was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, while the recitation of Surah Yaa Sin and Tahlil was led by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Haji Mustafa bin Haji Murat, Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque Officer.

New appointments

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 21 – By command 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, it is hereby announced that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to the appointment of several officers.

Pengiran Haji Raffizanna bin Pengiran Haji Razali, Senior Administrative Officer at the Permanent Secretary Office (Core Education) of the Ministry of Education has been appointed as the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Civil Service Governance) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Meanwhile, Zulhusam bin Haji Abdul Samad, Deputy Director

of Internal Security Department at PMO has been appointed as the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Security and Law) at PMO. Dr. Dayang Hajah Huraini binti Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Jaya Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abu Hurairah, Permanent Secretariat Director of Brunei Vision has also been appointed as the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Vision) at PMO; while Dr. Haji Norfarizal bin Othman, Senior Administrative Officer / Acting Director General of Public Service has been appointed as the Director General of Public Service of the Public Service Department at PMO.

The date of appointment and confirmation of the said officers are effective starting from July 22.

Minister engages SMP, Singapore participants in a dialogue session

BERAKAS, July 27 – Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs held a dialogue session with participants of the 30th Senior Management Programme (SMP), Republic of Singapore at the Multaqa Hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MORA), chaired by His Excellency Heng Aik Yeow, Singapore High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

According to Yang Berhormat Minister, the Malay Islamic Monarchy models Brunei's statehood by philosophising its historical and cultural values, as well as adapting religious best practices.

The Minister expressed confidence that the two countries' relations, which were established in the 1950s, will continue to strengthen under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang



Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs with the participants of the 30th Senior Management Programme (SMP), Republic of Singapore during a lunch session at the Multaqa Hall.

Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, who understands the values of the existing ties.

Meanwhile, issues concerning religious services were brought up during

the session. The dialogue provided participants with insights and an understanding of the main developments in the Sultanate, as well as ways to strengthen the countries' mutual ties in the long run.



Participants of the 30th SMP, Singapore in a dialogue session with the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohammad Tashim bin Pengiran Haji Hassan, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, and Awang Haji Mohammad Rosli bin Haji Ibrahim, Permanent Secretary at MORA were also present.

Ms. Teoh Zsin Woon, Permanent Secretary (Development), Ministry of National Development and Public Service Division, led the 30th SMP delegation. The delegation's visit took place from July 25 to 27.

Share latest technological developments in healthcare

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15 – The Precision Public Health Asia 2023 Conference was held in the Republic of Singapore from July 12 to 14.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health attended the conference.

The conference aimed to share and discuss the best practices, global experiences and latest advanced technologies to revolutionise healthcare practice in Asia Pacific and other regions.

Precision Medicine is a transformative aspect of medicine, where methods of diagnosis and treatment are based on the understanding of biology, including genetic information.



Continue on page 27 Yang Berhormat Minister of Health in a group photo during Precision Public Health Asia 2023 Conference.

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The conference co-hosted by Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore and the Precision Public Health Asia Society in collaboration with EYD Technology was launched by His Excellency Ong Ye Kung, Minister of Health of Singapore.

Earlier, the Minister attended the Leadership Forum on Progressing Public Health for Asia.

The forum involved health sector leaders and experts from ASEAN Member States, and aimed to function as a platform to build awareness and drive action in advancing Precision Public Health in the Asian region.

The forum was a follow-up to the ASEAN Digital Public Health Conference, previously organised by Brunei Darussalam.

Among the topics discussed during the sessions include

the use of genetic testing in the prevention and treatment of diseases, the regulatory framework for genetic testing, facilitating and enhancing Digital Health innovation, the use of Big Data to advance Precision Public Health, the use of Artificial Intelligence and data sharing at the regional level.

During the forum, the Minister highlighted the potential of integrating clinical and laboratory data in precision medicine with behavioural data to improve disease management and prevention, enabling savings on healthcare expenditure.

The Minister also shared his views on analytics application, machine learning and artificial intelligence on unstructured data, which will allow the identification of patterns and information that can be used to improve healthcare delivery.

Dr. Hajah Anie Haryani binti Haji Abdul Rahman, Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary (Policy and Management) at the Ministry of Health (MOH), as well as other senior officers at MOH also attended the conference.

JPMC-NUH sign MOU in medical cooperation

JERUDONG, July 21 – The Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) and the National Hospital of Singapore (NUH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in efforts to foster knowledge transfer through the transfer of technical knowledge in medical, academic, research and operational skills.

The MOU marks a meaningful achievement in bringing together the strengths of JPMC and NUH to foster innovation, improve patient conditions,



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health presenting a souvenir to the Medical Board Chairman of NUH.

Yang Berhormat Minister of Health as Chairman of the Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) witnessing the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between JPMC and National University Hospital of Singapore (NUH).

and expand the boundaries of medical knowledge.

Present as the Guest of Honour while witnessing the signing was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health as Chairman of JPMC.

Signing on behalf of JPMC were Dr. Muhd Hiza Wardy bin Haji Abdul Halim, Deputy Medical Doctor of JPMC; and Bun Pei Ling, Acting Chief Operating Officer of JPMC.

Meanwhile, NUH was represented by Professor Quek Swee Chye, Medical Board Chairman of NUH.

Strengthen collaboration in global ecosystem

NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, July 18 – The Brunei Darussalam delegation is attending the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2023 from July 10 to 20 in New York, United States.

This includes the Ministerial Segment of

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Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance presenting the nation's Voluntary National Review 2023 Report at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2023 of the United Nations in New York, United States.



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the Forum and the High-Level segment of the UN Economic and Social Council from July 17 to 20, led by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy.

On July 17, the Minister delivered Brunei Darussalam's statement at the General Debate of the Ministerial Segment of HLPF 2023, which focussed on developing momentum for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Plenary in September 2023 with Heads of State.

To renew global ambition for a

sustainable future, the Minister shared several important matters.

"Global communities must strive to develop solutions by building solid and resilient SDGs partnerships, ensuring that no one is left behind," said the Minister.

"In this regard," said the Minister, "the global ecosystem for a conducive implementation of the SDGs must be strengthened, particularly to enhance monitoring and evaluation for better understanding of the current landscape and mobilisation of actions."

In this regard, the Minister encouraged for the global ecosystem to be strengthened, particularly in monitoring

and evaluation to enhance understanding of the landscape.

The Minister also highlighted Brunei's support towards the call from the United Nations Secretary-General to expand opportunities and capacities to access resources needed to accelerate SDGs progress.

Such access must be facilitated to bridge development gaps, fortify sustainability, and ensure equitable nation-building for all.

In conclusion, the Minister underlined the country's commitment in working together to ensure that the world will be on a better and more sustainable path.

Ensure effectiveness of implementation of SDGs



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2023 from July 10 to 20 in New York, United States.

NEW YORK, UNITED STATES, July 19 – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance of Economy reported Brunei Darussalam's achievements in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during the presentation of the nation's Voluntary National Review 2023 (VNR 2023) Report at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2023 of the United Nations (UN).

Brunei's VNR 2023 Report is the second report following the first submission presented at HLPF 2020.

HLPF was established in 2012, under the UN Economic and Social Council, and is the main UN platform for reporting progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by UN member countries

through the presentation of VNR reports.

The VNR 2023 for Brunei included 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's *titah* (royal speech), which stressed on the need for countries, including Brunei Darussalam, to ensure the effectiveness of the implementation of SDGs, especially since this is the midpoint of implementing them. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also upheld the importance of multilateralism to further strengthen the realisation of the SDGs for sustainable progress and prosperity.

The VNR 2023 Report shares the country's efforts in strengthening the ecosystem to support the

implementation of the SDGs, which include aligning the SDGs with Brunei Vision 2035, increasing data availability for monitoring, SDGs awareness, as well as local and international partnerships. The VNR 2023 Report also provides comprehensive detail on Brunei's progress and achievement for each of the 17 SDGs Goals, based on data evaluation of SDGs indicators through the National SDGs Tracker.

The nation recorded good progress in Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being); Goal 4 (Quality Education); Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation); Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy); Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth); Goal 14 (Life Below Water); and Goal 15 (Life on Land).

For the remaining goals, Brunei reported challenges, especially in terms of data availability for a full progress's assessment, while a regression was reported for Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

Youth participation in the Sultanate was also reported, particularly the SDGs Youth Statement, outlining the perspective and integrated actions of youth in contributing to the SDGs. As a way forward, particularly post-VNR actions, the report underlined actions, such as more robust SDGs data, strategic partnerships, and promoting more nationwide actions.

The presentation garnered the interests of UN member states and civil societies to seek more information on the Sultanate's efforts and actions to overcome specific SDGs gaps, as well as to create a comprehensive SDGs ecosystem to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Economic avenues opened, Brunei-China relations strengthened

MUARA, July 8 – Muara Port Sdn. Bhd. Company (MPC) made history today with the Inauguration of the First Maiden Vessel Call from Brunei Darussalam's Muara Port to the People's Republic of China's Beibu Bay Port.

The sailing of a container ship signifies the beginning of a new economic path for strengthening the cooperation between Brunei and China.

The identification of new shipping routes will provide major economic benefits to both nations, in line with the goals of the Brunei-Guangxi Economic Corridor plan.

Present to inaugurate the ship at the Muara Port were 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 as Chairman of MPC; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid, Minister of Development; Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications; and Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Haji Khairuddin bin Haji Abdul Hamid, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economics.

Also in attendance were Her Excellency Cai Lixin, Executive Vice-Governor of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region; Lu Xinhua, Deputy Secretary of the People's Government of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region; Nong Bing, Deputy Director General of the Guangxi

Development and Reform Commission; Wei Yu, Deputy Director General of the Guangxi Foreign Affairs Office; His Excellency Xiao Jianguo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam; and Li Yanqiang, Chairman of Guangxi Beibu Gulf International Port Group Co. Ltd.; as well as government officials, the Brunei Belt and Road Association, chambers of commerce, financial institutions, parties interested in MPC, the management, as well as staff.

The first container will depart from Muara on April 27, 2023 to Hong Kong and Qinzhou, before returning to Muara via Bintulu. Initially, the service will run once a month, but if demand and requests increase, the service will be raised to twice a month.

Shipping from Brunei to Qinzhou port comprised sliced shrimp, muskmelon, processed seafood from the Fish Landing Complex, and cargo from Hengyi Industries Sdn. Bhd. that took six days of trip, and the service is designed to attract China-cargo from the BIMP-EAGA to Brunei Darussalam.

Transporting agricultural products from Guangxi, such as fruits and fresh vegetables, takes up to seven days from Qinzhou to Brunei and East Malaysia.

Following the inauguration, Yang Berhormat Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economics; and Her Excellency Cai Lixin launched the Muara Port Gallery of Achievements located at the Cruise Ship Centre.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; and Her Excellency Executive Vice-Governor of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region launching the Muara Port Gallery of Achievements at Cruise Ship Centre.

The gallery depicts the history of Muara Port from 1970 to the present, with a focus on achievements and developments, such as port throughput, operational income, and employment creation. The future development section also depicts expanding proposals for new container terminals and future plans for the route between Beibu Bay Port and Muara Port.

The event is significant in the history of Brunei-China ties, since it demonstrates the possibility for economic collaboration and growth between the two countries.

The port, which facilitates interrelationships, will also present exciting opportunities for commerce and investment that will benefit both countries and boost regional economic development by connecting BIMP-EAGA to China via the Muara Port.



Yang Berhormat Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy as Chairman of Muara Port Sdn. Bhd.; Yang Berhormat Minister of Development; Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications; Yang Mulia Deputy Minister of Finance and Economics; and Her Excellency Executive Vice-Governor of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region during the Inauguration of the First Maiden Vessel Call from Brunei Darussalam's Muara Port, Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of China's Beibu Bay Port.

Hoisting of giant-sized national flag marks start of His Majesty's Birthday Celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 1 – The hoisting of the giant-sized national flag marked the start of the 77th Birthday Celebration of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs as Guest of Honour handed over Brunei



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

Darussalam's giant-sized national flag, measuring 3.7 metres by 7.5 metres, to be hoisted at an open area at the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Complex.

The hoisting of the giant-sized flag was carried out by 30 Royal Brunei Navy personnel, led by Lt. Madya Abdul Matin Mahdi bin Haji Matassan, accompanied by the country's national anthem.

The national flag, measuring 2.5 metres by 1.2 metres, and posters in conjunction with His Majesty's 77th Birthday Celebration were then presented to the Brunei-Muara District Officer; as well as Acting Officers of Belait District, Tutong District, and Temburong District.

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

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



The giant-sized national flag flies in the capital.

A taste of Thailand

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 28 – A wide range of Thai cuisines and desserts were featured at the Amazing Thailand Food Festival, launched at the Radisson Hotel, organised by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Thailand in Brunei Darussalam, in collaboration with the hotel.

In her opening remarks, Her Excellency Boosara Kanchanalai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam stated, "We recognise the power of food for diplomacy and cultural exchange, whereby food has the unique ability to transcend barriers and foster connections. That is why some people travel abroad for culinary adventure, or *jalan-jalan cari makan*".

Her Excellency added, "This time around, we bring the taste of Thailand to Brunei."

Exclusive for the festival, the Radisson Hotel, in collaboration with the Embassy of Thailand, invited Chef Phuthinan Anakhotngam from Radisson Suites



The launching of the Amazing Thailand Food Festival by the Guest of Honour, Attorney General with Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam.

Bangkok Skuhumvit to curate a special menu featuring a variety of Thai delicacies, including desserts.

Her Excellency also expressed the embassy's continuous effort in

promoting Thai food as a form of food diplomacy to enhance understanding and people-to-people connections.

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“Previously, we have published the Thai Restaurant Guidebook, and very soon, we will launch the e-book version,” the envoy said.

Guest of Honour during the launching was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Ahmad bin Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Di-Raja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, Attorney General.

Yang Berhormat Attorney General taking a closer look at the cuisines served.



Foster the value of cooperation in Australian Islamic Community, Southeast Asia



The Permanent Secretary (Community) at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports with the 2023 Australia-ASEAN Muslim Exchange Programme delegation.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 17 – Five emerging Australian Muslim leaders are in Brunei Darussalam as part of the 2023 Australia-ASEAN Muslim Exchange Programme (AAMEP) from July 14 to 21.

The delegation began their programme in the Sultanate over the weekend, attending celebrations on July 15 and 16 in honour 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's 77th Birthday Celebration at Istana Nurul Iman.

The delegates include young community leaders from Melbourne, Sydney and Perth: Kauthar Abdullim, a film-maker; Mohammed Khelil, a strategic investment advisor; Anjum Kasmani, a lawyer; Zinab Al Hilaly, a multicultural engagement specialist; and Amen Soliman, a youth leader.

Today's programme included an official tour of the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque with the Ministry of Religious Affairs, a courtesy call with Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Japar bin Haji Mat Dain @ Maidin, Deputy State Mufti, and a visit to Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali.

The delegates also attended an AAMEP alumni dinner with Hajah Nor Ashikin binti Haji Johari, Permanent Secretary (Community) at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

AAMEP is an initiative of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, delivered by Mosaic Connections. It began in 2019 and it builds on a series of Muslim-community focused regional exchange programmes between Australia and Southeast Asia, initiated in 2002.

The programmes focus on people-to-people exchange and dialogue, aiming to break down stereotypes, build deeper understanding of communities, as well as foster collaboration and lasting connections.

AAMEP began in June this year, with eight delegates from Brunei, Malaysia, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Republic of the Philippines visiting Melbourne and Sydney for eight days.

The Bruneian members of the delegation comprised Rabiqah Natasha Halim binti Mohd. Yusof, a lawyer; and Awangku Md. Nazirul Mubin bin Pengiran Haji Abd. Rahman, officer from Ministry of Defence.

“Islam is the second largest religious community in Australia and is an important part of the country. The people-to-people connection established through the programme will enrich the communities of Brunei and Australia, while demonstrating that Australia's modern multicultural society makes us a great friend to our Southeast Asian neighbours,” said His Excellency Luke Arnold, the High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam.

LegCo members in Vietnam for 14th AIPA meet

PHU QOUC, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM, July 11 – Members of the State Legislative Council (LegCo) attended the 14th Meeting of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Caucus Meeting, which was hosted by the National Assembly of Viet Nam on the Phu Quoc Islands, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The summit was attended by nine AIPA member countries, including Brunei Darussalam, led by LegCo members: Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Haji Mohd. Yusof; Yang Berhormat Hajah Rosmawatty binti Haji Abdul Mumin; Yang Berhormat Pengiran Isa bin Pengiran Haji Aliuddin; and Yang Berhormat Amran bin Haji Maidin.

During the meeting, LegCo members reported on the status of the resolutions voted at the AIPA General Assembly last year, covering advances and initiatives in the areas of politics, economy, social, as well as women's



Members of the State Legislative Council at the meeting.

and youth development. The conversation also centred on Promotion of Science and Technology Innovation, Transfer, Application, and Development for Sustainable Growth and Development.'

Several implementation initiatives were shared, including the formation of the Council for Research and Advancement

of Technology and Science, the Brunei Innovation Lab, several university-level research institutes, and the incorporation of technology into the Sultanate's economic development efforts.

The meeting concluded with the signing of a report agreed upon and authorised by the members of AIPA.

Fostering Islamic values



A group photo of the Religious Teachers University College of Seri Begawan (KUPU SB) at the Organisation of Islam Cooperation-Cultural Activities (OIC-CA) 2023 in Balikpapan, East Kalimantan, the Republic of Indonesia.

THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, July 10 – The Religious Teachers University College of Seri Begawan (KUPU SB) is joining the Organisation of Islam Cooperation-Cultural Activities (OIC-CA) 2023, held in Jakarta, Samarinda and Balikpapan, East Kalimantan, the Republic of Indonesia from July 7 to 14.

Joining the OIC-CA programme on

behalf of KUPU SB is Pengiran Siti Katijah binti Pengiran Sulaiman, Director of the International and Public Relations Office; and Dayang Nurul Atteyia Bahtriya binti Md. Salleh, Deputy Dean of the Student Affairs Section.

By bringing the theme, 'Embracing Cultural Diversity and Interfaith Harmony for a Brighter Future Society,' the goal of OIC-CA 2023 is to advance cultural

cooperation among OIC member states, with the goal of spreading Islamic values and teachings, particularly in the context of youth, culture, and education.

Furthermore, it aims to demonstrate the richness and beauty of culture in the Islamic world, particularly in Asia, as well as promote awareness about the

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significance of culture as a platform for improving connections among member countries and civilisations.

OIC-CA 2023 includes the highest level OIC conference, discussion sessions, forums, youth diplomacy session, special meetings between universities and agencies, cultural and Halalan Thayyiban exhibition, as well as a tour to numerous mosques, *madrasah* and cultural places in Indonesia.

The participation of KUPU SB in OIC-CA 2023 is a positive step toward Brunei Darussalam's ongoing efforts as

an OIC member, notably in developing leadership among Muslim youth through educational programs and culture.

Through a combined meeting, representatives of other OIC member states and KUPU SB shared ideas and information. They also introduced Brunei as a nation that practises Melayu Islam Beraja, and Negara Zikir as Baldatun Thayyibatun Warabbun Ghafur. Simultaneously, KUPU SB promoted itself as a Study Institution College that provide Islamic teaching and study programmes in in Brunei Darussalam.

Representatives of KUPU SB at OIC-CA 2023 in Balikpapan, Kalimantan Timur, Indonesia.



Reducing vocational skill gaps in ASEAN

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 22 – Micronet International College hosted a ceremony at the Radisson Hotel to welcome the first batch of the ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Mobility Programme participants.

Representatives from the Embassy of ROK in Brunei Darussalam; the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Brunei; the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Brunei; the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) in Brunei; the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Brunei; and the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Brunei were present.

Pengiran Hajah Hamidah binti Pengiran Haji Hidup, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Brunei Technical Education as the Director of Technical Education highlighted that TVET has long been recognised as the basic foundation in building any nation's economy, because it provides the nation with qualified and sufficient workforce.

The mobility programme is a growing trend in Asia and the rest of the world, owing to its numerous benefits and



Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Brunei Technical Education as the Director of Technical Education presenting her speech.

advantages.

"Students can develop transversal skills like communication, language proficiency, critical thinking, problem-solving, intercultural skills, and research skills, as well as personal development skills like adaptability, which is especially important in acclimating to new and foreign environments and building confidence.

"Academics, for their part, can exchange their expertise and experiences in

teaching in a new context, obtaining new pedagogical skills and producing creative curriculum, exchanging best practices, and strengthening cooperation across higher education institutions," she said.

The ASEAN-ROK TVET Mobility initiative is wholly supported by the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry via the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund. The programme aims to close the gap between the demand and supply of vocational skills in ASEAN countries, and enhance student and teacher exchanges across ASEAN TVET institutions. The programmes' curriculums incorporate the latest information and critical skills of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Micronet International College was chosen to host the programme on behalf of the government of Brunei Darussalam. Nineteen participants from five ASEAN countries make up the first cohort of the ASEAN-ROK TVET Programme. The participants were from the Kingdom of Cambodia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Philippines and Lao PDR.

The ASEAN-ROK TVET Mobility Programme will run for three months, beginning on July 10 and ending on September 30.



Representatives from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Brunei Darussalam; the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Brunei; the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Brunei; the Embassy of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Brunei; the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Brunei; and the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Brunei in attendance (left); and some of the participants during the event (right).

CPI in May rises by 0.3 per cent

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 26 – In May 2023, there is a slight increase recorded in the Customer Price Index (CPI) by 0.3 per cent month-on-month, contributed by the 0.3 per cent increase in both Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages prices and non-food prices.

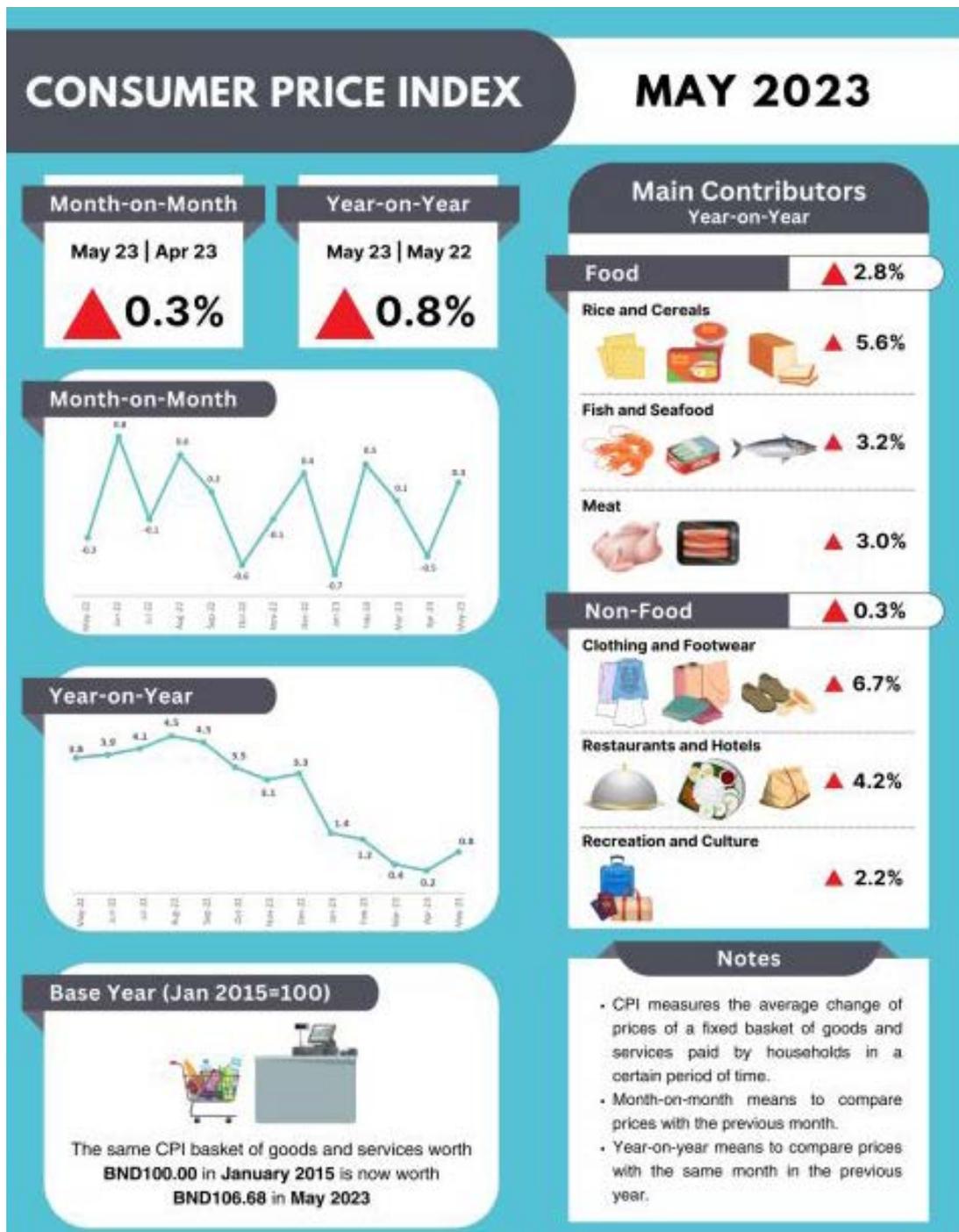
The month-on-month increase in Food and Non-alcoholic beverages was contributed by the prices of Vegetables (1.1 per cent); Fish and Seafood (0.5 per cent); and Meat (0.4 per cent). The rise in vegetable prices was due to increased fertiliser cost for producing chillies. The rise in Non-food prices was attributed to Clothing and Footwear (9.0 per cent), Miscellaneous Goods and Services (0.7 per cent), and Recreational and Culture (0.5 per cent).

An increase of 0.8 per cent year-on-year was recorded compared to May 2022. The rise was driven by the increase in Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages and Non-food prices by 2.8 per cent and 0.3 per cent.

The year-on-year increase in Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages was driven by an increase in Rice and Cereals (5.6 per cent); Fish and Seafood (3.2 per cent); and Meat (3.0 per cent), among others, driven by raw material price increases and limited supply.

Aside from that, non-food price increases were driven by Clothing and Footwear (6.7 per cent); Restaurant and Hotel (4.2 per cent); and Recreation and Culture (2.2 per cent). Clothing and Footwear prices rose in tandem with the rise in clothing material prices. Restaurant and Hotel prices increased in response to the increase in the cost of contract catering services. Meanwhile, Recreation and Culture prices have risen, primarily due to holiday price increases, including hajj and umrah packages.

The CPI is a monthly index that measures price changes in goods and services paid for by consumers over a given time period.



SEAMEO VOCTECH receives boost in capacity building

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 12 – The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (SEAMEO VOCTECH) Regional Centre and the Republic of China's Go Study Global Education signed an agreement to collaborate in technical and vocational education and training.

The Memorandum of Agreement calls for collaboration in skill training and professional development programs, as well as the sharing of experiences and support with teaching resources, capacity building, and other relevant initiatives.



The Memorandum of Agreement Signing Ceremony between SEAMEO VOCTECH and Go Study Education at Seri Kerna Hall (above and below).



Alias bin Haji Abu Bakar, Director of the SEAMEO VOCTECH Regional Centre, and Yu Qi, General Manager of Go Study Global Education signed the agreement on behalf of their organisations.

According to the centre's Director, the deal will provide training for locals to meet the need of enterprises operating in the country, especially those from China.

"It is timely that we can offer skill training demanded by industries that can address unemployment, and at the same time, strengthen regional collaborations," added the Director.

Total trade decreases 39.9 per cent in March 2023

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 18 – The total trade recorded a year-on-year decrease of 39.9 per cent to \$1,482.2 million in March 2023 compared to \$2,464.8 million in March 2022.

This was due to a decrease in both exports value by 39.7 per cent to \$1,004.2 million from \$1,664.6 million; and imports value by 40.3 per cent to \$478.0 million from \$800.2 million.

The decrease in both exports and imports values were mainly due to exports and imports of Mineral Fuels.

The decrease in mineral fuels exports was mainly driven by the export values of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and other petroleum products, particularly automotive diesel fuels.

The decline in LNG exports value was due to a fall in exports volume by 13.0 per cent. However, the decrease in the value of exports was offset by an increase in the exports value of crude oil, due to an increase in the exports volume by 100.7 percent.

In terms of export commodities, Mineral Fuels represented the major contributor to Brunei Darussalam's exports at 84.8 per cent; followed by Chemicals (12.5 per cent); and Machinery and Transport Equipment (1.2 per cent).

The five main imports by commodity for March 2023 were Chemicals (44.3 per cent); followed by Machinery and Transport Equipment (20.0 per cent); Food (13.2 per cent); Manufactured

Goods (9.1 per cent); and Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles (8.1 per cent).

The main export markets in March 2023 were the Republic of Singapore (18.8 per cent); followed by Japan (18.7 per cent); and Australia (12.1 per cent). The largest export commodity to Singapore, Japan and Australia was Mineral Fuels.

The biggest import partner were the Kingdom of Belgium (33.5 per cent); followed by Malaysia (18.8 per cent); and Singapore (10.8 per cent), with Chemicals as the largest import commodity.

Some 55.9 per cent of imports were used as Intermediate Goods for processing, followed by Capital Goods (36.0 per cent) for business operations; and Consumption Goods (8.1 per cent) for household use.

Meanwhile, 69.0 per cent of trade by value was delivered through Sea Transport. This was followed by Air Transport by 15.6 per cent; and via Land by 15.4 per cent.

In terms of month-on-month changes, compared to February 2023, total trade fell by 32.3 per cent due to the fall in export value by 22.7 per cent; and import value by 46.4 per cent.

The International Merchandise Trade Statistics report for March 2023 can be accessed through the DEPS's website at <https://deps.mofe.gov.bn>