



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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Brunei and South Africa to enhance relations

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the South African leader, President Mandela have pledged to intensify efforts to further enhance relations between their countries. Both leaders made the pledge at a state banquet hosted by the Brunei ruler in honour of the visiting President who was on three-day state visit to the Sultanate, 3 - 5 March.

In his address at the banquet hall of Istana Nurul Iman on 4 March, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said that the establishment of diplomatic relations in October 1996 and the accreditation last month of a non-resident South African High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam "demonstrate our keen desire to expand bilateral relations."

His Majesty said: "I look forward to identifying areas where we can advance our interest. The expansion of transportation and communication links between the two countries will facilitate greater contacts and exchanges."

"The presence of your business delegation with you in Brunei Darussalam will also help to publicise the opportunities which are available in South Africa and the Southern African re-



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the South African President, His Excellency Mr. Nelson Mandela holding discussion during the South African leader's audience at Istana Nurul Iman.

gion," stressed the monarch.

He added: "Southern Africa is endowed with abundant natural resources. The end of apartheid and the resolution of armed conflicts have opened a new era of growth and prosperity in the region."

"South Africa can help our businessmen gain a better understanding of the opportunities available in your region, Southern Africa," stressed His Majesty, while adding that "although the two regions are separated by a vast distance, "technology has brought us

into closer contact."

This was President Mandela's second visit to the Sultanate. The first was in 1990 in his capacity as Deputy President of the African National Congress (ANC).

His Majesty described this official state visit as a historic event, marking a new chapter in relations between Brunei Darussalam and South Africa.

The monarch also stated that the struggle of President Mandela to dismantle apartheid has won him respect,

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 31 March 1997. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.



Above: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam grants an audience to the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, who also called on his Brunei counterpart, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, right. Dr. Velayati came as a personal emissary of the Iranian President to convey an invitation to the Brunei monarch to attend the OIC Summit scheduled to be held in Iran later this year.



His Majesty invited to attend OIC Summit

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has received an invitation from His Excellency President Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran to attend the next summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to be held in the Iranian capital, Tehran, at the end of this year.

The invitation was presented before the monarch by the Iranian Foreign Minister, His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, as the special envoy

of President Rafsanjani during an audience granted by His Majesty at Istana Nurul Iman on 4 March.

The OIC Summit, which is to be chaired by Iran, will take place in December.

During the audience, His Majesty expressed satisfaction with the current relations between the two countries. The monarch also expressed condolence to the Iranian government and people following the recent earthquake

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Left: The British Secretary of State for Defence, The Rt. Hon. Michael Portillo, MP, at an audience with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman. The visiting minister also called on the Sultanate's Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan, below.

UK Defence Secretary on Brunei visit ahead of April's joint military exercise



fence Ministry of Brunei Darussalam stated that during the audience, His Majesty and the UK Secretary of State for Defence discussed a wide range of international and bilateral security and defence matters, including progress on the planning for the arrival of 2,500 members of the British Armed Forces who will take part in an exercise called 'Setia Kawan II', a joint Brunei/UK military exercise to be held in the Sultanate in April 1997.

The press statement added that His Majesty and the British Defence Secretary also discussed further implementation of the 1994 Brunei/UK Defence Procurement MOU (Memorandum of Understanding), the first stage of which was the appointment of the firm GEC/Yarrow to build three offshore patrol vessels and the future acquisition of

British Aerospace Hawk fighter jets for the Royal Brunei Air Force.

His Majesty also advised the British Secretary of State of his final decision on the specific configuration of the command and weapon systems and machinery of the offshore patrol vessels which were in line with the studies made with GEC/Yarrow and consented that both parties should now finalise contracts.

During his two-day working visit to the country, Mr. Portillo was also received by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

During the meeting, Mr. Portillo briefed His Royal Highness on bilateral defence cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Great Britain.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaullah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted an audience to the visiting British Secretary of State for Defence, the Right Honourable Michael Portillo, MP, at the Nurul Iman Palace on 27 February.

A communique issued by the De-



Left: Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam and His Majesty The Sultan of Johor Darul Takzim shaking hands after the bestowal ceremony as His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam looks on. Below: The do'a is read to bless the ceremony.

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri is awarded high Johor honour



Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam has been awarded high honours by the Malaysian State of Johor Darul Takzim. Bandar Seri Begawan, His Majesty Sultan Iskandar Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Ismail of Johor Darul Takzim bestowed the honour 'Bintang Darjah Kerabat Yang Amat Dihormati' first class upon Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri, on 6 March.

In a ceremony held at Istana Nurul Izzah, 11 kilometres from the Brunei Darussalam capital of Bandar Seri Begawan, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam witnessed the ceremony, along with other members of the Brunei royal family as well as members of the Johor royal family.

Monarch applauds Brunei-Oman close friendship

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has applauded the close friendship between Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman.

The monarch made the remark during an audience he and Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam granted to visiting Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Minister of the Sultanate of Oman, His Highness Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmood Al-Said and his wife, Her Highness Sayyidah Berthe and their two daughters.

His Highness Sayyid Fahad was leading a thirty-member delegation to the country on a four-day official visit aimed at enhancing existing relations between the two sultanates.

A press release issued by the Brunei Darussalam Foreign Affairs Ministry after the audience which took place at Istana Nurul Iman on 3 March, said that His Majesty also expressed considerable satisfaction with the warm and cordial relations which existed between the two countries.

The Omani Deputy Prime Minister and delegation arrived in the country on 1 March and were welcomed at the Brunei International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister and wife, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah.

While in the country, the visiting Omani delegation was entertained to dinner, hosted by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and wife at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan. Prior to the dinner, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah had a bilateral



Greetings are warmly exchanged between His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers of the Sultanate of Oman, His Highness Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmood Al-Said on the latter's arrival at Istana Nurul Iman at the start of his four-day official visit to Brunei Darussalam. The Omani Minister's wife, Her Highness Sayyidah Berthe had a separate audience with Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam.

discussion with His Highness Sayyid Fahad.

Their Highnessess and delegation also had the opportunity to visit the Jame' Asr' Hassanil Bolkiah mosque and the Royal Regalia Build-

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri and other members of the royal family stand in homage of the national anthems of Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of South Africa during a dinner at Istana Nurul Iman in honour of South African President Nelson Mandela. Speaking at the dinner, both heads of state spoke of the desire for the strengthening of bonds between their two countries, which established formal diplomatic relations in October 1996.

• From page one
(Brunei-South Africa relations)

admiration and acclaim world-wide.

"No history of the 20th century can be completed without an account of your contribution to the fight for African freedom and dignity. Your personal sacrifices, and that of your colleagues in the ANC, will remain a source of inspiration for generations to come."

His Majesty added: "Since your liberation, you have made the transition from a freedom fighter to national leader with natural grace. Your character and prestige have made possible a peaceful transfer of power to the black African majority and, more important, to national reconciliation."

Role of South Africa

In his address, His Majesty also spoke on the role of South Africa. He said South Africa has made tremendous strides since establishing its place in the international arena. In 1989, South Africa had diplomatic relations with only 31 countries. Now it has more



than 120 diplomatic missions overseas. With its larger international role, it has also accepted greater international responsibilities, the monarch added.

On the African continent, His Majesty said that South Africa has played a substantial role in conflict resolution in Burundi and Rwanda, under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The monarch also commended South Africa in hosting the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in April 1996, which addressed development issues of great importance to developing countries as well as the role it played in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to keep markets open.

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• From page 6
(Brunei South Africa relations)

On economy, His Majesty said that under the presidency of Mr. Mandela, South Africa has achieved encouraging economic growth with inflation under control. A strong and prosperous South Africa is crucial for stability in Southern Africa and it could be the force for more economic integration as in the case of its collaboration with Mozambique on the Maputo Development Corridor project, the monarch added.

In his reply, President Mandela, among others, pointed that the representatives of both countries can be counted on to find each other in consensus and mutual support, imbued with the aim of improving international relations and strengthening the bonds between the two countries.

He said that the foundations have been laid for the building of a strong and expanding relationship, and his visit will lend good speed to these developments.

The president also noted that the two countries' respective histories have decreed that their relation-

ship as free countries has started with very little in the way of two-way trade.

"We believe that there is scope for significant change in this regard over the next few years, and are confident that such a development would be to the advantage of both Brunei Darussalam and South Africa," stressed the president.

"Beyond the commercial profits of expanded trade and investment between our countries, such relations also bring positive effects on the lives of people as economic growth is translated into the benefits of development. And with rising prosperity comes stability, peace and security, ideals which I have learnt are expressed in the name of your country, Brunei Darussalam," the president further said.

The South African leader arrived in the Sultanate on 3 March with a more than twenty member delegation. He was greeted by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister upon his arrival at the Brunei International Airport.

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Accompanied by His Majesty as well as Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri and Ms Graca Machel on the dais, the South African leader receives the salute during his official welcoming ceremony in front of the Istana Nurul Imam, during which he also inspected a guard of honour. His Excellency Mr Mandela was earlier welcomed at the Brunei International airport by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, right.



• From page 7
(Brunei-South Africa relations)

The official welcoming ceremony was held at the Istana Nurul Iman where he inspected a guard of honour mounted by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and a 21-gun salute before being granted an audience by His Majesty. The two leaders later held a four-eye meeting where they exchanged views on bilateral and regional issues. During their discussion, His Majesty expressed satisfaction over the warm and cordial friendship which exists between Brunei Darussalam and South Africa. Both leaders also agreed to further enhance bilateral cooperation.

While in the country, President Mandela, who was accompanied by Mrs. Graca Simbine Machel, also went on a river cruise and visited one of the villages in Kampong Ayer (Water Village). He also toured the Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque. Apart from visiting Brunei Darussalam, President Mandela also went to the Philippines, Singapore and Malaysia.

The South African leader mingles with villagers during his tour of Brunei Darussalam's historical Kampong Ayer (water village) settlement, where he had a close look at some of the country's famous pastimes, including cloth-weaving and embroidery and other traditional handicraft making.



His Excellency President Nelson Mandela and Brunei Darussalam's Education Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz converse as the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abidin looks on.



• From page 2
(OIC Summit invitation)

in North-Western Iran.

While in the country on a one-day working visit, the Iranian Foreign Minister was entertained to a luncheon by his Bruneian counterpart, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

Before the luncheon, the two ministers exchanged views on regional and international affairs. Dr. Velayati also briefed His Royal Highness on the preparation of the forthcoming OIC summit.



Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and his wife, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah entertain the visiting Omani Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, His Highness Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmood Al-Said and his entourage to dinner. Centre: The Brunei Darussalam Foreign Affairs Minister and his wife with the Omani Deputy Prime Minister and his family chatting informally when the Omani royal visitors arrived for a courtesy call.



• From page 5
(Brunei - Omani friendship)

ing in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Their Highnesses also attended a dinner hosted by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and another given by the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Ahmed bin Mohamed Al-Riyami.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah also received a courtesy call from the Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Yousef Alawi bin Abdullah, one of the official members of delegation of His Highness Sayyid Fahad. During the meeting, the prince and the minister exchanged views on bilateral issues and expressed satisfaction with the existing Brunei-Oman relations.



Right below: Her Royal Highness Prince Hajjah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with Oman's Deputy Prime Minister, in whose honour she hosted a dinner.

Left: The Royal Omani visitors and delegation touring the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque with briefings provided by Brunei Darussalam's religious and mosque officials. The mosque, gift of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to his people, was completed in 1992- the year the ruler celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ascension to the Brunei throne as the 29th monarch of the country.



Upgrade quality of manpower resources

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah has stressed the importance for the country to upgrade the quality of manpower resources both in the government and the private sector.

This is important so as to produce skilled, efficient and dedicated manpower in carrying out their duties and responsibilities, she said.

In a speech before she officially opened the new building for the Public Service Institute in Kampong Rimba, on the outskirts of Bandar Seri Begawan, on 27 February, Her Royal Highness said that it is the aim of every country to achieve development and progress in various fields, which will need a quality source of manpower.

However, to upgrade the quality of workers will certainly need the upgrading in skill and training, which involves huge investment in finance and manpower from employers, governmental and non-governmental authorities, said Her Royal Highness.

"The construction of a new building for the Public Service Institute is, therefore, timely with the aim to upgrade the skill of officials and staff in the civil service", said Her Royal Highness.

She hoped that with the new building, the Public Service Department, the Institute in particular, will be able to carry out its efforts to upgrade knowledge and skill towards achieving excellence in performance and quality of service, especially among ministries and departments which have a direct contact with the public.

Here lies the true objective of giving training through manpower development programmes, that is to ensure that the government's aim and objective to give its customers the best service is achieved, she said.

"Here also lie the challenges which need to be faced and handled by the management in ensuring that the content of training will really meet the need of the government and the country, in line with the changing environment," said Her Royal Highness.

The building is facilitated, among others, with tutorial rooms and halls, computer laboratory, multi-purpose halls, prayer room, library and offices.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah calling for upgrading of manpower resources when she officially opened the new Public Service Institute's building. Below: The princess views facilities and equipment at the new office building.



Inter - ministerial

Public Relations Committee established towards more effective dissemination of information

Communication among ministries and government departments and the various relevant private agencies will be further smoothed, lending to better dissemination of information to the general public following the recent establishment of a joint Public Relations Committee among ministries and government departments.

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Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Ustaz Awang Haji Badaruddin chairs the first meeting of a joint Public Relations Committee of ministries and government departments aimed at achieving better communication within the government, and between the government and the general public. The permanent secretary had shortly earlier officially launched the committee, whose members comprise public relations officers of the various ministries and departments as well as those from relevant private agencies such as the media.

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The committee was launched on 8 March at the Information Department by Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's office, who among other things emphasised on the need for the government to have an effective public relations network at the ministerial and departmental levels.

The permanent secretary pointed that public relations is a continuous process, and from time to time the representatives from the ministries and departments need to plan appropriate strategy in dealing with the public.

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Badaruddin made the remark in relation to the attention given by members of the public on matters pertaining to the government, particularly on services and development plans.

He said that people talk about these matters in restaurants as well as at gatherings. Some strongly voice these formally during dialogue sessions between government representatives and members of the public, and at other occasions. And some even write to newspapers to be published in readers' columns or even write directly to the departments or ministries concerned.

All these reflect the hope the people place in the government. Such a phenomenon is common and could be regarded as signs that the country has a population who are really interested on the affairs of the government, and are aware that the government has functions and responsibilities which should be carried out effectively, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Badaruddin added.

In this regard, the permanent secretary pointed to the need for the government to have an effective public relations network at the ministerial and departmental levels.

The permanent secretary announced that the newly-launched Public Relations Committee will become a permanent forum chaired by the Prime Minister's Office and the Information Department serving as its secretariat.

In his speech, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Badaruddin also spoke on the relation between public relations and journalism. He said that the development of journalism should be encouraged as part of meeting the country's need towards having responsible massmedia. This encouragement includes guidance and provisions of certain regulations so that the journalism sector could be utilised effectively.

In this regard, all staff journalist in

the government and private sector as well as freelancers are now required to register with the relevant authorities of government.

The permanent secretary said: "Those who are registered will be issued with press identification, just like a kind of credential for them to put journalism into practice." The move which is appropriate with the Local Newspaper Act, is primarily aimed at facilitating smoother coverages of events in the country by journalists.

The National Chairman of the Committee, Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, who is a senior administrative officer in the Prime Minister's Department said that the duties of public relations officers in the various ministries need to be focused on the effective dissemination of information on the policies and goals of the respective ministries.

The effectiveness of the information dissemination will give transparency to the functions, policies, objectives and rules and regulations of the ministries concerned which the public should know.

He also hoped that issues which may be raised through the media would be responded to accordingly because ignoring them might give rise to negative views of the government.



Institut perkhidmatan Awam or the Public Service Institute's Building

The new building of the Public Service Institute was officially opened on 27 February 1997. Located at Simpang 256, Jalan Kampong Rimba, Gadong, near the Brunei capital, the construction work for the building began with the foundation stone laying ceremony held on 27 Mei, 1995.

The B\$15 million complex stands on a 15-acre site and consists of five-storeys. It is facilitated with tutorial rooms,

halls, computer laboratory, multi-purpose halls, prayer room, library and administration offices.

With the new building, the Public Service Department, the Institute in particular, will be able to carry out its efforts to upgrade knowledge and skills towards achieving excellence in performance and quality of service, in a more conducive environment.

Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 296,000 (1995)

Official Language : Malay

Official Religion : Islam

February rainfall : 248.0 mm

(annual 2,818mm)

Brunei Malay in a minute

Readers have the opportunity to learn a Brunei Malay word that is particularly peculiar to the country through each edition of the Brunei Darussalam Newsletter.

In this edition we have selected the word **ampuan**.

Ampuan is the owner of pets, or livestock such as cats, goats,

dogs, etc. In standard Malay **ampuan** is pemunya.

Let's use the word in a sentence:

Kucing yang berkeliaran itu tidak diketahui **ampuannya**.

No one knows the owner of the stray cats.

**THE TRAFFICKING IN AND THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF
CONTROLLED DRUGS ARE VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES IN
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AND THE PENALTY
FOR SUCH OFFENCES IS DEATH.**