



## Produce High Caliber Military Leaders

**TANAH JAMBU, January 17** - The Sovereign's Parade for 57 Officer Cadets of the 17<sup>th</sup> Intake was held at the Parade Square of the Defence Academy of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) at Kampung Tanah Jambu.

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, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the RBAF consented to grace the ceremony.

The arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was received by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence and Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Commander of the RBAF.

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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, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) delivering a *titah* (royal speech) during the Sovereign's Parade of Officer Cadets of the 17<sup>th</sup> Intake of the Officer Cadet School, Defence Academy RBAF.

## His Majesty takes closer look at Brunei International Airport Facilities



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, onboard the Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft during the visit to the Brunei International Airport to take a closer look at the facilities available at the airport.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 24** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, took a closer look at the existing facilities of the Brunei International Airport.

Upon arrival, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Motalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Info-Communications.

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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:



1. The Honourable Haji Mohamad bin Sabu, Minister of Defence of Malaysia on January 23.
2. Her Excellency Kang Kyung-wha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea on January 12.
3. General Sir Gordon Messenger, KCB, DSO, OBE, ADC, Vice-Chief of Defence Staff of the United Kingdom on January 31.

## Her Majesty receives audiences

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to receive in audience two permanent representatives of Brunei Darussalam at the United Nations, a newly-appointed High Commissioner, and the spouse of a newly-appointed envoy. The ceremony was held at Istana Nurul Iman on January 29.

They were:

- Her Excellency Hajah Masurai binti Haji Masri, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in Geneva;
- Her Excellency Hajah Noor Qamar binti Haji Sulaiman, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam at the United Nations in New York, United States of America;
- Her Excellency Pengiran Hajah Rooslina Weti binti Pengiran Haji Kamaluddin, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland;
- Pengiran Salina binti Pengiran Haji Alli, spouse of His Excellency Haji Adnan bin Haji Mohd. Ja'afar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.



## His Royal Highness the Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Ministers' Office, consented to receive in audience at Qashr Al-Meezaan:

- Newly appointed High Commissioners and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam on January 17.

They were Her Excellency Hajah Masurai binti Haji Masri, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in Geneva, Swiss Confederation; Her Excellency Hajah Noor Qamar binti Haji Sulaiman, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in New York, United States of America; Her Excellency Pengiran Hajah Rooslina Weti binti Pengiran Haji Kamaluddin, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom; His Excellency Haji Adnan bin Haji Mohd. Ja'afar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.



- Newly appointed foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam on January 17.



His Excellency Jassim Ali Abdullah Al Obaidli, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Ajaneesh Kumar, High Commissioner of the Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Emad bin Abdul Aziz bin Saad Al Muhanna, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam.



General Sir Gordon Messenger, KCB, DSO, OBE, ADC, Vice-Chief of Defence Staff of the United Kingdom on January 21.

## His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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

- His Excellency U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Her Excellency Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as well as the Government and people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 71<sup>st</sup> Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on January 4.
- His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK MC (Retired), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and The Honourable Scott Morrison, MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia as well as the Government and the people of Australia on the occasion of Australia Day on January 26.
- His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of the Republic of India and His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India as well as to the Government and people of the Republic of India on the occasion of its Republic Day on January 26.
- His Majesty Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah Ibni Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Pahang Darul Makmur on the occasion of His Majesty's proclamation as the 16<sup>th</sup> Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia on January 31.

## His Majesty sends message of condolences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to send a message of condolence to His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines following the recent bombing explosion in Jolo, Sulu on January 29.

## Produce High Caliber Military Leaders (continued)



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Sovereign's Parade of Officer Cadets of the 17<sup>th</sup> Intake of the Officer Cadet School, Defence Academy, Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF). Also in attendance was His Majesty's son, His Royal Highness 920 Captain (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

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Also present was His Royal Highness 920 Captain (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

On arrival, His Majesty consented to receive the royal salute and subsequently inspected the Guard of Honour commanded by 1085 Captain Abdul Qahhar bin Haji Mulok and witnessed the marching parade.

His Majesty consented to deliver a *titah* (royal speech) and expressed belief that since its inception 10 years ago,

the Defence Academy of the RBAF, has proven its capability in enhancing the RBAF's human capital capacity, in line with one of the aspirations laid out in Brunei Vision 2035, by producing high caliber military leaders.

His Majesty also stressed that in the pursuit of rapid technological evolution, the possession of highly sophisticated equipment is not enough to guarantee the nation's security as highly competent military leaders are also crucial towards countering an increasingly dynamic and complex geo-strategic landscape and it is crucial for defence institutes and the

country in general to produce and develop competent leadership.

Subsequently, His Majesty presented the Sword of Honour and awards to the best cadet officer in each field of the 117<sup>th</sup> Intake Officer Cadets of the Officer Cadet School, Defence Academy RBAF.

The first to receive the Sword of Honour was 52525 Officer Cadet Muhammad Hidayatullah Sunazul Fikar bin Suip, an Al-Quran Memorising Special Degree from Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali and Bachelor Degree holder in Takhassus Al-Quran and Al-Qiraat from the Ma'ahad Qiraat Al-Azhar.

The Sword of Honour is the highest honour conferred on an officer cadet by the sovereign and represents the symbol of overall excellence for the officer cadet who attained the highest achievement in all aspects.

His Majesty consented to present the Best Academic Award to 52528 Officer Cadet Mohammad Syafi'ie bin Othman of the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) who graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Geo-Science from Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

The Best Military Skills Award was granted to 52527 Officer Cadet Muhammad Hamizan bin Haji Zaini of the

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Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) who graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Engineering with Merit in Material Science and Engineering from the Imperial College, London, United Kingdom.

The Best in Physical Training Award was granted to 17956 Officer Cadet (U) Mohd. Zulhaffiz Zariq bin Rane, who graduated with Higher National Diploma in Computing and System Development from the Laksamana College of Business, Brunei Darussalam.

57 Officer Cadets (40 males and 17 females) were commissioned at the ceremony in which 34 were commissioned as Officer of the RBLF, 10 Officer Cadets were commissioned as officer of the RBN and 13 were commissioned as officer of the Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF).

A recipient of the Supreme Commander of the RBAF Scholarship and RBAF Scholarship were among the commissioned officers.

The ceremony continued with three chants of 'Daulat Kebawah Duli Tuan Patik' by the participants of Sovereign Parade, followed by a *Doa Selamat* read by the head of the RBAF Religious Department (JA'MAAT), Commander Haji Ainolnizam bin Haji Ibrahim of the RBLF.

This was followed by a junjung ziarah (meet and greet) where the newly commissioned Cadet Officers and their families paid homage to the sovereign.

His Majesty then consented to receive a *pesambah* (gift) with the theme, 'Syu'lah Atawjih' (Torch of Guidance). The gift was in the shape of a torch that represented a source of inspiration for the 17<sup>th</sup> Cadet Officer Intake in order to achieve excellent performance level in doing any work with courtesy.

The eight corners of the torch



His Majesty inspecting the Guard of Honour during the Sovereign's Parade of Officer Cadets of the 17<sup>th</sup> Intake of the Officer Cadet School, Defence Academy RBAF.

symbolised the eight values of the Officer Cadet School (to form and educate the Officer Cadet to be an officer who always serves the country), the golden colour of the handle represents the value of loyalty to the sovereign, and three loops (Loop of Faith; Loop of Piety; Loop of Courage) manifests the 17<sup>th</sup> Intake Officer Cadets' resolve to uphold the Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) philosophy.

The three flame-coloured torch symbolises the synergy of the three units in RBAF (RBLF, RBN and RBAirF). The flames symbolised the fighting spirit of the Officer Cadets in fighting the transition from being ordinary people to fighters of Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also consented to sign a commemorative royal parchment and the newly commissioned Officer Cadet Book of Journey.

The Officer Cadet Book of Journey explained all the officer cadets' training and experiences throughout their training.

The Sovereign Parade was the highlight of the prestigious intensive military

training towards equipping the newly commissioned officers with knowledge, faith, discipline, professionalism and leadership skills.

The 52-week training for the 17<sup>th</sup> Intake Officer Cadet, began on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 comprising various specialised military training and activities to improve the quality of leadership, character and intellect as required from each RBAF officer.

The Defence Academy RBAF located at Kampung Tanah Jambu was inaugurated by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2016, which aims to be one of the outstanding and well-known centre of excellence.

Through the training and learning conducted in a more conducive and modern environment, the Academy Defence RBAF hopes to produce highly capable and high calibre military leaders who are capable to uphold the huge responsibility and are prepared to face numerous challenges in the future, which fulfil the mission and purpose of the Defence Academy.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness 920 Captain (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen in a group photo with the officer cadets.

## His Majesty takes closer look at Brunei International Airport Facilities (continued)



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 touring the Brunei International Airport. Also present was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Info-Communications.

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His Majesty first visited the Restoran Tarindak Ungkayah Graduan (Tarindak by Graduates Restaurant), located at the Departure Hall of the Brunei International Airport.

During the visit to the restaurant, His Majesty had the opportunity to taste a jackfruit-flavoured ice cream out of the numerous fruit-flavoured desserts that were available, and also tried the

watermelon juice served by the restaurant.

Beginning operations on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, Restoran Tarindak Ungkayah Graduan was one of the efforts inspired by His Majesty in assisting youths to venture into the business world as a source of income. Restoran Tarindak Ungkayah Graduan is the only eatery that is fully operated by 16 graduates who have successfully completed their studies both in the country and abroad. The restaurant has received

encouraging responses from the public. The restaurant is open daily from 7.00 am to 12 midnight and is closed every Friday 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm to observe the Friday prayer.

His Majesty's visit to Restoran Tarindak Ungkayah Graduan reflects the monarch's concern and care towards the welfare of the youth in the country.

His Majesty continued to visit the Anjung Saujana Restaurant, one of the branches of the Royal Brunei Catering, located near Restoran Tarindak Ungkayah Graduan. His Majesty then went on to take a closer look at the existing facilities available at the Departure Hall of the Brunei International Airport and then consented to operate the Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

Royal Brunei Airlines (RB) currently has 14 aircrafts, namely five Dreamliner, seven AirbusNeo and two AirbusCeo. Currently RB also makes direct flights to 23 destinations including London, Jeddah, Dubai, Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Jakarta, Surabaya, Bali, Melbourne, Kuching, Kota Kinabalu, Manila, Taipei, Hangzhou, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Haikou, Nanning, Changsha, Seoul and Tokyo.



His Majesty poses for a photo at Restoran Tarindak Ungkayah Graduan.



His Majesty taking a closer look at the locally made ice cream which comes in numerous fruit flavours, served at Restoran Tarindak Ungkayah Graduan.



His Majesty in a group photo with the graduates running the Restoran Tarindak Ungkayah Graduan.

## His Majesty presents Letters of Credence

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 presented Letters of Credence to newly appointed Brunei Darussalam envoys. The ceremony was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January at Istana Nurul Iman.



Her Excellency Hajah Masurai binti Haji Masri, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in Geneva, Swiss Confederation.



Her Excellency Hajah Noor Qamar binti Haji Sulaiman, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in New York, United States of America.



Her Excellency Pengiran Hajah Rooslina Weti binti Pengiran Haji Kamaluddin, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom.



His Excellency Haji Adnan bin Haji Mohd. Ja'afar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

## His Majesty receives Letters of Credence

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 Letters of Credence from the newly appointed foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam. The ceremony was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January at the Istana Nurul Iman.



His Excellency Jassim Ali Abdullah Al Obaidli, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Emad bin Abdul Aziz bin Saad Al Muhanna, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam.

## His Majesty visits Rimba Arabic School

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 29** – Religious education in this country is one of the deep concerns 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 towards the learning process at Arabic schools. This was clearly reflected in His Majesty's unscheduled visit to Rimba Arabic School.

His Majesty first inspected the Multipurpose Hall of the school. The Multipurpose Hall is currently being used as a temporary prayer room for students performing the Zuhur Prayer on a rotational basis beginning with Year 5 to Year 8 and then Year 9 to Year 11.

During the visit, His Majesty also interacted with the students and inspected the cleanliness of the school canteen.

His Majesty then continued to visit the Year 6 classes located at Level 4 of the school, followed by a Dialogue Session with teaching staff of the school.

During the Dialogue Session, His Majesty in a *titah* (royal speech) stated that Arabic schools is the pillar of worldly and afterlife education.

Hence, His Majesty stressed the need for its proper management and administration, including aspects such as comfort and safety.

His Majesty highlighted the greatness of the country's Arabic schools and the trend of Arabic schools students transferring to general stream schools which His Majesty regards as backward step.

His Majesty then touched on the enrolment process for students gaining entry to Arabic schools compared to the more conventional process, where the enrolment in Arabic schools is made through a selection assessment; only those who succeed will be eligible for entrance, while those fail to gain entry will pursue their education at conventional or public schools without any assessment. Thus, this puts Arabic schools on a level above the rest.

At the end of the Dialogue session, *Doa Selamat* was read by Haji Norhisyam bin Haji Md. Noor, Deputy Head of School Administration.

Prior to leaving Rimba Arabic School, a *Doa Selamat* was once again read by Ahmad Nasyaruddin bin Abdul Rahim, a Year 11 student.

The newly-used school began its



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

session on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 2019 with almost 1,700 students. Rimba Arabic School is administered by Pengiran Hajah Radiah binti Pengiran Haji Mohd. Tahir, Principal and has 152 teachers and 16 non-teaching staff members.

Among the facilities available at the school are classrooms, science and language laboratories, language, lecture halls, multipurpose halls, administrative rooms, staffrooms, libraries, hostel, prayer rooms, canteen and fields.

The school hours are from 7.30 am to 3.30 pm, and it is an all-male school for students from Year 5 to Year 11. The school has received an enrolment of 293 male students in Year 5 this year.

In 2018, 101 students from Year 11 sat for the Brunei Religious Education Certificate

Examination (SPUB) from which 77 candidates had an aggregate of 4 to 8 of 76.2 per cent; one candidate obtaining an aggregate 3 (0.99 per cent), 14 received 1-2 aggregate of 13.86 per cent. Overall, 77.23 per cent of the candidates have passed the SPUB examination.

Meanwhile for Year 6, a total of 332 candidates sat for the Penilaian Sekolah Rendah (PSR) of which 69 candidates have obtained 5 'A'. Overall, the school has obtained a 98.12 per cent passing rate for the PSR examination.

The construction of the Rimba Arabic School is among the major projects of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam under the 10<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan

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His Majesty reviewing the lessons taught in the classrooms.

## His Majesty visits Rimba Arabic School (continued)

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conducted by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Costing more than 48 million dollars, it stands on a 20 hectares site with complete infrastructure that fulfils the needs of teaching and learning.

His Majesty continued the visit with a tour of the site for the new Lambak Religious School in Jalan Bedil which is currently under construction.

The new Religious School will be equipped with facilities such as classrooms, teacher rooms, prayer rooms, multipurpose hall, ablution place, canteen, library, principal and assistant room, clerk, VIP room, meeting room, toilets, stage and dressing room for men and women, cleaning rooms, bookstores and stores goods.



His Majesty Sultan visiting the site of the new Lambak Religious School building which is under construction at Jalan Bedil.

## Their Royal Highnesses attend Celebration of Dance organised by Studio Elevé

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 13** - 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 attended a Celebration of Dance featuring Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker organised by Studio Elevé, held at Serambi Suluh, Tarindak D' Seni.



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 with Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman at the Celebration of Dance featuring Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker.

Also present were the children of Their Royal Highnesses, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman.

The Celebration of Dance features neo / classical ballet, contemporary and hip hop dance by 80 students from Studio Elevé aged between three and 16 years.

Participating in the dance was Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah, who performed in Greatest Showman Mix-Hip Hop Group 'C' and Spanish Dance Grade 2.



Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah receiving a Merit Certificate and Silver Pin in the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Exam Grade 1 from Samuel Milan, Managing Director of Studio Elevé.

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It operates both as a dance academy for children three years and above, and as a fitness centre for grown-ups. Registered under the RAD Ballet School, Studio Elevé conducts ballet class (Pre-Primary to Solo Seal Level) following RAD syllabus and is guided by recognised instructors.

Meanwhile, the RAD society is one of the largest and most influential dance education and training organisations in the world with more than 13,000 members spread across 79 countries.

## Launching of Restoran Tarindak Ungkayah Graduan gives graduates opportunity to fully run restaurant business



Graduates of Restoran Tarindak Ungkayah Graduan with invited guests at the Official Launching and Opening Ceremony of the restaurant.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 6** - Restoran Tarindak Ungkayah Graduan, a restaurant completely operated by 16 local graduates was launched and opened at the Departure Hall of the Brunei International Airport.

Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for his consent in allocating a Tarindak outlet as a place for the graduates to work and seek sustenance, in line with the monarch's desire to see youths in this country as successful agents of change and entrepreneurs, and not entirely dependent on the government.

The launching ceremony was attended by Cabinet Ministers, Members of the Legislative Council, Deputy Ministers, State Dignitaries, Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries.

The ceremony began with the reading of verses from the Al-Quran by Fatin Nor Afifah binti Haji Abd. Ghani, one of the graduates involved in running the restaurant.

Nur Sahkina binti Rosli, one of the graduates running the restaurant, on behalf of the graduates, in her speech expressed her heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi

operation of the restaurant.

Restoran Tarindak Ungkayah Graduan is open for business from 7 am to 12 midnight except on Fridays where it operates from 8 am to 12 noon and reopens from 2 pm to 12 midnight.

It is hoped that such effort, which was inspired by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, will generate more ideas in helping more graduates in the country to venture into the business world as their source of income.

Members of the public are welcomed to see Restoran Tarindak Ungkayah Graduan first-hand and at the same time to give support and encouragement to the graduates to succeed in their business, which is hoped to be an example to other graduates to continue to work and explore new opportunities and to get out of their comfort zone, in line with the goal of promoting the youth as a valuable and resilient national asset.

To bless the ceremony, a *Doa Selamat* was read by Muhammad Yasin bin Awang Yusof and Muhammad Helmi bin Haji Tamam, both graduates involved in the

operation of the restaurant.

Restoran Tarindak Ungkayah Graduan is open for business from 7 am to 12 midnight except on Fridays where it operates from 8 am to 12 noon and reopens from 2 pm to 12 midnight.

It is hoped that such effort, which was inspired by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, will generate more ideas in helping more graduates in the country to venture into the business world as their source of income.

Members of the public are welcomed to see Restoran Tarindak Ungkayah Graduan first-hand and at the same time to give support and encouragement to the graduates to succeed in their business, which is hoped to be an example to other graduates to continue to work and explore new opportunities and to get out of their comfort zone, in line with the goal of promoting the youth as a valuable and resilient national asset.

To bless the ceremony, a *Doa Selamat* was read by Muhammad Yasin bin Awang Yusof and Muhammad Helmi bin Haji Tamam, both graduates involved in the

operation of the restaurant.

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## BSB as a Capital of Islamic Culture of Asian Region 2019

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 17** – Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB), formerly known as Bandar Brunei, has witnessed the transformation of a nation, which has resulted in Islamic civilisation and development of its people based on the Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) concept over 600 years ago. The MIB philosophy is applied and practiced in the life of the society and the country and brings about prosperity and sovereignty to the country.

The matter was stated by Datin Paduka Dr. Hajah Norlila binti Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports during the launching of Bandar Seri Begawan as capital of Islamic Culture of Asian Region 2019 held at the Brunei International Airport.

Datin Paduka Dr. Hajah Norlila who was also the event chairperson added that civilization that has brought prosperity to Brunei Darussalam is evident through the various major changes in the country especially in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Thus she explained, the nomination of Bandar Seri Begawan as capital of Islamic Culture concurs with the status of Brunei Darussalam as a nation-state that has adopted an Islamic legislation with goal of being a 'Negara Zikir' (Zikir Nation) based on the MIB concept.

Touching on the Exhibition on the Bandar Seri Begawan Islamic Culture Footprint, the Permanent Secretary said that it depicted characteristics of Islamic civilization found in BSB, from physical and tangible aspects such as architecture, visual arts, artifacts, as well as intangible aspects such as the monarchy system, administration, Islamic education and other characteristics of life.

The Capital of Islamic Culture programme is an initiative of The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO). The recognition is given to the capitals of Islamic nations that enjoy a confirmed historical status, with outstanding contribution towards Islamic civilisation and possess Islamic civilizational landmarks.

Present as the guest of honour at the ceremony and to launch the event was Yang Berhormat Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs viewing one of the artwork featured in the Exhibition on the Bandar Seri Begawan Islamic Culture Footprint.

Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs.

The selection of Bandar Seri Begawan as the Asian Capital of Islamic Culture 2019 was based on the fact that Brunei has a long history of Islamic civilisation. Such an honour is also an opportunity to promote Brunei's culture and daily practices based on the MIB concept which has been the way of life in the kingdom more than 600 years.

The Exhibition on the Bandar Seri Begawan Islamic Culture Footprint will be held for one month at the Arrival Hall of the Brunei International Airport and will then move to the Art Gallery and to other designated places.

Participating in the exhibition were private painters and Brunei Darussalam Photography Association, Brunei Art Forum, Creative Space bn, Kaledeiskop bn. In addition to the exhibition, various activities have been planned by various agencies to be implemented throughout the year including arts, cultural, scientific, sports and recreational activities. The main events which will also be held is the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Islamic Expo and Al-Quds Al-Sharif Photography Exhibition.

## Ministry of Home Affairs introduces online payment for building tax

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 22** - The Ministry of Home Affairs through the Municipal Department has introduced a new initiative to facilitate payment methods for building tax at municipal areas. Building tax payments can be made online via smartphone application or internet banking with the cooperation of two banking institutions in the country, namely Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam Berhad and Baiduri Bank Berhad.

The launch of online payment for building tax was held at Bandar Seri Begawan Municipal Board, Jalan Perdana Menteri, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Present as the guest of honour to officiate the launching of Online Building Tax Payment was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs.

The ceremony began with the recitation of *Surah Al-Fatihah* and *Doa Selamat* which was then followed with the launching and demonstration of online building tax payments from property owners within the municipal areas. made by property owners at the municipal areas.

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Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs launching of the Online Building Tax Payment.

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It is an alternative payment method for building taxpayers to settle their due aside from making payment through the counters at the Municipal Department, which is currently in the form of cash payments, credit cards and cheque.

The service is another milestone for the Municipal Department namely Bandar Seri Begawan Municipal Boards, Kuala Belait and Seria Municipal Board as well as Tutong Municipal Board.

The payment for building tax can be made through the following websites; [www.bibd.com.bn](http://www.bibd.com.bn) and [www.baiduri.com.bn](http://www.baiduri.com.bn) or by using the mobile applications, BIBD Mobile App and Baiduri Personal i-Banking.

The initiative is hoped to increase the collection of building tax revenue as well as reducing the arrears of the Municipal Departments.

In addition, this service will provide convenience to taxpayers to settle building tax claims at any time easily and quickly,



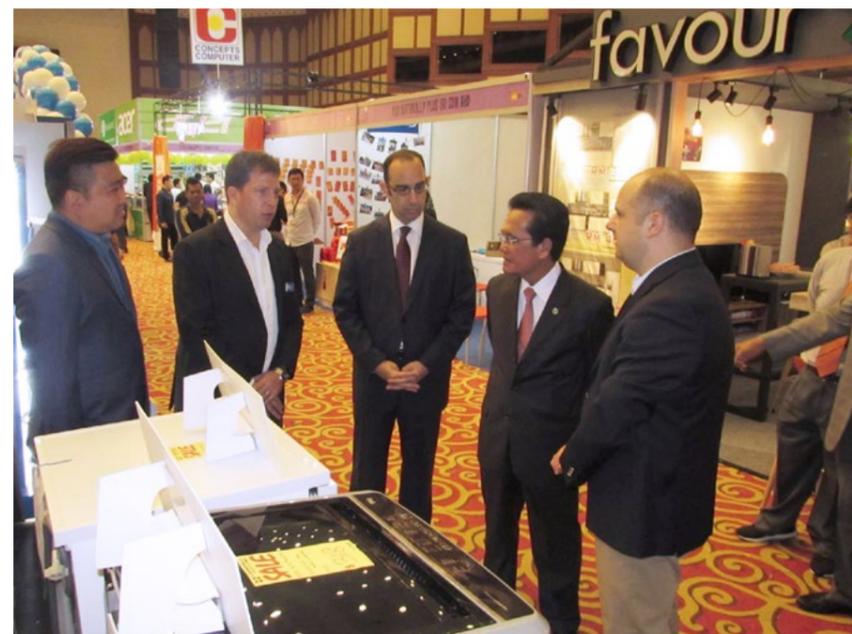
The Minister of Home Affairs being briefed on how payment is made through the smartphone application.

without having to come to the payment counter at the Bandar Seri Begawan Municipal Boards, Kuala Belait and Seria Municipal Board as well as Tutong Municipal Board.

Also present were Salminan bin Haji Burut, Permanent Secretary (Municipal

and District); Mohd. Amir Hairil bin Haji Mahmud, Permanent Secretary (Security, Welfare and Law); Abdul Walid bin Haji Matassan, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Municipal and District); and Ajman bin Haji Meludin, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Security, Welfare and Law).

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Consumer Fair offers promotional fares



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs touring the booths at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Consumer Fair.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 23** - The 22<sup>nd</sup> Consumer Fair is back this year with various product selection, services and food for the pleasure of visitors. The consumer fair is held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

The fair was officiated by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs.

Earlier, Dato Paduka Haji Danial bin Haji Hanafiah, Executive Director D'Sunlit Sdn. Bhd., in his welcoming speech, among other things explained that over 400 booths comprising 180 local and international exhibitors are participating in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Consumer Fair, which is held until the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2019.

Dato Paduka Haji Danial added that the concept of the theme for this year's

consumer fair is bringing the event closer to the hearts of the Bruneians via local cartoon characters such as Baba, Babu, Alai and Boiboi.

The success of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Consumer Fair is from the support and cooperation of all parties, including government agencies, partners and participants as well as visitors.

Several activities are also held such as 'rush hour Grab and Save', which offers low prices for only one hour every day from several entrepreneurs in different zones.

The Consumer Fair is supported by the Department of Environment, Park and Recreation (JASTRe), to implement the 'No Plastic Every Day' campaign. Visitors are advised to bring their own shopping bags.

Kah Seng, Marketing and Management Executive Officer, said that in addition to local participation, the consumer fair is also participated by foreign business traders, namely from Malaysia, the Republic of Singapore, Thailand and China.

The organisers are expecting a total of over 80 thousand visitors for this year's fair.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Consumer Fair opens from 10.00 am to 10.00 pm and is closed on Friday from 12.00 noon until 2.00 pm.

## Involve youths to preserve the unity of communities



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs at the 'Majlis Makan Tahun 2019' (Annual Food Event) of the Malay Kedayan Association (PEMADAYAN) organised by the PEMADAYAN.

**JERUDONG, January 27** – Efforts to foster and nurture the unity of the villagers and the mukim communities are highly encouraged, especially in dealing with the rapid life changes and challenges of today.

Mobilisation or geographical migration, because of employment or other factors are some of the root causes of smaller families, causing the number of large-scale family gatherings to be rarely held. These gatherings are usually only held on weekends or at certain times and if not handled prudently, this trend would weaken solidarity among the community, thus affecting its social fabric and structure.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of

Home Affairs highlighted the matter in his speech at the 'Majlis Makan Tahun 2019' (Annual Food Event) for the Kedayan ethnic community organised by the Malay Kedayan Association (PEMADAYAN), held at Jerudong Primary School.

The Minister said, in this regard, the Village and Mukim Consultative Council has been urged to organise programmes and activities involving all levels of community, especially youths.

"One of the initiatives carried out by the Mukim and Village Consultative Councils is the One Village, One Family Programme which is one that provides care and attention to families requiring support and assistance in various forms including moral support and education,"

said the Minister.

Mukim and village youths have the potential to contribute to mukim and village activities and at the same time act as a catalyst to strengthen relations of the local community.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and its departments welcome the active participation of mukim and village youths in carrying out welfare programmes at the mukim and village levels in order to establish community bond.

At the event, the Minister officiated the the 'Majlis Makan Tahun 2019' of the PEMADAYAN and toured several exhibitions, such as Kedayan Cuisine, Kelupis Making demonstration and Gasing (spinning top) game.

The Minister also had the opportunity to mingle with members of PEMADAYAN and guests, especially from Sabah and Sarawak.

'Majlis Makan Tahun 2019' of the PEMADAYAN was celebrated for three days, starting from the 25<sup>th</sup> until the 27<sup>th</sup> of January and was filled with various programmes and activities which not only involves the Kedayan ethnic in the country, but from all across Borneo such as Sabah and Sarawak.

With such events, it is one of the PEMADAYAN efforts to maintain and learn about the country's Kedayan ethnic so that it does not become extinct. The PEMADAYAN was established in 2014 and has over 200 members comprising Kedayan ethnic heirs.

## Launching of Tutong District One Village One Product (1K1P) Guidebook



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs taking a closer look at the First Edition of the Tutong District One Village One Product (1K1P) Guidebook.

**TUTONG, January 31** - More than 100 types of products from 27 entrepreneurs from the Tutong District have been listed in the First Edition of Tutong District One Village One Product (1K1P) Guidebook which was launched in an effort to ease interaction between entrepreneurs and consumers of local products in the country.

The guidebook was launched by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs at the Old Tutong District Office Building.

In his speech, the Minister believes that the guidebook will help encourage networking and open up even more challenging business opportunities by facilitating direct contact between entrepreneurs and local companies interested in purchasing the products long-term or wholesale.

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"This guidebook is expected to compensate the advertising of other products in the market so that 1K1P products can be recognised, not excluded and can compete and develop from time to time," said the Minister.

"Therefore, Village Consultative Councils should continue their efforts to enhance the 1K1P to become small

enterprises and further expand to a much higher level. This will in turn provide higher income and become more sustainable," added the Minister.

Meanwhile, Shamsul Bahrin bin Haji Mohd. Hussain, Tutong District Officer and as Co-Chairman of the council highlighted that the Tutong District 1K1P Guidebook is part of the continuous effort by the Tutong District Office, Tutong District Tourism Promotion and Coordination Body to

develop the district's 1K1P products. With the publication in phases, products will be listed in the category of food, water and health care, where improvements and review of its contents will continuously be enhanced from time to time to meet the market requirements.

The First Edition of the Tutong District 1K1P Guidebook is also available for download in an e-book version via 'https://ufile.io/yn240'

## Photographic exhibition highlights Australian Islamic history



Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs (centre) and Her Excellency Nicola Rosenblum, High Commissioner of Australia to Brunei Darussalam (left) launching the 'Boundless Plains: The Australian-Muslim Connection' photographic exhibition.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 28** – The Heritage of Australian Islamic history is highlighted through a photography exhibition held at Mabohai Shopping Complex.

The 'Boundless Plains: The Australian Muslim Connection' Photographic Exhibition was launched and officiated by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs, Her Excellency Nicola Rosenblum, High Commissioner of Australia to the country, and Asad Ansari, representative of the Islamic Museum of Australia.

In conjunction with the exhibition, representatives from the Islamic Museum of Australia (IMA) are in Brunei to further strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

Also present was Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

At the launching ceremony, Her Excellency in her speech, among others,

was pleased to be able to collaborate with IMA to bring the exhibition to the country.

Her Excellency said that one of the greater strengths of the Australian society is the multi-culturalism and religions; today Australia is home to more than 600,000 Muslims from over 120 countries around the world.

With the exhibition, Her Excellency hopes to further expand information about Australian Islamic history to the people in this country.

The exhibition is opened to the public until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February.



The Minister of Religious Affairs viewing the Photographic exhibition.

## Brunei to host ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2020



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism receiving the ASEAN Tourism Chairmanship from His Excellency Nguyen Ngoc Thien, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam.

**HA LONG CITY, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM, January 20** - The 22nd Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (22nd M-ATM), the 18th Meeting of ASEAN Plus Three, and the Seventh Meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2019 in Ha Long City, Viet Nam in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) 2019.

Present at the meetings was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

Brunei Darussalam will host ATF 2020 with the theme 'ASEAN - Together Towards A Next Generation of Travel' from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2020.

At the 39<sup>th</sup> ATF, the future of ASEAN travel will be the focal point of industry conversation and opportunity at both

official and TRAVEX (travel exhibition) meetings.

The official National Tourism Organisations (NTOs) Meetings, Tourism Ministerial Meetings and Associations Meetings will take place from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2020, followed by Post ATF Tours from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2020. The ATF 2020 is projected to receive 1,600 delegates comprising ministers and officials, exhibitors, buyers and media.

The official meeting venue will be at the Empire Hotel and Country Club and the TRAVEX will be held at the Brunei Darussalam International Defence Exhibition and Conference (BRIDEX) in Jerudong.

During the closing ceremony of the ATF 2019, His Excellency Nguyen Ngoc Thien, as the Chairman of ASEAN Tourism from

the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam handed over the ASEAN Tourism Chairmanship to Brunei's Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, held at Ha Long Bay Golf Clubhouse on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January.

Brunei's Minister also congratulated His Excellency Nguyen Ngoc Thien for successfully hosting the ATF 2019 in Ha Long City.

The Minister went on to emphasise that in almost four decades, the 10-member ASEAN has made great progress in their efforts to promote this region as a single collective tourism destination with a culturally rich, diverse attractions and travel experiences. The focus on increasing tourism development across ASEAN destinations has given the region a sense of awareness in attracting continued interest from international tourists.

The Minister then stressed that at this global phenomenal urbanisation and technological advancement in driving the new generation of tourists, ASEAN is at the upcoming intersection of the main road.

ASEAN recognises the need to compete with dynamics and the demand for changing travel patterns, demographics, behaviour and options.

At the upcoming 39<sup>th</sup> ATF in 2020, which will be held in Brunei Darussalam, the future of ASEAN travel will be the focus of industrial talks, where innovation will be the stage for the future of ASEAN tourism.

The potential of the region looks positive and bright as it seeks for unaccounted routes and undisputed campaigns awaiting future generations of travel.

## Minister of MPRT and LegCo members observe achievements and developments of the fishing industry



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism with members of the Legislative Council listening to a briefing during the visit to Syarikat Yamako Pacific Sdn. Bhd.

**MUARA, January 22** - To share and disseminate the current achievements and development of the activities of the fishing industry, Members of the Legislative Council made a visit to several fish rearing sites in the Brunei-Muara District.

The fishing vessel owned by Syarikat Gemilang Seri Shunfan Venture Sdn. Bhd. which is located at Fish Landing Complex, Muara was one of the focus areas of the visit.

Also in attendance was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

During the visit, the delegation was briefed on the company's background which is a collaboration between local joint-venture and foreign investor from Republic of China.

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and has been in operation since May 2018 and the production was 237.8 metric tonnes during the year.

The visit concluded with a tour to Syarikat Yamako Pacific Sdn. Bhd., which is also a joint-venture between a local company and a foreign investor from Japan, and has been operating since April 2018. The company specialises in processing Tuna and Skipjack, and is equipped with four processing facilities and one cold storage. The company's main market is Japan, in which the output was 297.88 metric tonnes in 2018.

The visits aimed at sharing and learning about the developments and the latest achievements of the fishing industry in the country. Apart from that, the visit also exposed the involvement of locals as private owners or joint-ventures with foreign entrepreneurs and how it has been able to provide job opportunities for locals.

Also present were Pengiran Haji Kamalrudzaman bin Pengiran Haji Mohd. Ishak, Permanent Secretary of MPRT and Awang Haji Abdul Halidi bin Mohd. Salleh, Deputy Permanent Secretary of MPRT.



Members of the Legislative Council listening to a briefing during the visit to Syarikat Gemilang Seri Shunfan Venture Sdn. Bhd. fishing vessel.

## Appreciation to ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC), ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) cooperation attracts more tourists



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism with His Excellency Masataka Fujita, Secretary General of ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC).

**HA LONG CITY, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM, January 18** - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, held a bilateral meeting with representatives from Japan and the Republic of Korea while attending the 38<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Tourism Forum.

The Minister first held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Masataka Fujita, Secretary General of ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC), followed by His Excellency Lee Hyuk, Secretary General of the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC).

Also present were Pengiran Haji Sahari bin Pengiran Haji Salleh, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; Pengiran Haji Kamalrudzaman bin Pengiran Haji Mohd. Ishak, Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) and officials from the Tourism Development Department of the MPRT.

In the meeting, the Minister expressed his appreciation to AJC and AKC, for their initiatives in promoting tourism and strengthening people-to-people and cultural exchanges between Brunei Darussalam and Japan and Republic of Korea throughout the year 2018 and looked forward to more participation of activities in 2019.

During the bilateral meeting with AJC, both parties discussed tourism-related activities to further increase tourists arrivals between the two destinations. The Minister expressed appreciation towards AJC's initiative especially in providing capacity-building programmes to tour operators in Brunei Darussalam and also encouraged the AJC to further strengthen cooperation in tourism-related initiatives including language skills for tour guides and youth exchange programmes.

The Minister on behalf of Brunei Darussalam also thanked AJC for their support and contribution in translating Brunei Darussalam's tourism promotional materials to Japanese language and hopes to cooperate with the AJC in organising Brunei Week Festival in

February in conjunction with the inaugural flight to Narita, Japan.

Meanwhile during the bilateral meeting with the AKC, the Minister thanked AKC for their support in conducting tourism capacity-building workshops to tour operators and tour guides in communication, language and other services to facilitate the tourists from the Republic of Korea travelling to Brunei Darussalam more effectively.

The Minister also highlighted that the increase in the number of tourist arrivals from the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam was not only due to connectivity, but also through the efforts of tour operators providing media exposure of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Korea.

"Brunei Darussalam welcomes the support given by AKC in organising the ASEAN Tourism Capacity Building Workshop from the 30<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2019 in Bandar Seri Begawan," added the Minister.

The Minister also encouraged for closer cooperation between airlines, travel agents and the Brunei Tourism Board with the airlines and travel agents from the Republic of Korea.

Brunei Darussalam hopes that with all these initiatives and cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the ASEAN Centres can bring mutual benefits and attract more tourist to travel to these destinations.

## Brunei's Second Minister of Defence receives courtesy call from Malaysia's Minister of Defence



Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence with The Honourable Haji Mohamad bin Sabu, Minister of Defence of Malaysia.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 23** - Bilateral defense cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia that have long existed, remains strong with joint military exercises and exchange of visits from officials of both countries.

The Honourable Haji Mohamad bin Sabu, Minister of Defence of Malaysia made a courtesy call to Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence.

Upon arrival at Bolkiah Garrison, The Honourable Haji Mohamad

bin Sabu was accorded with a guard of honour comprising personnel from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

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

Both defence and military institutions have collaborated at regional and also international operations, most specifically under the framework of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) in Mindanao and the United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL).

During his visit, The Honourable Haji Mohamad bin Sabu took the opportunity to visit the RBAF Museum and the Defence Academy RBAF, where he also interacted with the Malaysian officers participating in the 9<sup>th</sup> Command and Staff Course.

The Minister of Defence of Malaysia also visited a number of cultural places; Taman Mahkota Jubli Emas, the Royal Regalia Museum, Kampong Ayer (water village), and the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque.

The Minister of Defence of Malaysia was in the country for a three-day introductory visit which signifies the commitment in further strengthening the relations and cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.

## Bilateral cooperation between Brunei – Singapore strengthens

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 7** - Bilateral cooperation in various fields between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore continue to strengthen with the visit and exchange of senior officials of both parties.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received a goodwill visit from His Excellency Pang Kin Keong, Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore held at the Prime Minister's Office. His Excellency Pang Kin Keong was in the country as Head of the Singapore Delegation attending the 4<sup>th</sup> Bilateral Meeting between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore.

Also present during the goodwill visit were Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Muhammad Sazali bin Pengiran Haji Yakob, Permanent Secretary (Security and Enforcement) at the Prime Minister's Office and Awang Ajman bin Haji Meludin, Acting Permanent Secretary (Safety, Welfare and Law) at the Ministry of Home Affairs.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office with His Excellency Pang Kin Keong, Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore.

## Minister reviews Department of Information's progress

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 14** - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office made a working visit to the Department of Information and subsequently explored closely the department's development and progress.

The arrival of the Minister was received by Mawardi bin Haji Mohammad, Acting Director of Information and Hajah Noorashidah binti Haji Aliomar, Acting Deputy Director of Information.

The Minister was then invited to the Conference Room at the

Extension Building of the Department of Information to receive a briefing on the department's role and functions, which was delivered by the Acting Director of Information and followed by a question-and-answer session.

In his welcoming speech, the Acting Director of Information explained the department's role as the government mouthpiece in delivering news and information on government policies, activities and programmes in addition to hearing the latest issues and understanding the mass media agenda.

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The Acting Director of Information also shared several developments that were achieved by the department throughout its 66 years of existence in line with its departmental mission to safeguard and elevate the image of the monarchy, nation-state and government as one of the lead agencies in the dissemination of fast, accurate and authoritative information.

"In order to ensure the service of the Department of Information remains current or up-to-date, new media such as the Mobile App, 'InfoDeptBN', social media such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter are also utilised extensively in disseminating information effectively and to reach society further," said the Acting Director of Information.

The Minister then delivered a speech highlighting the Department of Information's role in monitoring and ensuring that each writing is safeguarded, organised, easy to understand, interesting to read and provides readership satisfaction without neglecting the ethics of journalism and writing, courtesy and politeness that befit the national concept of the Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB).

The Minister expressed how pleased he was with the Personal Contact Programme (known locally as the Program Sua Muka) in strengthening the relations between the government and the private sectors with citizens and residents in this country and hopes that it will be conducted more frequently and extended in order to be closer with the people of the country. The Personal Contact Programme involves the views



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office during his visit to Pelita Brunei Division.

and suggestions from villagers concerned so that they are heard first hand, delivered and responded accordingly.

Earlier, the Minister expressed his appreciation for the effort and determination of the Department of Information in implementing its vision and mission. He also made passing remarks on the department's motto, 'Membudayakan Masyarakat Bermaklumat' (Nurturing an Informed Society), which reflected strong determination and noble hope for the future generation of successors.

During his working visit, the Minister had the opportunity to inspect division and units housed at the Extension Building of the Department of Information and the Original Building of the Department of Information. The Minister subsequently

launched the Penerangan Resource Centre at the Original Building of the Department of Information and was given a briefing regarding the centre.

Also present during the working visit were the Permanent Secretary and Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, and senior officials of the Prime Minister's Office and the Department of Information.

The working visit aimed to provide opportunity for officials of the Department of Information to interact and exchange views with the Minister, especially on matters associated with the development, progress and well-being of the department's personnel.

## Protect the public from crime and undesirable elements



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and the Second Minister of Finance and Economy inspecting the parade of Royal Brunei Police Force in conjunction with 98<sup>th</sup> Police Day Celebration at Police Training Centre.

**GADONG, January 15** - The Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) as the specific law enforcement agency in the country is urged to continue to play its role as a close partner to the community, and work together in crime prevention efforts in the country.

In an effort to strengthen the effectiveness of the services, RBPF has also established a network of partnership with the stakeholders and law enforcement agencies.

The matter was explained by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and the Second Minister of Finance and Economy at the Parade in conjunction with the 98<sup>th</sup> Police Day celebration held at the Police Training Centre.

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The Minister explained that success of this collaboration can be seen through the implemented joint operations where the parties involved have been able to play a role based on their respective jurisdictions.

"The 98<sup>th</sup> Police Day celebration with the theme of 'Bersama Menghadapi Cabaran' or 'Together Facing Challenges', is truly inline in view of the technological advances that have changed the face and trends of criminal activities which have become more challenging and complex," said the Minister.

"The Police Force will always face various criminal challenges amidst the rapid advancement and sophistication of technology. This can be seen through the

increase of non-traditional crimes such as trans-border and cybercrimes.

Therefore, the Police Force must continue to strive in order to enhance its capabilities and integrity through planning and formulating effective strategies to realise an excellent RBPF," added the Minister.

The Minister further praised the success of the RBPF in hosting the 38<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Chiefs of Police (ASEANAPOL) Conferences in September last year which was a sign of the ability of the Police Force in organising international conferences.

ASEANAPOL is the largest police forum in the region and the conference brings together all the Chiefs of Police

from ASEANAPOL member countries, and is attended by Heads of Delegation, ASEANAPOL Dialogue Partners and Observers.

The conference, said the Minister has opened a new space in collaboration between regional and international police forces together to prevent and combat criminal activities as well as to provide opportunities for cooperation in increasing capacity and capability.

The Minister further urged all RBPF members to continue to serve their excellent service in carrying their daily tasks in order to maintain security and the welfare of the state and as guardians and protectors of the people from crime and undesirable elements.

## Improve the quality of teachers in facing 4.0 Industrial Revolution era

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 5** - The Ministry of Education (MOE) is currently giving priority to improving the quality of teachers especially in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution which is expected to make a huge impact on all life aspects including education.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education said that teachers need to be equipped with the ability to teach students the new skills needed to face new era challenges.

The Minister explained the matter during a Muzakarah Session (Dialogue Session) between MOE and members of the Legislative Council (LegCo) at the Main Conference Hall (P1), MOE.

"This is also to uphold the *titah* 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 during the recent 28<sup>th</sup> Teacher's Day Celebration where His Majesty advised teachers not only to teach or guide children towards exams, but also to point out how preparations are made for the rapidly expanding globalisation and technology era," said the Minister.

The Minister also addressed some of the strategies and initiatives that have been and is being implemented by MOE, which spans all levels of primary, secondary, post-secondary, technical and vocational education and higher education.

All of these are aimed at creating a



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, the Minister of Education delivering his welcoming speech during the Muzakarah Session (Dialogue Session) between the Ministry of Education and the members of the Legislative Council.

knowledgeable, skilled and civilised human capital in line with the vision of the MOE, 'Quality Education, Dynamic Nation' and its mission 'We Deliver Holistic Education to Achieve Fullest Potential for All'," added the Minister.

While, the Muzakarah Session was attended by members of the Legislative Council headed by Yang Berhormat Awang Iswandy bin Ahmad.

The Muzakarah Session is an annual event of the Department of Councils of State, Prime Minister's Office with the relevant ministries and agencies.

It was later followed by a briefing by the MOE in the form of a video clip on several strategies and initiatives being implemented by the MOE as well as achievements throughout the year 2018

for primary, secondary, post-secondary, technical and vocational education and higher education.

After the briefing, a dialogue session was held between the members of the Legislative Council and MOE.

The dialogue shared ideas and addressed issues and proposals that can certainly benefit the MOE in its efforts to improve the quality of education in the country.

Also present were Datin Seri Paduka Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Mohd. Salleh, Deputy Minister of Education; Permanent Secretaries; Vice-Chancellors; Rectors; Deputy Permanent Secretaries; Acting Director General of Education; Directors; Heads of Departments and senior officers of MOE.

## Brunei - Finland bilateral cooperation strengthens

**HELSINKI, FINLAND, January 31** - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education had a meeting with Her Excellency Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, Minister of Education and Culture of Finland and discussed bilateral cooperation between two countries during the working visits of Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Education to Helsinki, Finland in January 2019.

The Minister of Education was accompanied by Dr. Shamsiah Zuraini Kanchanawati binti Haji Tajuddin, Permanent Secretary (Core Education) and officers from the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam and the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in the Federal Republic of Germany. The Minister also visited schools and institutions in Helsinki, Finland to take a closer look at the Finland education system.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education during the meeting with Her Excellency Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, Minister of Education and Culture of Finland. Also in the meeting was Dr. Shamsiah Zuraini Kanchanawati binti Haji Tajuddin, Permanent Secretary (Core Education) at the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam.

## To become a smart nation, infrastructure needs to be strong

**JERUDONG, January 30** - In raising awareness on the benefits and opportunities of driving innovation and digital growth in Brunei Darussalam, the Authority for Info-Communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AITI) has organised a forum entitled 'Smart Future Forum', held at Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Present as the guest of honour and to launch the Smart Future Forum was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC).

In his speech, the Minister expects that with modern technology, it will offer more opportunities for all, other than the digitalisation of daily routines. Hence, it is possible for us to focus our efforts on more important matters as well as improving the quality of life for all people in the country.

Whereas in preparing to become a smart nation, the Minister highlighted that it is important to have strong infrastructure.

The Minister explained that the Government of His Majesty through MTIC is working closely with the Ministry of Finance and Economy as well as other agencies in upgrading the telecommunications infrastructure to ease business, reduce business cost and increase productivity.

The Minister further explained that through the Digital Economy, cybersecurity is an important component in ensuring the security of data is maintained.

Earlier, Pengiran Haji Mohd. Zain bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Razak, Chief Executive of AITI, in his welcoming speech, emphasised that the two-day



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications in a group photo at the opening ceremony of the 'Smart Future Forum' held at Indera Kayangan Ballroom, The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

forum carrying the theme 'Innovation through Emerging Technologies', will explore how technology can be used as a drive of innovation in Brunei Darussalam. He also hopes that the forum can act as a platform to share ideas, knowledge and as a place to share experiences in shaping a smart nation initiative and how it can be utilised in Brunei Darussalam.

Two keynote papers were presented by invited speakers initiated by Mr. Konesh Kochhal, Director of Industry Ecosystem Engagement, Marketing of the South Pacific Region, Huawei Technologies Sdn. Bhd. with the title 'Global Landscape for Smart Nation, Digital Economy and Industry 4.0', followed by a second keynote address titled 'Smart Cities Sustainable - Forging Solutions Together' presented by Dr. S. Ismail Shah of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area Representative for Southeast Asia and Timor-Leste.

Present at the forum was Dato Seri

Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw, Deputy Minister of Energy, Manpower and Industry in his capacity as Chairman of AITI.

Also present were Yang Berhormat Siti Rozaimeryanti binti Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Abdul Rahman, Members of the Legislative Council as well as Permanent Secretaries; Deputy Permanent Secretaries; members of AITI; senior government officials; and representatives from the private sector.

The forum brings together experts from within and abroad, among others the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC); Singapore's Smart Nation and Digital Government Office (SNDGO) and Info-Communications Media Development Authority (IMDA); Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn. Bhd. (BSP) and local telecommunications companies.

## Launching of Temburong Bestari Community Centre

**TEMBURONG, January 31** - The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) through the Community Development Department in cooperation with the Language and Literature Bureau has established another Senior Citizens Activity Centre in the Temburong District named Temburong Bestari Community Centre (PMB) located under one roof with the National Service Programme (PKBN) Training Camp.

The main objective of the centre is to be a 'One Stop Centre' for activities towards producing a knowledgeable and active community. It also serves as a facility for the senior citizens to interact with other communities, especially the youth, teenagers and children with the aim of bridging the gap between them.

The operation of the centre will give the community the opportunity to gain knowledge through the sharing of experiences from senior citizens.

Present as a guest of honour and to officially launch the Temburong Bestari Community Centre was Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The launching was marked with the



Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports launching the Temburong Bestari Community Centre.

strike of a gong and followed by a plaque signing by the Minister of MCYS.

The event also showcased and sold products from each mukim and village in Temburong District such as fruits, traditional cakes, as well as cooking demonstrations and more.

With the establishment of PMB in Temburong District, it is hoped to be able

to provide the need of senior citizens to continue to enjoy an active lifestyle and to engage in various activities and programmes that are suitable for them.

At the same time, it is also hoped that the first step for the centre is to attract the involvement of the youth and surrounding communities in beneficial social activities towards a united and knowledgeable community.

## The Creative Industry Programme, a platform for talented youths



Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports listening to a briefing about the theatrical performance titled 'Takdir' by Sutera Memento.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 5** - A new platform of a meaningful and persistent medium is important in providing opportunities for talented, creative and innovative youth to contribute towards national development by significantly based on the philosophical values of the Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB).

The matter was said by Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) at the launching ceremony of Youth Centre Week Night held at Raidah Hall, Youth Centre in the capital.

The Minister added that towards this, the Creative Industry Programme would have a great impact in the pursuit of more ideas and initiatives to develop the industry in Brunei Darussalam.

"In exploring the creative industry, it is important for the youth to stay united in utilising collaboration with each other. In this joint effort, MCYS will also provide strong support to our youthful creative

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industry which encompasses various fields," said the Minister.

Earlier, Hajah Noor Monasalieana @ Suzie binti Haji Mohd. Salleh, President of the Youth Centre Week Night Council in her welcoming speech among others hoped that the Youth Centre Week Night can be a platform that assists the youth individually or in groups to be more pro-active and step out of their comfort zone, will be able to provide employment opportunities and will generate some of the country's economy and attract foreign tourists.

Also in attendance were members of the Legislative Council, Yang Berhormat Nik Hafimi binti Abdul Haadi; Yang Berhormat Iswandy bin Ahmad; and Yang Berhormat Naim bin Haji Kamis; as well as Datin Paduka Dr. Hajah Norlila binti Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil, Permanent Secretary at the MCYS.

The Youth Centre Week Night is a collaboration between the Youth and Sports Department and Youth Volunteers, and is held once a month, on the first Saturday of the first week of every month, by organising pro-active activities that



The Minister viewing the display of arts and handicrafts made from songket and wasted cardboard while touring the 'Ruang Belia Kitani' (Our Youths' Lounge).

maximizes the use of the facilities such as the Riadah Hall, Silaturahim Hall, Music and Dance Studio, Ruang Belia Kitani (Our Youths' Lounge), swimming pool and café area throughout the year with various activities conducted monthly, organised by the youths themselves.

Among the activities conducted at the launching were Cosplay and Facepainting by the Brunei Freelance Cosplay Club; theatrical play titled 'Takdir' (Fate) by

Sutera Memento; dancing and singing performances by Amux Motion; an audition by Creative Content Group; interview with Pro-Networkers Team (PNT) and Youth Community Transformation Club (KKBT) and sales booths.

Among the objectives of the Youth Centre Week Night is to revive the atmosphere at the Youth Centre, which will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the end of 2019.

## Society plays an important role in assisting Persons with Disabilities



Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports hitting a gong to mark the launching the International Day of Persons with Disabilities celebration.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 8** - To celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities which is celebrated on 3rd of December every year, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), through its Department of Community Development held a forum at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

Present as guest of honour and to launch the forum was Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The launching of the forum commenced with the reading of Surah Al-Fatihah and a *Doa Selamat* led by Khairul Anwar bin Haji Abdul Ghafar, a graduate from the Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University, followed by the reading of verses from the Al-Quran by Nurasilah binti Zaini, a student from Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.

Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Alimin bin Haji Abdul Wahab, President of the Council for the Welfare of Persons with Different Abilities in his welcoming remarks among others stated that every individual regardless of their abilities and disabilities have equal rights in various aspects, without any exemptions or privileges to certain groups only.

Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Alimin, also as Co-Chairman of the Council said that the society plays an important role in assisting Persons with Disabilities to overcome challenges and obstacles.

Four panels members were invited in the forum titled 'Empowering Persons with Different Abilities Through Involvement

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and Equality', namely Bahri bin Bohari, Education Officer; Hajah Zaleha binti Haji Abu Salim from Brunei Down Syndrome Association (ABLE); Haji Ali Yusri bin Abdul Ghafor, Head of Special Education Unit; and Dr. Abang Muhd. Fahmy bin Abang Hepnie, Head of Rehabilitation Section, Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital.

The forum discussed on raising the society's awareness on issues related to the difficulties and challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities throughout their lives.

The forum was aimed at sharing knowledge and information related to the direction of efforts for participation and development of Persons with Disabilities in the present and future.



Among the invited guests present at the ceremony.

## UNISSA International Day



Dr. Awang Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA with undergraduates of UNISSA as well international students at the UNISSA International Day.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 19** - Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA) through its Student Affairs Department and its Students Representative Council for the first time, held the UNISSA International Day at the Auditorium of UNISSA.

Present as the guest of honour was Dr. Awang Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA. The event was attended by the Principal Officers, lecturers, staff, first year undergraduates and international undergraduates.

The event began with the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah led by Ahmad Shafiee bin Aim, Exco of the Religion and Spiritual Unit, followed by a speech from Farisa Sokry, Exco of International Affairs Unit as Chairperson of the event.

The event continued with a sharing session with international students of the university, namely Syazana binti Hussain from the Republic of Singapore, Suleiman Ali Hamad from Tanzania, and Ahmed Mohammed Alhaj Ahmed from Palestine, whereas Afiq Zikry bin Zulkifli from the Republic of Singapore was moderator for the sharing session.

speaking' performance by undergraduates from the Kingdom of Thailand.

The celebration was held in order to foster friendship between the undergraduates of UNISSA and international students from Malaysia, Republic of Singapore, Bangladesh, Republic of Indonesia, the Kingdom of Thailand, Palestine, Tajikistan, Dagestan and Cambodia.

The event also gave the opportunity for international students to introduce the unique culture and traditions of their country.



The Rector of UNISSA presenting a souvenir and certificate to Ahmed Mohammed Alhaj Ahmed from Palestine, a member of the forum's panel.



A choral speaking performance by international students from the Kingdom of Thailand.

The event was enlivened with a 'choral