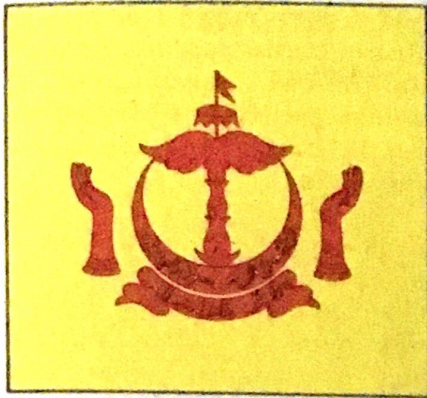




بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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15 March, 1991

Invitation for
Brunei
Darussalam
to invest in
Pulau Bintan

HM Sultan urges increased bilateral Brunei- Indonesia cooperation

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam would like to see an increase in bilateral co-operation between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Indonesia.

This, His Majesty hoped, would include training for Bruneians in the fields of engineering, construction and related sector.

The Brunei ruler, who was in Bali for a visit at the invitation of His Excellency President Soeharto, raised the matter during his dis-



Above: The Do'a Selamat is recited shortly before His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam boarded his special flight to Bali, Indonesia. On extreme left of the picture is HRH Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisua Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah with HRH Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah standing next to him and slightly hidden behind is HRH Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah. Below: His Majesty bids farewell to HRH Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisua Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah.



BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 March 1991. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-225941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

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cussions with the Indonesian leader.

For his part, President Soeharto extended an invitation for the possibility of Brunei Darussalam investing in Pulau Bintan.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was accompanied on the four-day visit starting 2 March by two of his brothers, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, the Minister of Finance.

Cooperation and investment were among the wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues discussed by the two heads of state.

The problems in the Gulf also came under discussions by the two leaders and both expressed the hope that peace could prevail and that all the problems in the Middle-east could be resolved.

While in Bali, His Majesty the

Sultan and Yang-Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also attended the official launching of 75 tourism projects involving a number of leading hotels throughout Indonesia.

His Majesty also granted an audience to the Prime Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Mr. Goh Chok Teng, during which a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues were again discussed.

Brunei Darussalam already has on-going bilateral cooperation with both the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of Singapore as well as multilateral cooperation within the ASEAN context.

Among the existing areas of cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore are in defence, aviation, training of officials and expert services.

Brunei Darussalam is also purchasing a number of maritime patrol aircraft manufactured by the Industri Pesawat Terbang Nusantara (IPTN) of Indonesia. As well, a large number of Indonesians are currently serving His Majesty's Government, especially with the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Brunei Darussalam.

Al-Arqam religious movement formally banned

The Jemaah Al Arqam religious movement in Brunei Darussalam has been formally declared illegal under the Societies Act, the Ministry of Home Affairs announced on 4 March 1991.

Following the announcement, the authorities can take action against members of the movement who continue to engage with the activities of the Jemaah Al Arqam.

The decree to ban the movement was first made by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, during an Israk Mikraj celebration recently (12 February 1991). The movement's belief, investigations revealed, runs contrary to the true teachings of Islam based upon the Ahli Sunnah Al-Jamaah in the country.

Brunei Darussalam's vigorous education policy aimed at meeting manpower needs and upholding Bruneians values

The year 1992 is significant to parents and students alike in Brunei Darussalam. While internationally it will be the year when the Single European Market comes into being and regionally, the Visit ASEAN Year commences, an important event will also take place on the home-front in the form of the adoption of the dwibahasa system of education (bilingual education system) by all privately-run schools in Brunei Darussalam.

There are many reasons behind the Ministry of Education's dwibahasa policy or bilingual system of education. Under this system, the Malay language is the medium of instruction for all subjects except the English language, at the pre-primary three level. From primary four onwards, English is the medium of instruction in schools for core subjects such as

mathematics, science and economics.

Other subjects will continue to be taught in the Malay language. Technical subjects such as mathematics, economics and science for instance are "living subjects". They are also "technology-oriented" subjects, about which information are more widely available in the English language.

The emphasis on the Malay language, on the other hand, would help to assure that students do not lose touch with Bruneian values, norms, customs and traditions. SENIOR EDITOR AISHAH HJ. MOHAMED, recently interviewed the Education Minister for details to the dwibahasa policy and asked the minister about other related education issues. Brunei Darussalam Newsletter presents the texts of the interview.

Chief Editor:

All privately-run schools in Brunei Darussalam except for registered schools specially catering to children of expatriates and foreigners in the country, will be affected by the dwibahasa education policy (i.e. the Sistem Pendidekan Negara or the National Education System) by the year 1992. However, the Ministry of Education welcomes any move by those schools which decide to adopt the dwibahasa system before the 1992 deadline.

The schools which are exempted from the dwibahasa policy include the International School, the Korean Language School, the Panaga School, the Gurkha School, the British Garrison School, the Jigsaw Play School and other registered schools for children of expatriates.

All primary schools in the country, except for schools registered to cater for children of expatriates, will have to follow the curriculum set down by the Ministry of Education not later than 1992.

Beginning 1998, children who

are citizens of Brunei, permanent residents and those who are "stateless" who attended schools which do not adopt the Sistem Pendidekan Negara will not be allowed to continue their secondary education, i.e. after Primary 6, in government and non-government schools which follow the Sistem Pendidekan Negara.

Children who are Brunei citizens, permanent residents of Brunei and those who are "stateless", therefore, could not attend schools which do not adopt the Sistem Pendidekan Negara Brunei Darussalam.

This ruling, however, is not applicable to children of foreign diplomats in the country, children of contract officers who are serving the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and children whose parents are foreigners working in the private sector in the country.

Most of these statements were disclosed in the Ministry of Education circular dated 26



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, Minister of Education.

November 1990. It was circulated to all 31 privately-run schools in the country.

In an exclusive interview with the Daily News Digest of Brunei Darussalam and Brunei Darussalam Newsletter recently, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, the Education Minister, gave more details on other related matters of the dwibahasa policy as well as other education issues. Following are excerpts of the interview.

Question: Could Yang Berhormat Pehin give more details to the dwibahasa/bilingual policy of the Education Ministry. What are the various subjects taught in English and Malay language after primary three, i.e. at primary four onwards? Why are subjects like history, art etc taught in Malay while others such as science, economics and mathematics in English?

Minister: In order to understand why certain subjects are taught in English and some in Malay, we have to look at the situation before independence. Prior to independence, there were two streams; the Malay and English streams. In the

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Malay stream schools, all subjects were taught in the Malay language. Because of the shortages of books and teachers, the latter in particular, subjects like science could not be taught in Malay. In the English stream schools, on the other hand, all subjects were taught in the English language. Eventually, students graduating from the Malay stream schools were less qualified, thus, they were at a comparative disadvantage compared to those coming from English stream schools, i.e. in their application for admission to overseas universities.

After independence, in order to avoid wastage and ensure equal opportunity for admission to overseas universities and in view of the small number of population of Brunei Darussalam, it is now not viable to continue with the two systems which existed prior to independence. Students intending to pursue courses not available in higher institutions of learning in this country would have to be proficient in English in order to gain admission in educational institutions abroad.

The dwibahasa policy was therefore implemented in 1985 in all government schools. We hope that at the "A" Level, students will be equally proficient in Malay and English. After their GCE "A" Level, students could enrol in universities where the medium of instruction is either in Malay or in English. Opportunities are now opened to all Bruneians wishing to pursue their studies in all English-speaking countries.

Under the dwibahasa policy, which is the national education policy of this government, Malay is the medium of instruction for all subjects except the English language for the lower primary education up to primary three.

At the primary four onwards up to Form 6, subjects like Bahasa Melayu (Malay language), Islamic knowledge, MIB or Melayu Islam Beraja (Malay Muslim Monarchy), physical education and art

are taught in the Malay language. History, which is currently being taught in English, will also soon be taught in the Malay language.

As to why these subjects are taught in the Malay language, let's take history as an example. History, I believe, is a subject which could touch the chord (i.e. hearts and souls) of the people. With history taught in the mother-tongue, the individual could better understand his country's history and feel a greater sense of commitment and love for it. The same goes for subjects like Islam. These are core subjects which could shape the character of the child/individual with Islamic and traditional Bruneian values.

Others like geography, science, mathematics, economics and technical subjects are taught in the English language. These are more technology-oriented subjects. Geography today, for instance, differs from the geography taught in earlier times. In those days, we mainly learnt about the population of a country and the likes. Geography today includes studies on the movements of the moon etc, and it encompasses the study of science. It also requires the use of more sophisticated equipment. We do not have the books and teachers who are skilled in this area. Therefore, we have to recruit foreign teachers and use books in English.

Similarly for science, mathematics, economics and computers. These are all "living subjects". If we continue to teach them in Malay, we shall lag behind. It is a fact that eighty percent of the new knowledge in this world can be obtained in English, in particular through the use of computers.

In short, we therefore have to be fully proficient in English and be familiar with the ever changing technology which affect these subjects.

Question: How about mission schools and Chinese schools in the country. Will they too be affected with the 1992 deadline whereby the dwibahasa policy is to be adopted throughout the country?

Minister: It is compulsory for all mission schools, Chinese schools and other privately-run schools in this country to adopt the dwibahasa policy by 1992. Schools catering solely for children of expatriates are exempted from this ruling. All schools catering for Bruneian children - citizens, permanent residents and the "stateless" - will have to adopt the curriculum approved by the Education Ministry. The Chinese language as a subject can still be taught in Chinese schools provided it does not affect the school curriculum and time-table. The content on the curriculum on the Chinese language is prepared by the Education Ministry.

In view of the number of expatriates' children, I expect the private sector will build more schools to cater for these children. A time limit of about five years or shorter is given so that more schools can be built to cater for the large number of expatriates' children. Eventually, the International School as in Singapore, will only cater for children of expatriates in this country. PGGMB for instance, may have to build schools for Bruneian children and another for children of expatriates.

Question: Does the Ministry of Education envisage any problem with the implementation of the dwibahasa policy. If there are any, how does the ministry intend to resolve them? Children for instance who have been taught in Malay in the first years of lower primary education up to primary three, may encounter some difficulties in switching to the English language which is the medium of instruction for certain subjects at primary four up to form 6.

Minister: InsyaAllah (God Willing), by and large, there won't be any problem which cannot be surmounted. We have a number of years of experiences since we started the system in 1985. By 1992, we would have completed the entire exercise from the primary up to the

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"A" level in government schools. With these experiences, I do not foresee any problem when the dwibahasa system is implemented in the privately-run schools. The shift from the Malay language to the English language for certain subjects is not an issue here, because these students would have already acquired a basic foundation of the English language at the lower primary level. At Primary 4 onwards, the use of the English language is extended to other subjects.

We, at the Ministry of Education would provide assistance to the privately-run schools when the dwibahasa policy is implemented. We could loan teachers to teach Islam and history in Malay for instance in those schools. By and large, we do not foresee any major problem. More significant is whether these schools are committed to the dwibahasa system. As long as these schools cater to Bruneian children, they have to abide to the system.

Question: How does the bilingual policy meet the national goals in the overall education objectives of the country?

Minister: From previous experiences, I see a lot of improvements in various aspects since the implementation of the dwibahasa system in government schools in 1985. In previous years, for example, not many Bruneians will have scored high marks in the English language. Today, it is more common to see a large number of Bruneians able to master the language. With proficiency in this language, they are now more widely exposed to an increasing number of knowledge and information written in that language. They are also more competent in following courses at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam now that they are more proficient in English. At the same time I hope these students, as Bruneians, will neither neglect nor be less fluent in the Malay language.

The education policy aims to

bring about the most effective system by which we would be able to mould the individual into becoming not only an educated person, but one who is also a devout, disciplined and responsible adult in society; one who is also able to play a useful role in contributing toward the national development.

The national education system, through the dwibahasa policy upholds the sovereignty of the Malay language which is the national language of the country. At the same time, it does not ignore the importance of the English language in view of the fact that a vast amount of knowledge and modern technology can be acquired through it, and to give Bruneians the competitive edge in the admission to overseas universities.

The teaching of Islam in the Malay language, which is required under the dwibahasa policy, ensures that Islamic values and the Islamic way of life are integrated into the education system through the school curriculum.

The national education policy also seeks to promote a national identity, one that places obedience to Allah (God the Almighty) and Prophet Muhammad, loyalty to the Monarch and love for the country.

The education system further seeks to cultivate among Bruneians, the Bruneian values and norms, i.e. based upon the principles of the Malay Muslim Monarchy concept.

Question: Could Yang Berhormat Pehin also elaborate on the recent formation of the National Accreditation Council announced by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. The Council is empowered to approve diplomas and degrees (local and overseas). Apart from ensuring consistency in standard, what are the other objectives of this council? Why is this council introduced now?

Minister: Before the formation of the National Accreditation Council, it was more on a sporadic and an ad hoc basis that recog-

nition/approval is given to degrees or diplomas conferred by higher institutions of learning. For instance, if it is a degree on medicine, then the Director of Medical Services was empowered to approve/recognise that degree. At the that time, the number of Bruneian graduates and expatriates working in Brunei were minimal.

Now that we are exposed to the international community and Brunei has become a member of several international organisations such as ICASE (International Association on Science Education), ASEAN, the Commonwealth etc. we thus face more complicated problems in giving recognition to diplomas/degrees. The council therefore acts as the sole National Accreditation authority in the country empowered to recognise/approve either local or overseas degrees and diplomas.

Question: Does this mean that Bruneian graduates seeking employment would not stand a chance of being recruited, if they have graduated from universities not recognised by the council?

Minister: They may still be taken to serve the government but with their qualification not recognised by the council, their appointment will be based on a different salary scale and a different scheme of service. This ruling is not only applicable to Bruneians but also any foreigner who is seeking employment with the Government of His Majesty.

It is however up to employers in the private sector to hire anyone with degrees/diplomas or qualifications which are not recognised by this council. The job-seeker may well possess some outstanding qualities which the employer in the private sector is looking for.

Question: Will the council make publicly known the list of degrees, diplomas etc obtained from local and overseas universities and other higher institutions of learning, so that intending students wishing to pursue their degrees/diplomas abroad will be aware

Celebrations to mark Israk and Mikraj at Istana Nurul Iman

Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha has attended Israk and Mikraj celebrations (ascension of Prophet Muhammad) - one held at the Istana Nurul Iman and another held at the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers' College in Bandar Seri Begawan.

The celebrations at both venues began with Quran reading and were highlighted by special religious talks on the significance of the occasion by officials of the Islamic Dakwah (propagation) Centre of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Organised by the Brunei Women's Council, the celebration at the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers' College, as with the celebration at Istana Nurul Iman, also featured various religious presentations such as Islamic poetry recitals and Nasyid (Islamic religious songs presented by a choir).

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that certain degrees/diplomas conferred by certain higher institutions of learning will not be recognised by the Council?

Minister: Parents who wish to send their children abroad for further studies, could approach this council for advice and guidance. This council will consider each case on its own merit.

The National Accreditation Council is headed by the Education Minister as Chairman, the Deputy Education Minister as Deputy Chairman and its members, among others, include permanent secretaries from the Ministries of Industry and Primary Resources, Development, Religious Affairs, Health, Director of Establishment, Chairman of the Public Service Commission and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UBD.

Question: Yang Berhormat Pehin would you like to add or stress anything else with regard to the



Above: Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha and other members of the royal family at the celebration at the Istana Nurul Iman. Below: Her Majesty exchanges greetings with other Muslims during the celebration.



dwibahasa education system?

Minister: Since education involves everyone in the country, parents and children alike, I sincerely hope they will fully understand and appreciate the rationale and the good intention behind this policy. I, therefore, hope that they will be committed to help in the successful implementation of this system. The system is not new and it has been implemented in other countries. Support to the system is essential

for it involves nation building and I am convinced that this system is right for Brunei Darussalam.

Question: During the official opening of a new school in Tutong recently, Yang Berhormat Pehin mentioned about the possibility of introducing the Arabic language in schools. What is the reason behind this move?

Minister: The Arabic language and other foreign languages such as French, German and Chinese will be introduced as elective sub-

Celebrations to mark Israk and Mikraj at

Istana Nurul Izzah

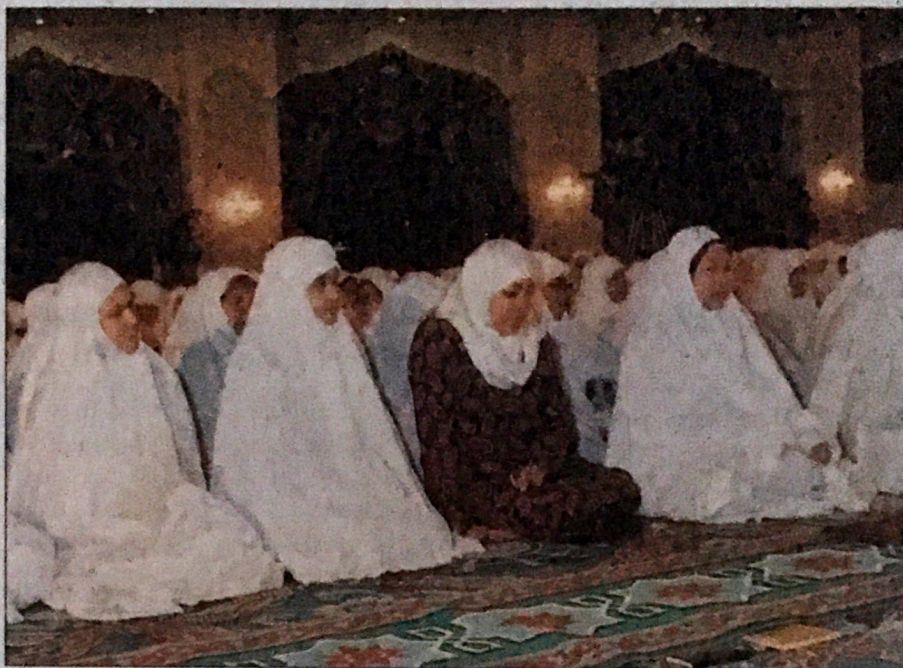
A religious talk on the significance of Israk and Mikraj (the ascension Prophet Muhammad) was one of the highlights of a celebration marking Israk and Mikraj held recently at Istana Nurul Izzah in Jerudong which was attended by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam.

At the function, Her Royal Highness and other members of the royal family joined hundreds of other Muslims in performing mass (congregational) Maghrib and Isyak prayers before witnessing various religious presentations put up for the occasion.

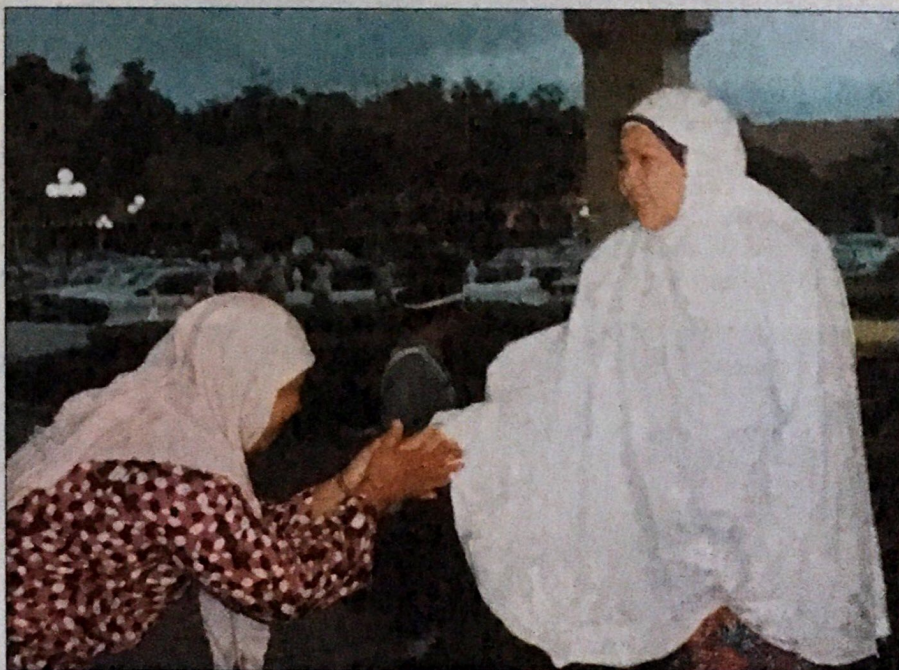
The talk on the significance of Israk and Mikraj was delivered by the Chief Kadhi, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal, who among other things, highlighted the leadership and other exemplary qualities of Prophet Muhammad.

jects, in stages. It is of course optional for students to take these languages.

An understanding of the Arabic language for instance is essential so that the Malays/Muslims who do not understand Arabic could comprehend the Holy Quran without having to resort to translations. Most likely it will be introduced next year in some schools and later extended to other



Above: Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam (fourth from left) joined hundreds of other Muslims for an Israk and Mikraj celebration at the Istana Nurul Izzah. Below: After the celebration, Her Royal Highness gave audience to those present.



schools as well.

Question: The Fifth Five-Year National Development Plan ends in 1990. Will the Ministry of Education be giving special emphasis or focus to any particular aspect in the Sixth National Development Plan in order to achieve its national education policies?

Minister: On our part, we shall further coordinate and strengthen

our roles and programmes in particular in providing the skilled manpower required, consistent with the development needs of the country. We shall also continue to endeavour to shape each individual through the education system, according to "calak Brunei", i.e. in cultivating in each individual, an awareness of Brunei values, norms, customs and traditions.

Local entrepreneurs' exposure to foreign industrialists essential for establishment of joint ventures

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman has said his ministry is encouraging the exposure of local entrepreneurs to foreign industrialists in the efforts to establish joint-ventures.

Besides investment, he said, joint-ventures would help to provide other specialties, such as technology, foreign market and management skill. The characteristics of investment condition in the country, therefore, should be improved in order to attract distinguished foreign entrepreneurs.

Officiating at the opening of the Local Trade Exhibition held at the International Trade Centre in the capital on February 15, the Yang Berhormat went on to state that with this aim in mind, the ministry would attend continuously to local

entrepreneurs in the efforts to enhance the development of private sectors in the country.

The minister also stated that in view of the financial situation and shortcomings in the skills of local industrialists, attention would be given to both this aspect and the provision of the facilities infrastructure. Efforts would also be upgraded to provide them with suitable training.

The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, said the Yang Berhormat, has recently used training programme under the ASEAN-Australia Cooperation in which 40 local entrepreneurs were trained. The ministry is also now working to ensure the availability of facilities and training opportunities under the Commonwealth Cooperation Programme for industrialists.

The Sinaut Agriculture Training

Centre, he added, is also providing short-term courses for entrepreneurs in accountancy, marketing, management and technology transfer etc. The training scheme is continuously analysed to improve the scope and its implementation.

He informed that his ministry is also taking suitable initiative to upgrade cooperation and the commitment of particular groups to provide more schemes on financial loan specially to develop local entrepreneurs.

Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman, however, stressed that what is more important is the stage of their entrepreneurship and their ability to make good use of the support. "If the entrepreneurs continued to be narrow-minded, always hoping

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Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, spoke on the need for local entrepreneurs to be exposed to foreign industrialists in the promotion of joint-venture businesses.

for unnecessary government's support, afraid of taking risk of the developing industries, ignore the quality and the good name of the industry in order to reap immediate profit and are suspicious of foreign investors and so forth, then all these would give negative effects to the development of the industry itself."

The minister also stressed the need for local entrepreneurs to play their role in upgrading their entrepreneurship besides government efforts to encourage the existence of competitive industries. In this case, he added, their attitudes, their opinions and their outlook and acceptance of a positive development are vital. Competitive industrial climate, said the minister, is another important factor in the development of a private sector.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources earlier in his speech noted that the private sectors are an important component in the economic development of a country. The fact, said the minister, is revealed by the developed and the developing countries whose rapid economic development relied upon the development of the private sectors and the system of free industries.

The fact, said the Yang Berhormat, enables us to ensure the vital needs and it would also be the basis in our efforts to diversify the country's economy.

The Local Trade Exhibition was jointly organised by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and the Economic Planning Unit. The week-long exhibition was participated by 25 private sectors from cottage to secondary industries which produce for local consumption. Their status as cottage and secondary industries with moderate financial situation and skill, said the minister, would easily weaken their industries if

Brunei Darussalam chosen as location for SEAMEO's Voctech centre

The SEAMEO (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation) Regional Centre for VOCTECH (Vocational and Technical Education) to be based in Brunei Darussalam, will accept students from member countries next year.

Member countries have also reached an agreement to the rulings in the setting up of the centre and the first meeting is scheduled to be held middle this year to discuss several issues, such as the criteria and mechanisms for the selection of SEAMEO - VOC-TECH scholarship recipients, mechanisms for graduates to apply their newly-acquired knowledge and skills, information networking and financial support.

This decision was agreed by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education after a meeting in Manila from 5 to 7 February. The Minister of Education of Brunei Darussalam, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz made this announcement at a press conference after attending the 26th SEAMEO conference in

the Philippines. The official opening of the conference was officiated by Her Excellency President Corazon Aquino.

The establishment of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for VOCTECH will pool together the expertise and resources from the region and contribute to meeting the needs of member countries. The governments of member countries realise that an efficient and up-to date vocational and technical education system is essential to support the countries economic and social developments.

The Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the SEAMEO VOCTECH Centre was signed on 28 August last year. The Centre's headquarters are located on the grounds of Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

In June/July 1992, SEAMEO VOCTECH plans to implement its first fully-fledged training programme, comprising two phases. Phase I will consist of a three-month period of in-house training

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the relevant support is not given.

Here then lies the need to implement industrial climate that would help small and secondary industries and especially those who are about to start their business. The incentive is in the aspect of tax, facilities of importing raw materials, financial loan facility, manpower and training facilities which are considered as an aid towards strengthening their position as entrepreneurs.

The Director of the Economic Planning Unit, Datin Paduka Hajjah Jusnani bte Haji Lawie in

her address spoke of the main objectives of the exhibition which is to introduce to the citizens that there are local entrepreneurs who produce for local markets and for export. Datin Paduka Hajjah Jusnani urged the public to give support to those who produce for local consumption in order to encourage the development of industry.

The exhibition was also held in conjunction with the Seventh National Day which fell on 23 February, and to mark the opening of the Exhibition Hall of the International Trade Centre.

at the SEAMEO VOCTECH Centre, and Phase II will consist of field work lasting up to 12 months.

Tight Budget Allocation Due to Current Gulf Crisis

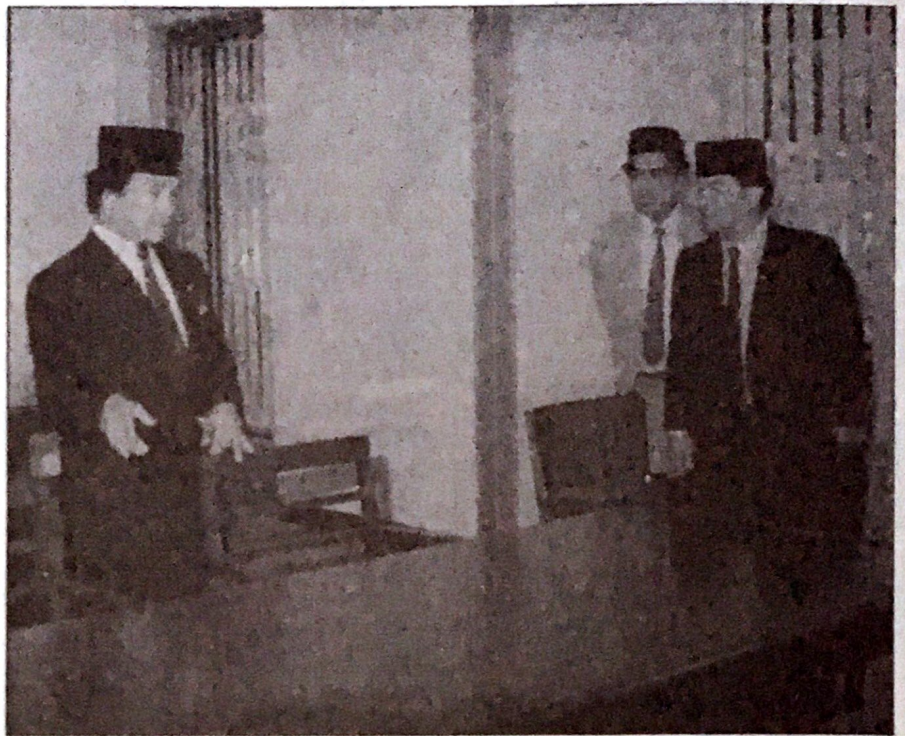
Due to the current Gulf Crisis, member countries had also realized that budget allocation for SEAMEO projects and activities would have to be "somewhat tight". Yang Berhormat Pehin disclosed. Donor countries in particular would have to consider the needs of their own countries. At the same time, Yang Berhormat Pehin said, countries like Canada and Japan had indicated their willingness to contribute funds where necessary.

UBD Willing to accept Brunei students from the Middle East who returned home after the Gulf Crisis

Universiti Brunei Darussalam is willing to accept Brunei students who are mainly pursuing courses from the Al-Azhar University in Cairo, should they eventually decide not to return to their studies in the Middle-east.

Yang Berhormat Pehin gave this assurance during the same press conference. The Education Minister, who is also UBD's Vice-Chancellor, stressed that this would depend on the decisions of the students and parents and provided that the Ministry of Religious Affairs also agreed to them continuing their studies in UBD. The Arabic language, the minister said, would remain the medium of instruction for these students at UBD, as in the case of the Al-Azhar University. UBD has staff proficient in Arabic. MIB, a compulsory subject to be passed by all UBD undergraduates, will now have to be taken by these students at UBD, Yang Berhormat Pehin added.

Heavier penalties now for possession of arms and explosive substances



The Law Minister, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin bin Pengiran Haji Abbas (extreme left) touring the courtroom of the Temburong district's newly-opened Magistrate's Court Building which will now handle many of the court cases which would otherwise be handled in Bandar Seri Begawan.

In line with its aim of ensuring that the country continues to be free from threats to its peace and stability, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has graciously approved amendments to the law relating to the illegal possession of weapons such as airgun and explosive substances. These amendments came into force on 30 January 1991.

Under this law, those found illegally in possession of weapons such as airgun and explosive substances could face stiffer penalties in the form of longer term of imprisonment of not less than five years and not more than 15 years as well as whipping of not less than three strokes. Prior to this amendment, the maximum penalty was a fine of one thousand dollars.

Making this announcement recently was the Law Minister, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji

Bahrin bin Pengiran Haji Abbas. The Minister, who is also the Attorney-General, was speaking at the opening of the new Magistrates' court building in the Temburong district on 28 February. **Amendments to the Internal Security Act and the Public Order Act**

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has also graciously approved amendments to the Internal Security Act and the Public Order Act, with penalties increased provided for certain offences under both laws.

Included in the amendments is an increase in the punishment for possession and carrying of offensive weapon in public places to imprisonment of not less than three years and not more than 15 years as well as whipping of not less than three strokes. These

● continued on page 11

amendments came into force effective from 13 February this year.

No one exempted from this law

No one is exempted from this law including members of the security forces namely the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and the Royal Brunei Police Force, the minister said. Members of the security forces are only allowed to be in possession of and use firearms only on specific occasions and in accordance with strict rules. Outside those permitted occasions, the possession and use of firearms without lawful authority is a serious criminal offence carrying the death penalty.

"It is appropriate to draw attention to this matter," the minister clarified, "because there may well be a misunderstanding that members of the security forces are exempted from this law."

Though the country is free from serious crimes involving firearms, there is no room for complacency. Particularly so, he said, in view of a

recent robbery involving the use of firearms.

Crime rate in the Temburong district

The Temburong district has been fairly free from serious crimes. Last year, there were a total of 25 criminal cases in the district and these were transferred for hearing in Bandar Seri Begawan. Up to February this year, there were 6 criminal cases which were also transferred to Bandar Seri Begawan. With the opening of the Magistrate's court, cases will be heard and "disposed of" in the district itself.

Judges and magistrates, the minister stated, will consider each case they are trying according to the evidence provided free from pressure or influence from outside as to what decision they should reach in any of the case before them.

The minister further assured that so long as the present high standard of judiciary is maintained in this country, justice is guaranteed and the citizens and inhabitants of the country would continue to receive the protection

of the law. Subsequently, stability and harmony needed for progress would be ensured.

Need for vigilance on matters affecting security and public safety

The minister also spoke of the need for vigilance on matters which might affect the security and public safety.

In this respect, the contribution of the community is vital in extending their cooperation and assistance to the law enforcement agencies.

The presence of community leaders namely penghulu-penghulu (village heads) and ketua-ketua rumah panjang (chiefs of long houses), senior government officers as well as private lawyers who were present at the ceremony, said the minister, gave full meaning to the aspiration of the government. His Majesty's Government, Pengiran Haji Bahrin said, constantly encourages all the sections concerned to play their part in the development of the country towards ensuring national resilience.

ASEAN/ASOEN meet to control pollution and over-exploitation of ASEAN seas and maritime environment

A senior government official has expressed concern over the growing evidence of pollution, over-exploitation of marine resources and the wanton destruction of productive marine ecosystems such as mangoves, sea-grass beds and coral reefs.

Voicing this sentiment at the opening of the First Meeting of the ASEAN/ASOEN (ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment) Working Group on ASEAN Seas and Marine Environment) was the Director of the Fisheries Department, Haji Matdanan Haji Jaafar.

The two-day meeting began

Tuesday 19 February, at the International Convention Centre.

In his speech at the opening, the Director of the Fisheries Department stressed: "Our seas and the marine environment are well endowed with marine resources. The biodiversity is extremely high. Unfortunately, we cannot be complacent about the state of our seas and the marine environment."

"..... one of the primary goals of the ASOEN Working Group on the ASEAN Seas and Marine Environment", Haji Matdanan stressed, "would be to work towards the sustainability of our



The Director of the Fisheries Department, Haji Awang Matdanan expressed concern over increasing pollution and over-exploitation of seas and marine environment.

• continued on page 12

The standard of health service in Brunei Darussalam over the past 12 years is comparable to those in developed countries. Several health indicators would illustrate this point, the Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Johar bin Dato Paduka Haji Noordin has said.

In the first place, the death rate among children below the age of one has declined from 20 for every 1,000 to 7 per 1,000 at birth.

Secondly, this is also seen in the marked decrease of infectious diseases in the country. Brunei Darussalam has been declared free of malaria by the World Health Organisation in 1987. At the same time, contagious diseases such as rubella, hepatitis, measles and pulmonary tuberculosis have also significantly declined.

Premature death and subsequently a prolonged life expectancy is another case in point to illustrate that the health service in the country has remarkably improved over the past 12 years. The life expectancy for women in the country is 72.7 years, with men at 70.1 years.

The advancement in the standard of health in the country, the Minister continued, is due to the socioeconomic developments in Brunei Darussalam. Basic necessities such as water supply, food, the sanitation system, education and health service have all been met.

Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Johar

High standard of health service in Brunei Darussalam



"Standard of health service in Brunei Darussalam comparable to that of many developed countries" Dr. Haji Johar, Minister of Health (seen above viewing an exhibition shortly after the official opening of the new health clinic in Tutong).

made these statements when he officiated at the opening ceremony of the Tutong Health Clinic in Tutong town recently.

The minister also informed that a new hospital for the Tutong District will be built under the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan, which begins this year.

Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Johar further reminded everyone in the country - those in the private sector, the family and the individual - to shoulder the responsibility in the maintenance of health in the country. The government, he said, could not do it alone. Everyone, he said, has the right to good health, and together, they could achieve

it.

The new Tutong Health Clinic had cost about B\$1.7 million. Tutong had its first health clinic in 1952. The new clinic caters mainly for pregnant mothers and children below the age of five. It also provides dental services.

One of the main objectives of the Ministry of Health is in the provision of health services for everyone in the country. This objective is in line with the World Health Organisation's target in ensuring "Health for All by the Year 2000". The government on its part, seeks to fulfill this by providing several hospitals and clinics throughout the country.

● from page 11

seas and marine environment in the context of a rapidly developing ASEAN."

"All ASEAN countries are maritime", the official said.

The importance of the seas and the marine environment to the social, cultural and economic well-being of the people of ASEAN is well documented, he said.

The Working Group on ASEAN Seas and Marine Environment is

one of the six working groups under the ASOEN set up at the 4th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in June 1990.

The meeting discussed, among other things, the scope of work of the working group. It also aims to establish an ASEAN common stand in the rational and sustainable management of ASEAN Seas and Marine Environment renewable and non-renewable resources, marine pollution and marine ecosystems. The meeting also

seeks to identify areas of short-term and long-term concern and formulate strategies pertaining to the protection of ASEAN Seas and Marine Environment; identify encourage and promote projects pertaining to the management of ASEAN Seas and Marine Environment and review current ASEAN projects pertaining to ASEAN Seas and the Marine Environment.

More than 10 delegates, including five from Brunei Darussalam attended the meeting.



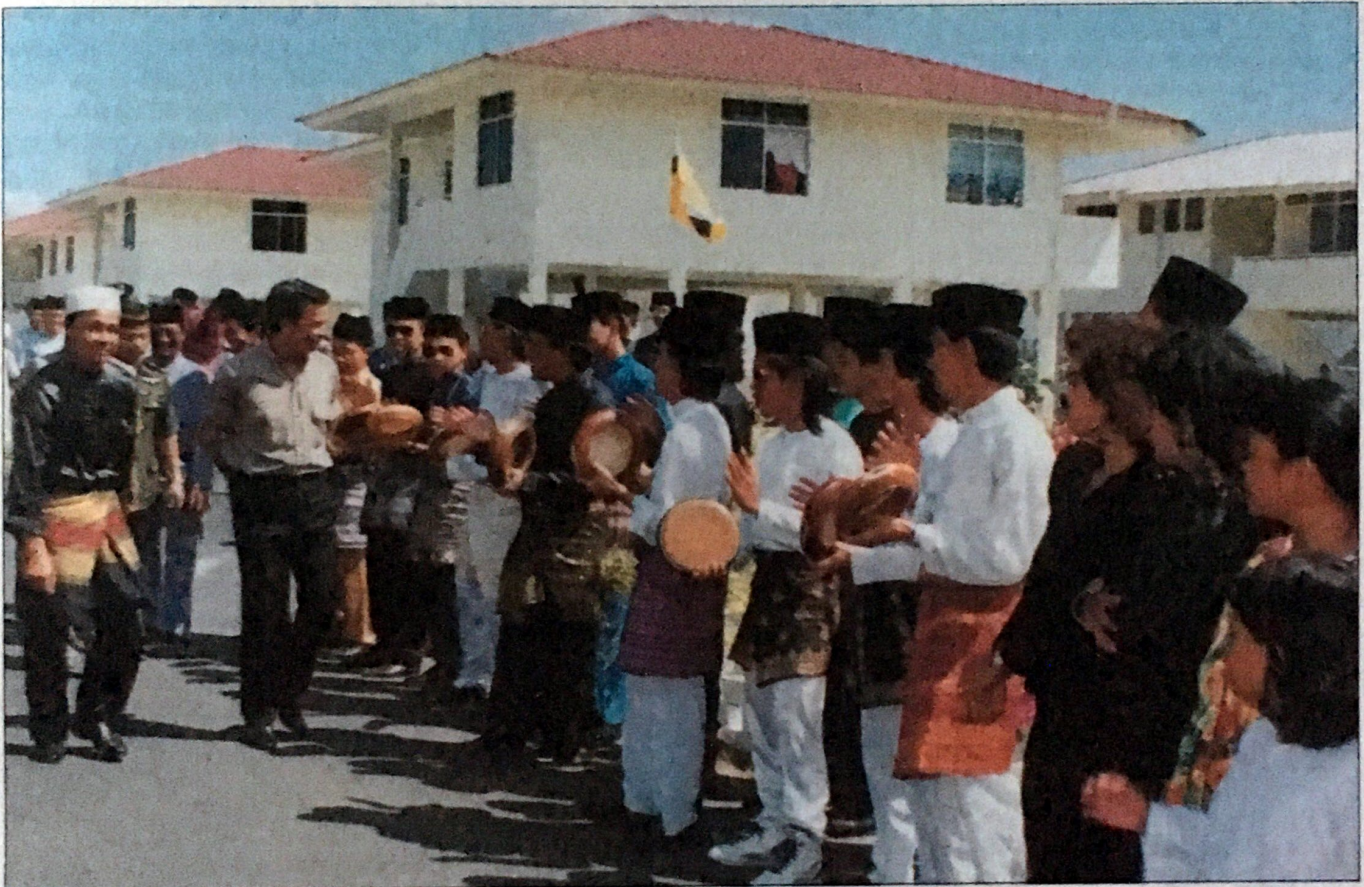
بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

Produced by the Department of Information
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. NUMBER 68

31 March, 1991



The beating of the 'Hadrah' marks a warm welcome for His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as he began his tour of the Housing Scheme for Landless Indigenous Citizens at Seria town - the seat of Brunei Darussalam's oil and gas industry.

His Majesty the Sultan gives free lands and extended terms of repayment for housing to his subjects

The Government of His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is determined to make life more comfortable and congenial for its

citizens and people of the country as a whole.

To demonstrate this point, the Brunei ruler himself recently personally presented land titles to some one hundred and ninety six people who had been living on

T.O.L (Temporary Occupation Licence) lands; and the keys to new houses built under the country's Housing Programme for Land-

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(More pictures of visits on pages 6 and 7)

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 April 1991. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-225941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

• from page 1

less Indigenous Citizens to forty seven people.

The presentation of the land titles means that the 196 recipients can now have a true claim of ownership to the previously government-owned lands - each of which measures approximately 0.5 acre, given cost-free and located at Anggerek Desa, which is one of the country's prime areas only several kilometres from the Brunei International airport.

A caring monarch, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam places the well-being and prosperous livelihood of his people above all.

"It is my desire to keep Brunei Darussalam prosperous and peaceful, and to see my people live in happiness and unity, enjoying ever-improving standards of living", the Brunei ruler declared on the country's resumption of full independence on 1 January, 1984.

As he handed over the titles on March 13, His Majesty the Sultan called on the recipients especially, and land owners in Brunei Darussalam in general, never to cede the ownership of their lands which he described as 'the most valuable assets'.

His Majesty called on them not to follow the footsteps of some of their ancestors who simply sold off their lands in order to obtain cash to enable them settle their debts, which in many cases amounted to a few thousand dollars.

Drawing the attention of the audience to the plight of the homeless afflicting not only the under-developed countries but some developed nations as well, His Majesty the Sultan said, "In Brunei Darussalam we are fortunate because we have not reached this stage yet".

Poverty and economic problems are among the factors contributing to the lot of the homeless, the Brunei monarch pointed out.

Other causes include the shortage or absence of available land

while at the same time the population keeps increasing.

"Countries confronted with such problems either take lightly the fate of the people or simply provide them with low-cost housing", said His Majesty.

"Without land, one could become a wanderer and destitute. It is better to have a little money than not having a piece of land", commented His Majesty, adding that one can earn many forms of livelihood through the ownership of land.

His Majesty also cited the destiny of the landless who some sometimes become squatters and constantly pursued by the authorities and are even treated as criminals at times for occupying lands which do not belong to them.

The one hundred and ninety six people make the first batch of a total of about eight hundred people to be given free lands within the same area. Under the policy, up to four immediate family members of the recipients would also be entitled to receive lands - each of a quarter of an acre.

The government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has been giving lands to citizens since the sixties with at least three groups having received their land titles prior to the most recent one.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had several days earlier (March 9) presented keys to new houses at Seria town - one of 14 sites chosen for the country's Housing Programmes for Landless Indigenous Citizens.

Housing is currently one of the top priorities of His Majesty's Government and under both the National Housing Scheme and the Housing Programme for Landless Indigenous Citizens, it is targeting to provide some 20,000 houses by the year 2000.

Eight sites have been selected throughout the country for the National Housing Scheme.

• continued on page 3

Already a large number of people have moved into new houses under the two schemes.

The houses, which vary from class A to class E in types, are purchaseable at low rates of repayment over a long term. And to ensure that the repayments would not become a burden on citizens His Majesty early this year commanded that the repayment period be extended, especially for those in the lower incomes bracket.

As a result, the repayment period has now been extended to a maximum of 30 years from the previous maximum period of 20 years.

While presenting the keys to the latest batch of 47 recipients, His Majesty urged for a formula to be found, designed to uphold and promote the spirit of goodwill and neighbourliness among the residents of the various housing projects.

"As the residents come from various parts of the country, a formula would have to be found to enable them get to know each other", His Majesty said.

The forty seven recipients constitute the third batch to be presented with the keys to new houses by His Majesty this year.

This underlies His Majesty's concern and commitment towards ensuring that his people live in comfortable housing, provided complete with all the necessary modern amenities and facilities.

"It is the responsibility of the Government to undertake whatever project or programme to ensure the comfort and well-being of my subjects and people", His Majesty had said when he presented keys to one of the earlier batches.

He stressed that his Government did not expect anything in return for this, saying, "the Government is well aware that the people relies on it and God Willing, it will take whatever step necessary from time to time to ensure that the needs of the people are met".

Exam questions to be partly answered in the Jawi script from 1994



The Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz

Come 1994, all students sitting for the Primary Certificate of Education Examination (PCE) would have to answer some questions in the Jawi script for the Malay language paper.

The move is part of the effort by the Government of His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to give the Jawi script an equal prominence to that of the Romanised script of the Malay language.

In a titah (address) recently, the Brunei ruler commanded that the Jawi script be promoted as it is 'our cultural heritage'.

"We do not want to lose this cultural heritage, for if it vanishes, it will affect our sense of nationhood and undermine our religion", said His Majesty at the annual National Qu'ran reading Competition early this year.

The announcement to include the Jawi script in the PCE Examination by 1994 was made early this month by the Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz.

The minister also spoke of other measures, both taken in the past as

well as those in store, to promote the Jawi script in Brunei Darussalam.

Recently, Yang Berhormat said, some 760 teachers have succeeded in this area. However, there are still a significant number of teachers who are ignorant of the Jawi script.

"To overcome this shortcoming and in response to the titah by His Majesty, the Ministry of Education through Universiti Brunei Darussalam is currently conducting a study to determine those teachers in the universiti as well as teachers in service who need to undergo training to study and practice the use of the Jawi script.

"It is hoped that all teachers who are currently undergoing training in UBD will be able to at least have a proficient knowledge in the writing of the Jawi script before leaving the universiti. Teachers who are in service particularly the Malay language teachers will be required to attend courses so that eventually all teachers in the country would be able to at least write and recite the Jawi script. Proficiency in this is needed and the taking of courses in stages for all teachers, in this area is compulsory," the minister said.

The minister was himself speaking at the official opening of the annual Quran Reading Competition among schools and colleges in the country.

He also expressed the hope in seeing that activities such as this would have the objective in imparting to students religious values such as courtesy, moulding them into fine characters, and those who remain grateful with the blessings of Allah (God the Almighty). In this way, InsyaAllah (God Willing) the minister said, we would be able to produce Muslim students, who excel academically and remain steadfast to their faith.



Above: Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha tours the exhibition which include reading and other information materials on breastfeeding.

Right: Her Majesty the Raja Isteri stopping for an informal chat with some of the participants of the seminar on breastfeeding.

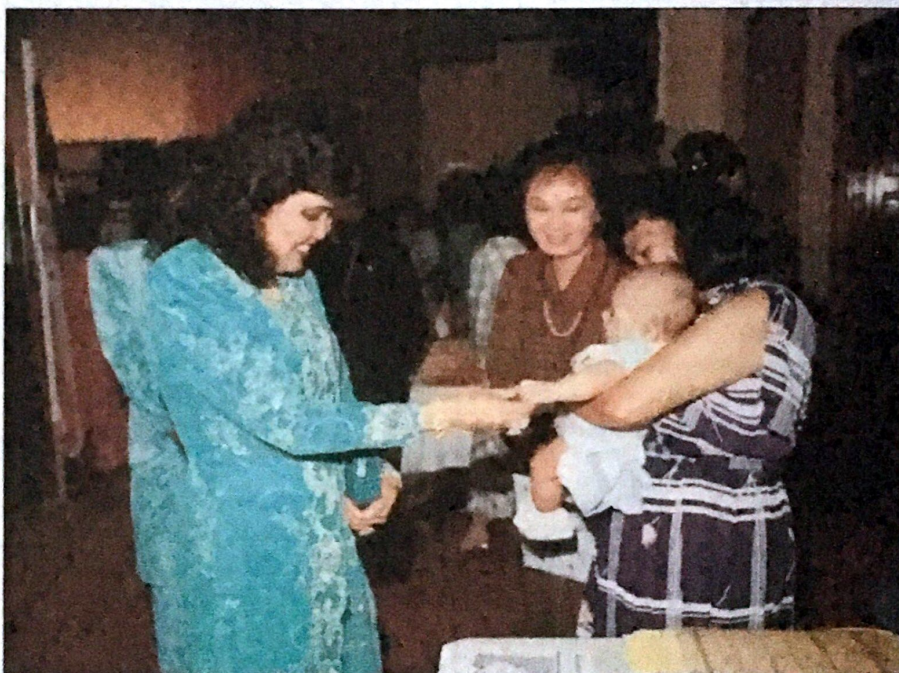
The importance for young mothers to breastfeed their infants, new-borns in particular, has been emphasised by Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha.

Mothers' milk is not only the best milk, it also provides an ideal nutrition which protects babies from various infections.

Her Majesty made these points in her address at the official opening of a seminar on breastfeeding held at the International Convention Centre on March 2.

Her Majesty said that while it would be a natural tendency for mother to breastfeed, most young mothers today however, especially those who are working, did not give priority to breastfeeding. Rather they had replaced it with substitute milk.

Her Majesty the Raja Isteri went on to say that this attitude was one of the factors leading to the weakening of the bond between a mother and her child.



"Love and affection found in a close relationship between a mother and her child was most important in establishing a happy and united family, and this in turn helps to create a harmonious society", Her Majesty said.

The fact that breastfeeding is encouraged by Islam was also stressed by Her Majesty.

The Seminar was organised by the Ministry of Health in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's Seventh National Day anniversary. The Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Awang Johar bin Dato Paduka

Breastfeeding
encouraged
among
mothers

Most
benefit in
mothers' milk
for infants

Haji Noordin, in his address, said that the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations' International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) have made the efforts to stress the significance of breastfeeding.

The minister said of late the practice of breastfeeding has declined although it was the only means to improve and upgrade infants' nutrition.

He disclosed that WHO and UNICEF were taking the efforts to

● continued on page 9

Find ways to ensure continuing use of Malay language - Minister

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain recently stressed the need for an effective measure to ensure the continuing use of Malay language in all aspects of life.

The minister expressed the hope that one day, we would be able to see our future generation capable of using the Malay language without any influence from a foreign language, i.e. in terms of structure or any of its characteristics.

Speaking to 55 representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia and five observers from Singapore at the opening ceremony of the 30th Conference of the Malay Language Council of Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia (MABBIM), held at the Consultation Hall of the International Convention Centre on March 4, the minister also drew the attention of delegates to whether the various efforts of the council had achieved its objective in assuring the continuous use of the Malay language.

The conference was the second to which Brunei Darussalam played host. The first hosted by the country was the 27th conference in 1988. Last year, Brunei Darussalam hosted the Conference of Malay Language Experts.

Yang Berhormat later expressed great pride in the ability of the country to maintain the wide use of the Jawi script. In relation to this, said the minister, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his recent titah, had commanded that the use of the Jawi script be upgraded and enhanced. The minister further expressed his view that efforts towards this direction had already been made by various authorities, like the Dewan Bahasa dan Pus-



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain opens the latest meeting of MABBIM in Bandar Seri Begawan.

taka or the Language and Literature Bureau in providing suitable guidelines.

The three-day conference discussed various important topics in linguistics and the continuous efforts made in the field of terminology. The Director of Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Awang Haji Ahmad bin Kadi, who is also the chairman of the Permanent Committee of the Malay Language for Brunei Darussalam and head of delegation for Brunei, in his address, noted that the regional cooperation among members in establishing an understanding and shared values in linguistics continued to be achieved through the spirit of mutual understanding and respect for the significance in the philosophy and ideology of each member country.

Awang Haji Ahmad earlier spoke of the importance of terminologies of the Malay language and their impact in the field of knowledge and technology transfer. An organised programme for terminologies in the Malay language, he added, is a significant invest-

ment for the future, for the development progress of the country, particularly in the teaching aspect, for textbooks and for documentation purposes. In this connection, he said, lies one of MABBIM's role.

Brunei Malay in a minute

Each month we introduce readers to a common Brunei Malay word as used in the country. This month we introduce the word **Taranah**.

Taranah is to remain in one place for some time.

The sentences below may help you to understand the meaning of the word clearly.

i. Kikik itu *taranah* di udara beberapa ketika.

The kite remained in position in the air for quite some time.

ii. Kanak-kanak itu *taranah* di tempat bermain.

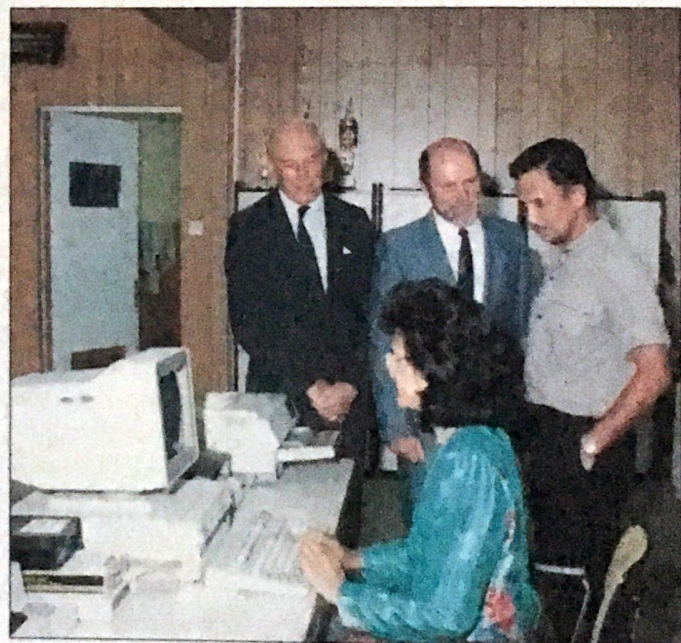
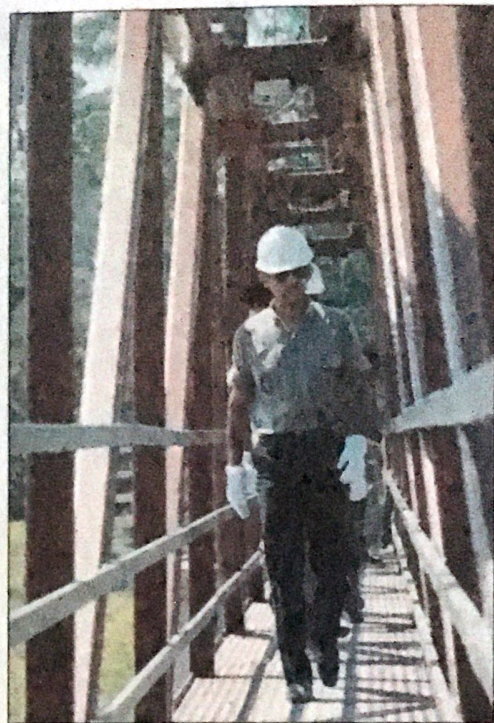
The child remained in the playground.

His Majesty the Sultan's visits to Seria town

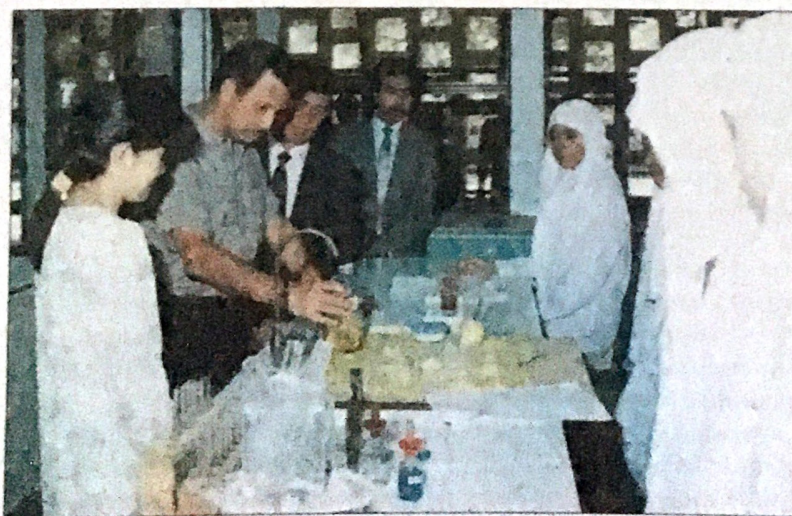


Above: His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam paused from his day-long tour of Seria to join his Muslim subjects in performing the Zuhur (noon) prayer at the Seria town mosque. On his Majesty's left is his brother Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

An inspection by His Majesty of the catchment dam and water treatment plant at Badas, just outside Seria town, which supplies the whole of the Belait district.



Above: His Majesty the Sultan inspecting the Brunei Shell Training Centre's high computerisation.



Above left: His Majesty watching very closely a young student of the Anthony Abell College absorbed in work during a woodwork class. Above: A close look at the Brunei Shell Training Centre's high computerisation.

Left: Showing a keen interest during his stop at the Anthony Abell College's chemistry lab, His Majesty the Sultan joined in the experiment that was being conducted.

Above: A brief moment with His Majesty the Sultan.

and Mukim Berakas in pictures

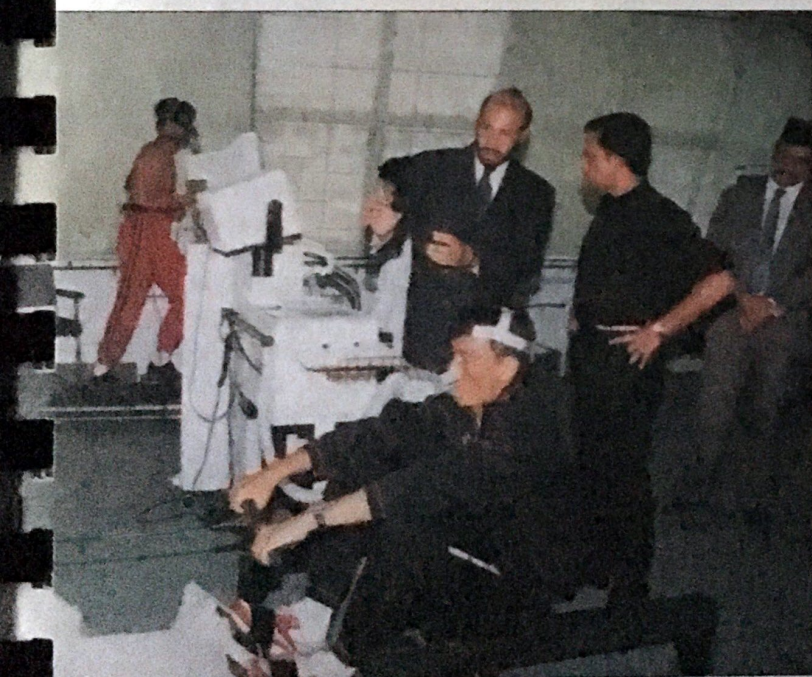
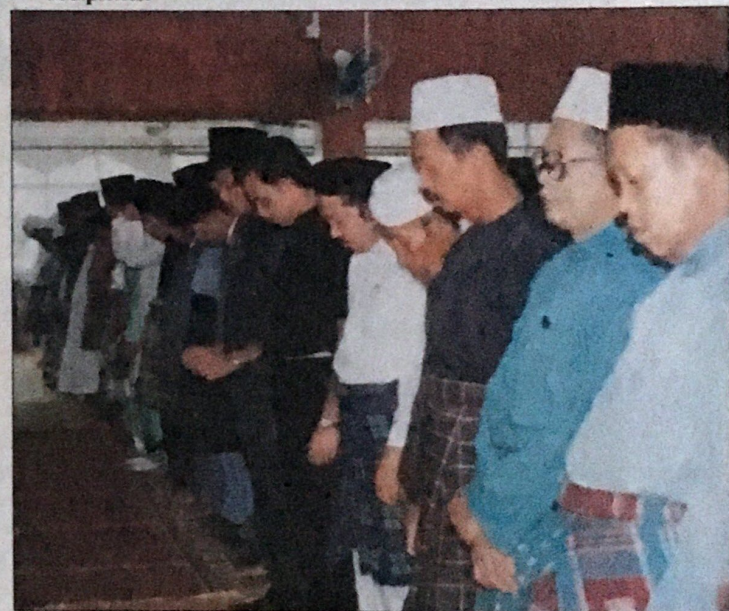
(Full reports of visit on pages 1, 2 and 3)



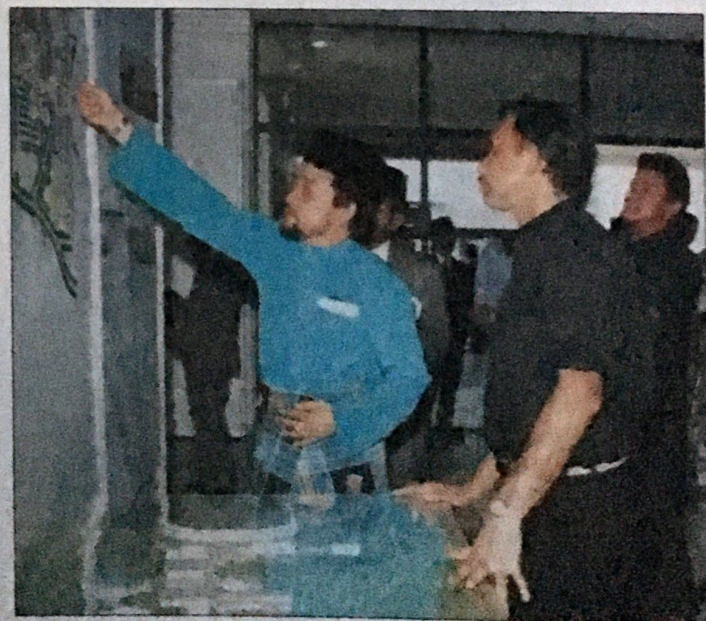
His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam touring the Anggerek Desa Commercial Complex and in the picture on right, the Brunei Sultan's tour for a while in order to perform the noon prayer with his subjects at the Pulaie mosque.



Above: His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting land title to one of the 196 recipients.



A close look at the sports clinic of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium and a Public Works Department official briefs His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan on the development of the Kampung Anggerek Desa Commercial Complex.



Graduates urged to create employment and not just turn to the government for jobs



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Abdul Saman urged graduates to show other section of the population that employment is not necessarily found in the public sector alone.

A highly educated person or an intellectual, a top government official has stressed, is not someone who earns his title by merely attending a higher institution of learning. Nor is he someone who is proudly in possession of a paper qualification such as a degree, for instance.

An educated person or an intellectual must also be able to foresee the problems in his community, and subsequently seek to find solutions to resolve these problems.

Precisely for this reason, graduates should therefore take the lead by highlighting to others, the fact that job opportunities need not necessarily be found in the government sector alone. Armed with the knowledge, training and experience they have acquired during their years of studies, they could help create employment in Brunei Darussalam. And simultaneously, they could help reduce unemployment in the country, in particular among the educated and degree-holders, though this may not necessarily entirely eradicate the problem.

Making this succinct observation and call was the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Saman bin Kahar. He was speaking as guest-of-honour at a ceremony to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah College.

(The Religious Affairs Ministry's Permanent Secretary had made a similar call in his talk on the Aspirations of the Community towards Religion. The talk, held during the first week of December, was organised for officials of his ministry as part of a course on Work Procedures and Policies. In his talk the official stressed the importance of initiative, a trait praiseworthy in Islam, in particular on matters of employment. One could be less reliant on the government for example, in the search for the employment. With initiative and the right attitude, one could start a business venture. In the process, job opportunities for others could also be created).

To illustrate his point, at the function at the college, the permanent secretary reiterated the call made by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, during the second convocation of Universiti Brunei Darussalam last September. In his titah, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah

Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stressed that as in most developed countries, it is the government's responsibility to provide education for the people. The government, however, does not have to provide jobs for them. The qualification which they have earned, is in itself an asset. This stand and approach is highly rational. His Majesty asserted.

The success of the education system in the country in the future will not be measured alone by the increasing number of schools or the number of new courses offered.

More significant, the permanent secretary explained, is how the education system could continue to achieve its main goals, that is in shaping Bruneians who are steadfastly religious, loyal to the ruler and consistently adhering to Bruneian values. At the same time, he is also sensitive to current economic and socio-economic developments in the country, and not least the security and any particular needs of the community and his country.

In the years ahead, the country will also be confronted with numerous challenges. Thus, efforts to enhance national resilience should also be given priority in the education system, the permanent secretary concluded.

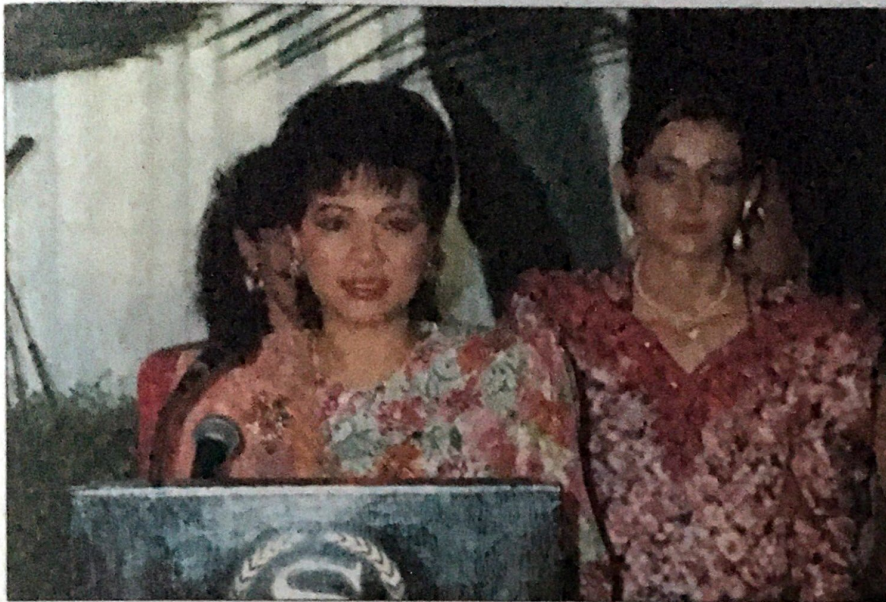
To set the record straight

In the Brunei Darussalam Newsletter's National Day Issue on February 23, we incorrectly stated on page IV that Brunei Darussalam was producing 700,000 barrels of oil daily because of the Gulf Crisis.

What actually happened was that the country, because of the

Crisis in the Gulf, produced 700,000 barrels of oil over the limit set by the country's conservation policy.

This amount was produced over a period in the last quarter of 1990, and not the daily production average as we stated.



Above: Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam declaring open the Exhibition of Jewellery and Art on Brunei Darussalam's flora and fauna. Right: A briefing for Her Royal Highness by an official of the organising body as she toured the exhibition.

Beauty captured
in jewellery
and art

HRH Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam opens exhibition

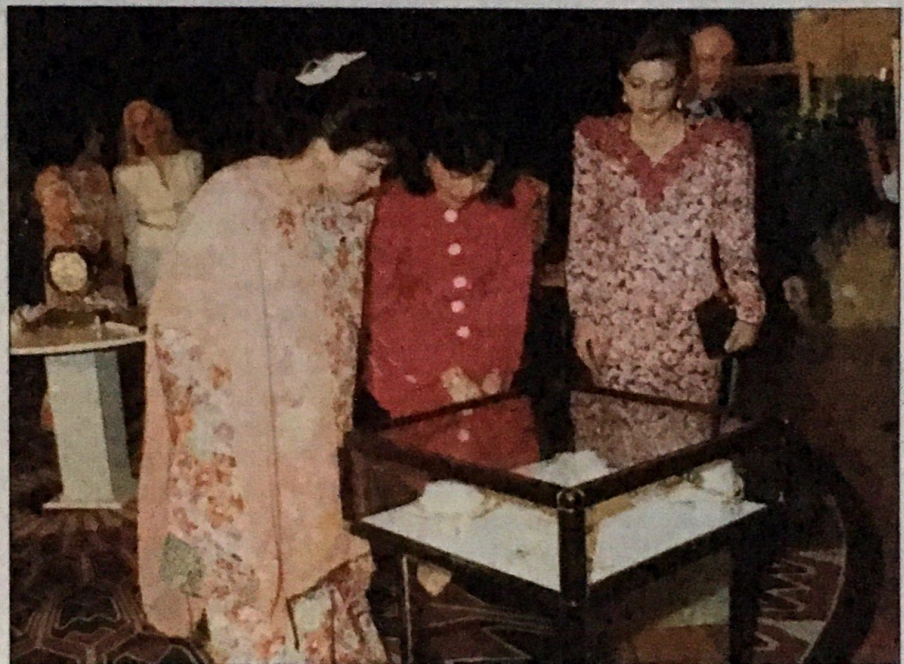
The richness of the natural beauty of Brunei Darussalam's flora and fauna were depicted in jewellerys and paintings which went on display at a leading hotel in the Brunei capital, Bandar Seri Begawan recently.

Organised jointly by the Sheraton Utama Hotel and Cartier London, the exhibition was officially opened by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam on March 8, from which it was opened to the public for three days.

At the opening ceremony, Cartier London made a donation of B\$50,000 to the fund for the handicapped children's association, KACA and Her Royal Highness, in her capacity as KACA's patron received the cheque from a representative of the firm.

In a brief speech, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri expressed the hope that others would follow suit in making donations to the KACA fund, especially towards realising a plan to build a centre for KACA members.

Items on display included jewellerys especially fashioned to capture the beauty of the country's rich flora and fauna; and paintings by a local artist portraying some of the scenic beauty of the country.



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determine the reasons for the decrease in breastfeeding practice, a trend that was also taking place in Brunei Darussalam. Dato Dr. Haji Awang Johar expressed his view that this was partly due to the changing socio-cultural scene in the country, such as the increasing numbers of working mothers and the availability of substitute milk.

With the theme 'Breastmilk is ideal', the seminar aimed at encouraging breastfeeding among mothers. The seminar's committee chairperson, Datin Hajjah Masni binti Haji Ali in her address, outlined that among the objectives of the seminar was to give mothers relevant information about breast-

feeding, in particular from the biological and emotional viewpoints. It was also aimed at giving mothers information on breastfeeding from the Islamic perspective.

As well the seminar aimed at equipping healthcare staff with the knowledge on their role in encouraging breastfeeding.

The speakers at the seminar included officials of the Malaysian Breastfeeding Advisory Union, the Malaysian International Baby Food Action Network, Malaysia's Paediatric Association and officials from the Singapore Breastfeeding Mothers' Support Group as well as Brunei officials.

Increase your capability to fulfill role as business catalyst, says minister

Chambers of Commerce in Brunei Darussalam have a vital role to play as a catalyst to promote additional opportunities for joint ventures.

In this respect, the chamber of commerce would, therefore, need to develop and strengthen their own capabilities, both within and outside this country.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman who made this call, further gave assurance of his ministry's support to help them achieve this aim.

Said the minister "On our part, we would like to be an active partner to the chambers' efforts through provision of necessary assistance and guidance."

He was speaking at the official opening of the Interline Roofing Company (B) Sdn. Bhd. on 12 March at the Beribi Industrial Complex II. The company is a joint venture between a local company-Mascot Utama Engineering (B) Sdn. Bhd. and an Australian firm.

In his speech, Yang Berhormat Pehin said joint venture initiatives such as this would greatly contribute towards efforts to expedite the process of industrialization in Brunei Darussalam.

"Along with the establishment of industrial joint ventures, we should be able to realise the process of an effective transfer of technology and management expertise."

The minister also spoke of the constraints facing the local entre-

preneurs and urged local businessmen to seize the opportunity to forge joint ventures.

"We are fully aware, that alone, a local entrepreneur with technical and managerial constraints may find it difficult to establish a business enterprise of this nature. Mascot Utama Engineering (B) Sdn. Bhd., has shown the way, by which a number of like-minded entrepreneurs have seen greater opportunities by working as a cohesive group to meet the challenges together. It is with this example in mind that we earnestly hope that more local entrepreneurs and businessmen will indeed examine the opportunities and advantages of working together to create viable initiatives."

Factors contributing to success of joint ventures

Yang Berhormat Pehin further underlined the importance of a good stable market for joint ventures to become established, to succeed and flourish, particularly so for companies like the Interline Roofing Company.

Though in the long term there would be a need for an overseas market, the immediate and initial requirement would have to be from Brunei Darussalam itself.

"In view of this, it is therefore imperative," the minister asserted, "that locally produced products receive greater share of the local market. To achieve this, I would like to urge strongly both the public and private sectors, particularly the building and construction industries to look into



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.

the possibility of utilising locally produced products as components of construction materials. I would also urge the professionals, such as architects and engineers, to incorporate the use of locally produced materials in the design of their clients' projects."

Equally important, he added, the local producers of these materials need to be sensitive to the requirements of the market. Among others, these are namely quality, price and regular supplies currently undertaken by overseas suppliers.

"With this in mind," the minister went on, "I believe that there will be no big problem or difficulty in matching the aspirations of suppliers and consumers. With the support and commitment of all sectors of the economy, I see a great future for the growth of joint venture enterprises in Brunei Darussalam."

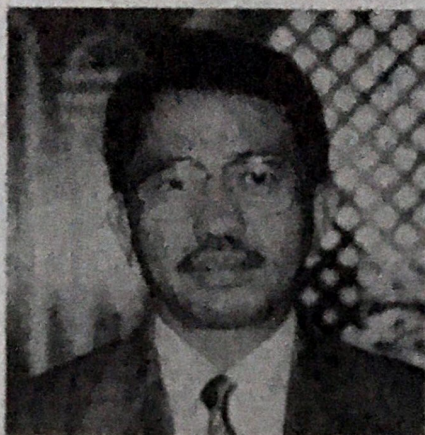
Impact on environment must be considered first in any development project

The Minister of Development has stressed that an assessment on the impact on environment must be made in any development project. This is to determine the viability of these projects and avert any effect to the environment and other related social issues.

Such an assessment must be carried out effectively and promptly, without delaying the implementation of these projects, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail bin Pengiran Haji Damit, the Development Minister added. Otherwise, the development programmes for the people could be affected, too.

Though such an assessment has to be done the soonest possible, the minister reminded, "lip-service" should not be given to it. And in the case of a project which must be implemented in a particular area, considered "sensitive" to the environment, then that assessment must also put forward proposals to reduce the environmental impact.

Two conditions have to be met to ensure a prompt and effective assessment; firstly - the assessment procedures must take into account the situation of the country, and secondly - a databank must exist to provide a whole range of up-to-



Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail Minister of Development.

date information on the environment, including details on specific sites related to macro-planning. The databank would provide planners and executive officials with accurate and prompt information.

These remarks were made by the Development Minister when he officiated at the opening of a two-day seminar on Current Practices on Environment in Brunei Darussalam. The seminar was held at the Training Centre of the Development Ministry.

The minister earlier stated that the development process and

efforts in environmental protection share a common aim, that is in assuring the well-being of the people in the country. Development carried out on a continuous basis would ensure that the quality of life of the people continues to be raised. Thereby increasing the productivity and the country's economic stability. Every effort must therefore be made to resolve any conflict arising from the common objective of the development process and measures to protect the environment.

Though the majority of the environmental problems afflicting the world today do not arise yet in this country, the minister said, "we should still take heed of these developments. The reason, the minister asserted is because when these problems persist, they know no barrier and they transcend all boundaries.

During the two-day seminar, participants heard among others, talks on the Overview in the State of the Environment in Brunei Darussalam, Environmental Degradation of Brunei Coastal Area, Environmental Planning in the Oil and Gas Industry and Environmental Impact and Assessment for an Industrial Plant.

HOW TO BEHAVE IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Never point with the index finger.

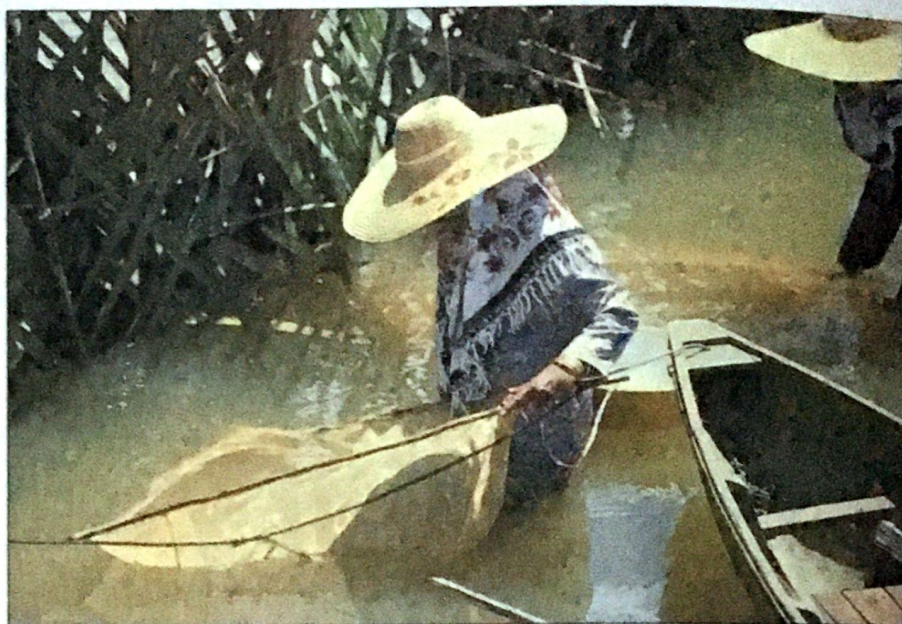
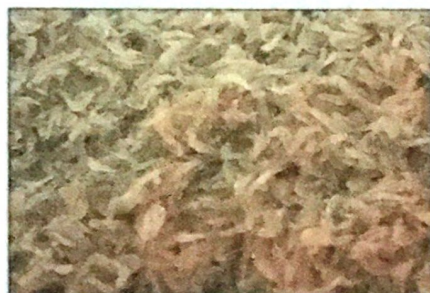


This section is intended to provide readers with information on some of the do's and don'ts of behaviour in Brunei Darussalam. Many gestures which are considered normal and acceptable in some other parts of the world are seen to be rude in Brunei

If you have to point at something or people, use the thumb!



Darussalam. For a starter, let's look at pointing. Pointing or indicating at people or an object with the index finger is a very rude gesture, so avoid altogether! What's polite is pointing with the thumb, while clenching the fist lightly.



'Fishing' for shrimps and prawns

Bruneians are resourceful in making a living both off the land and the sea. They have as many methods of catching land animals as they have for catching products of the sea. One of the oldest professions which Bruneians often engage in is trapping prawns and shrimps by a contraption locally called 'siut' (picture above right).

This is done close to the banks of rivers or sea coasts where a barricade or fence called 'sawar' made of branches, rattan or palm leaves is set up beforehand. The barricade serves to limit the movements of the prawns or shrimps or even trap them, making it easy for the fisherman to scoop them. Today, with more and more

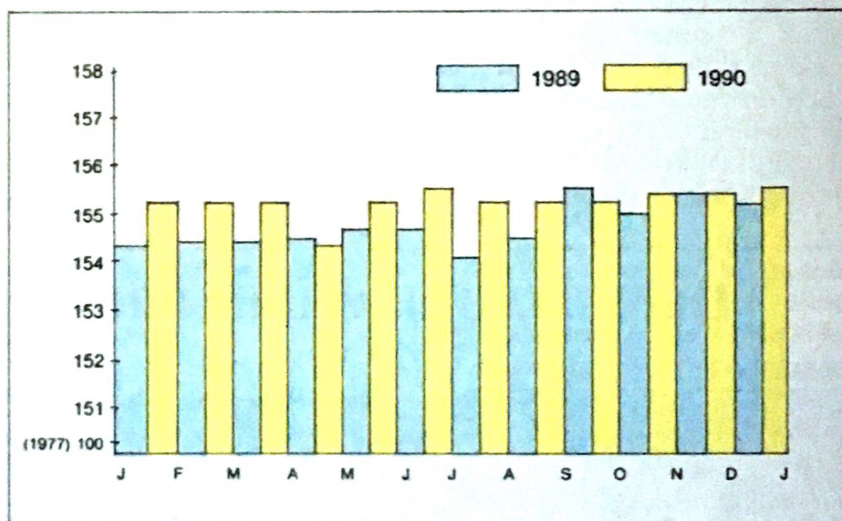
people having regular full-time employment, catching prawns and shrimps by a 'siut' has become more of a pastime rather than for income. Top left: The type of prawns caught by 'siut' and bottom left picture shows minute shrimps which are often pounded into a paste called 'belacan', which is a very important ingredient in most Brunei Malay cooking.

BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Capital :	Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size :	5765 sq.km
Population :	241,400 (1988)
Official Language :	Malay
Official Religion :	Islam
February 1990 rainfall :	53.2 mm. (annual 2,818mm)

PRIME LENDING RATE

March 7.00%. (quoted by Bankers' Association).



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

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.