



Al-Quran, the source of all knowledge



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 National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for 1440 Hijrah/2019 Masihi held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 22 – The Al-Quran is a source of guidance for us to gain happiness in the world and the hereafter.

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 emphasised the matter at the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for 1440 Hijrah/2019 Masihi, held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Earlier, His Majesty stated that the Nuzul Al-Quran occurred on the 17th night of Ramadhan at Gua Hira and it is this occasion that we and Muslims around the world celebrate.

His Majesty also stated that at the beginning of *Surah Al-Baqarah*, it is described that the Al-Quran is from Allah the Almighty and that there is no doubt within it, therefore being a guide for those who are pious.

“That is the reality of the Al-Quran, the more we read it, the more blessings and knowledge we gain. We are all aware that the first Al-Quran verse revealed is about learning and reading the Al-Quran, where it is clear that it is a source of all knowledge,” said His Majesty.

“We will not be misguided if we have a strong grasp of the Al-Quran and As-Sunnah, as the Al-Quran is the ultimate

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Syariah Penal Code Order, (SPCO) clarified

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 5 – Brunei Darussalam, as known to the people and residents, has fully implemented the Syariah Penal Code Order, 2013 (SPCO) on the 3rd of April 2019.

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 emphasised in a *titah* (royal speech) that this is the responsibility of our religious affiliation with Allah the Almighty as an Islamic country. In the *titah* in conjunction with the arrival of the month of Ramadhan 1440 Hijrah/2019 Masihi, His Majesty stressed that the law is solely intended to preserve the *Maqasid Syari'ah* (objective of Syari'ah) which is to protect religion, life, lineage, property and intellect.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the arrival of the month of Ramadhan 1440 Hijrah/2019 Masihi.



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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 the Istana Nurul Iman from:



Yang Berhormat Dr. Maszlee bin Malik, Minister of Education of Malaysia on May 4.



His Excellency Keiichi Ishi, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan on May 4.

His Majesty receives courtesy visit

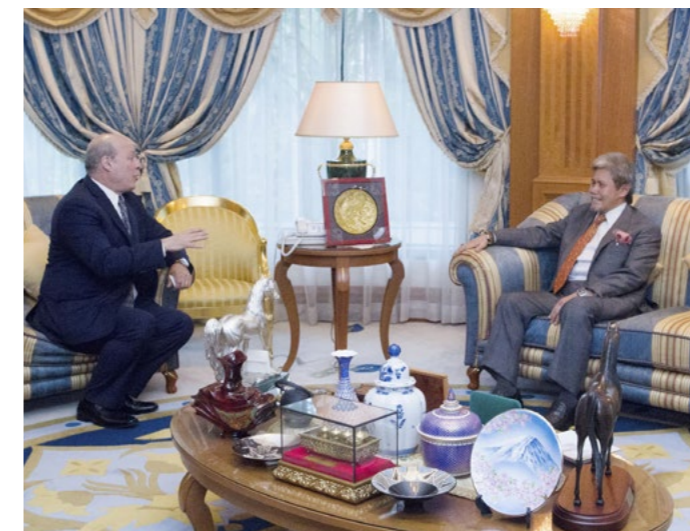
His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received a courtesy visit at Cheradi Ratna Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman from:

- His Majesty Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibuddin Shah Al-Maghful-Lah, Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan on May 1.



His Royal Highness audience ceremony

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah received in audience at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan from:



His Excellency Matthew John Matthews, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam on May 4.



Her Excellency Homeira Rigi Zirouki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam on May 4.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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

- His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, Emperor of Japan on the occasion of His Majesty Naruhito's ascension to the Chrysanthemum Throne following the abdication of His Majesty Emperor Akihito as Emperor of Japan recently on May 1.
- His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun, the King of Thailand on the auspicious occasion of His Majesty's coronation recently on May 5.
- His Majesty King Abdullah the Second Ibn Al-Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Members of the Royal Family as well as the Government and people of Jordan on the occasion of its Independence Day on May 25.
- The Honourable Scott Morrison MP, on the occasion of his re-appointment as the Prime Minister of Australia recently on May 29.
- His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India following his re-appointment as Prime Minister of the Republic of India on May 31.

News

Al-Quran, the source of all knowledge (continued)



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; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen consented to attend the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration 1440 Hijrah/2019 Masihi held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

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miracle that was passed down to us by Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam as a guide, especially in this era fraught with complexities and challenges," stressed His Majesty.

His Majesty also expressed hope that Religious and Al-Quran Education will be further enforced in all schools and not only in Religious and Arabic schools, but also those under the Ministry of Education and private schools.

"I desire for the people of this country to receive proper religious education which does not deviate from the Al-Quran and Hadith, so that this country may be blessed by Allah the Almighty," added His Majesty.

His Majesty also expressed his confidence that the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Ministry of Education have already started planning a curriculum for Al-Quran and religious teaching in all secondary and private schools, with particular emphasis on Islamic history.

With the theme, 'Memperkasa Pembelajaran Al-Quran' or Empowering Al-Quran Studies, this year's National Level

Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration highlighted on the importance of Al-Quran studies from the aspect of reading, memorisation and understanding.

Upon arriving, His Majesty was greeted 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, as the Chairman of the Major Islamic Events Celebrations for 1440 Hijrah Executive Committee; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned; Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Syarie Judge; and Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs; as well as other members of the Executive Committee.

Also in attendance were His Majesty's sons, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior

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Category A



Category B



Category C

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 presenting awards and prizes to the winner in category 'A', Abdul Hadi Muaiyyad bin Haji Azrol, category 'B', Ayshah binti Mohamed Shalahudeen, and category 'C', Nur Kamaliah binti Haji Jahari.



Category D



Category E

His Majesty presenting awards and prizes to Category 'D' winner Ainaa Zaherah binti Haji Abdul Manap and Category 'E' winner Abdul Aziz bin Noor Nasran.

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Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The arrival of His Majesty and royal family members at the Plenary Hall was enlivened with the *Bis-Sultan Marhaban Tausyeh* by officers and staff of the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA), the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF), Telekom Brunei Berhad (TelBru), and Progresif Cellular Sendirian Berhad (PCSB).

The ceremony began with the reading of *Surah Al-Fatihah* led by the State Mufti followed by a welcoming speech by the Minister of Religious Affairs.

The Minister of Religious Affairs in his welcoming speech among other matters said that the joint organisation of religious events celebrations with the public and private sectors will continue to take turns. It marks the close cooperation in efforts to uphold the Islamic eminence in line with the nationwide approach in making a success of the nation's development policies and goals in various fields.

Thanks to the wise and authoritative leadership of His Majesty, the Minister added, compatriot approach in certain aspects of religious fields, especially the aspects of Islamic law, education and the field of Islamic progress, including the affairs of the mosque and da'wah, was very significant to be part of the most important feature of our Islamic monarchy.

The Minister further added that such characteristics and patterns certainly requires passion and awareness from generation to generation as they have the potential to not only maintain but to even develop the nation and uphold the sovereignty of the Islamic monarchy.

This year's National Al-Quran Memorisation and Understanding Competition and National Level Musabaqah Al-Quran Memorisation and Understanding for MABIMS Member States for 1440H/2019M was announced by Pengiran Haji Haslin bin Pengiran Haji Ali, Acting Assistant Director of Mosque Affairs and the Chairman of the Judging Committee.

At the ceremony, His Majesty consented to present prizes to the winners.

The Final of the National Al-Quran Memorisation and Understanding Competition for 1440H/2019M was divided into five categories.

Emerging as the winner of category 'A', Abdul Hadi Muaiyyad bin Haji Azrol received a cash prize of BND1,500, a trophy and a tablet sponsored by PCSB.

The winner of category 'B', Ayshah binti Mohamed Shalahudeen received a cash prize of BND2,000, a trophy and a tablet sponsored by PCSB.

The winner for category 'C', Nur Kamaliah binti Haji Jahari received a cash prize of BND2,800, a trophy and a tablet sponsored by PCSB.

The winner for category 'D', Ainaa Zaherah binti Haji Abdul Manap took home a cash prize of BND3,500, a laptop sponsored by TelBru and a mobile phone sponsored by PCSB. Meanwhile, Abdul Aziz bin Noor Nasran who won Category 'E' received a cash prize of BND5,000, a trophy, a laptop sponsored by TelBru and a mobile phone sponsored by PCSB.

The National Level Musabaqah Al-Quran Memorisation and Understanding for MABIMS Member States for 1440H/2019M was divided into two categories.

The category for memorising 10 chapters of the Al-Quran and the understanding of Chapter 9 was won by Sumaiya binti Mohamed Faiz Maricar from the Republic of Singapore, who took home a cash prize of BND4,000, an accompanying prize, a trophy and a certificate of participation.

Whereas Dayangku Nuro Hafizah binti Pengiran Haji Tejudin from Brunei Darussalam won a cash prize of BND7,000, an accompanying prize, a trophy and a certificate of presentation for memorising 30 chapters of the Al-Quran and the Understanding of Chapter 23.

Syariah Penal Code Order (SPCO) clarified (continued)

From front page

His Majesty realises that there are many questions and misconceptions following the implementation of the law.

"I am aware that there are many questions and misperceptions with regard to the implementation of the SPCO. We have given clarification to this. We are conscious of the fact that misperceptions may cause apprehension. However, we believe that once these have been cleared, the merit of the law will be evident," said His Majesty.

In the *titah*, His Majesty also stressed that there should not be any concern on the Syari'ah Law as it is full of Allah's mercy and blessings and that Allah, the provider of blessings, will never bestow upon us laws meant to inflict cruelty on others.

"As evident for more than two decades, we have practised a de

facto moratorium on the execution of death penalty for cases under the common law. This will also be applied to cases under the SPCO which provides a wider scope for remission," added His Majesty.

His Majesty also assured that in upholding international commitments and obligations on human rights, Brunei Darussalam will be ratifying the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT).

"Both the common law and the Syariah law aim to ensure peace and harmony of the country. They are also crucial in protecting the morality and decency of the public as well as respecting the privacy of individuals. With the righteous intent of implementing this law, may Allah bless us and our country during this holy month of Ramadhan," said His Majesty.

His Majesty presents house key plaques



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam awarding a house key plaque to one of the recipients under the Bukit Beruang National Housing Scheme of Bukit Beruang, Tutong District.

TUTONG, May 2 – No expressive words can describe the gratitude that was carved in the hearts of every recipient of the keys to the house when now they already have a more comfortable shelter, where it certainly gives a deep meaning to them.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to award house key plaques for cluster houses and terrace houses to 451 recipients under the Bukit Beruang National Housing Scheme.

The presentation of house key plaques reflects His Majesty's care and attention towards the welfare of the residents and

people of this country in having convenient facilities and homes.

The ceremony took place at the Seri Kenangan hall of the Civic Centre Complex in Pekan Tutong.

Earlier, His Majesty's arrival at the helipad of the Official Residence of the Tutong District Officer was greeted by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Ir. Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development.

Also greeting the arrival of His Majesty were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs; and Shamsul Bahrin bin Haji Mohd. Hussain, Tutong District

Officer.

The Tutong District Officer in his welcoming speech on behalf of the house key recipients expressed gratitude and unwavering loyalty towards His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

At the ceremony, 65 received keys to cluster houses, while 386 were awarded keys to terrace houses.

After the presentation ceremony, His Majesty visited several educational institutions and local industries in the Tutong District.

His Majesty began the visit at Muda

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His Majesty during the visit to one of the homes of the house key recipients.

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Hashim Secondary School, Jalan Sungai Besar Tutong and then proceeded to Sekolah Rendah Pengiran Dipa Negara Pengiran Jaya Sengkarai to take a closer look at the development and progress of education at the school.

His Majesty then visited the residence of Haji Mumin bin Abdul Razak, Village Head of Kampung Sengkarai, who is also the Acting Village Head of Kampung Penabai / Kuala Tutong and Acting Penghulu Mukim Pekan Tutong. The mukim covers an area of 2.6 square kilometers and has a population of 2,399.

His Majesty also visited two local industries, namely Syarikat Hairol Aminah in Kampung Penabai, Kuala Tutong, which produces several types of cracker products such as shrimp, fish, sweet potatoes and yam crackers; and Perusahaan Seri Melati Sendirian Berhad in Kampung Kuala Tutong, which is the first company in the country to handle boat making and household products using fiberglass materials.

His Majesty continued to visit a number of houses which belong to the recipients under the Bukit Beruang National Housing Scheme, Mukim Telisai.

The house key recipients expressed gratitude towards the presence of His Majesty and the presentation of house keys, which has become one of the happiest moments in their lives.

The cluster houses each have an area of 120 square metres. Meanwhile, the terrace houses each have an area of 106 square metres. Each cluster and terrace house has 3 rooms, a bathroom and a kitchen.

Across 474 hectares of land, a total of 756 house units were built; 368 cluster houses and 388 terrace houses.



His Majesty receiving a *junjung ziarah* from students of Muda Hashim Secondary School, Jalan Sungai Besar Tutong.



His Majesty taking a closer look at the crackers processed by Syarikat Hairol Aminah in Kampung Penabai, Kuala Tutong.



His Majesty during the visit to Perusahaan Seri Melati Sendirian Berhad boat making in Kampung Kuala Tutong.

The national housing scheme is a comprehensive housing development with land areas for future public facilities such as schools, a mosque, parks, recreational areas and playgrounds.

At the end of the visit, His Majesty consented to attend a Luncheon at the Bukit Beruang Community Hall.

To date, more than 28 thousand units of houses and land lots have been provided under the National Housing Scheme and Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme (STKRJ) nationwide. From the

number, a total of 28,610 units have been awarded to qualified recipients. 2,695 of them are those residing in the Tutong District's National Housing Scheme.

The presentation of the house keys clearly reflects the concern and caring attitude of His Majesty towards the welfare and well-being of his subjects and proves the government's commitment in supporting His Majesty's aspiration, especially in providing good lasting homes in line with the objectives of the National Development Plan in the effort to raise the quality of the people's lives.

Opening of Ar-Rahim mosque



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signing a plaque marking the opening ceremony of the Ar-Rahim Mosque in Kampung Bukit Panggal.

TUTONG, May 17 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to perform the first Friday prayer at the newly built Ar-Rahim mosque.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Majesty's sons, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was graciously

invited to sign a plaque to officiate and mark the opening of the new mosque, which was accompanied by the Takbir led by the Minister of Religious Affairs.

The first Azan prayer call for the Friday prayer at the mosque was performed by Haji Hasmali bin Haji Talip, the Imam of the mosque.

Whereas the first *Khutbah* (sermon) was delivered by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Setia Raja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Suhaili bin Haji Mohiddin and the Friday prayer was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Awang Haji Salim bin Awang Haji Besar.

Ar-Rahim Mosque in Kampung Bukit Panggal is built on a 5-acre site in which construction work began in May 2018.

The mosque is the second to be constructed using the Brunei Darussalam Mosque Construction Fund at the cost of \$3 million and can accommodate about 800 to 1,000 congregants.

Among the facilities provided at Ar-Rahim Mosque are prayer halls for men and women, a lecture hall, a library and info-technology room, an administrative office, a guest room, the Imam and Bilal's office, an ablution area for those with special needs as well as a funeral management room.



His Majesty, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the first Friday prayer performed at Ar-Rahim Mosque, Kampung Bukit Panggal.



The newly built Ar-Rahim mosque.

His Majesty's personal gifts to lessen the burden of the community in need



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman as the personal representatives of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting His Majesty's personal gifts in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1440 Hijrah/2019 Masihi celebration at Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 29-30 - 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 bestow personal gifts to 19,913 recipients of the underprivileged, comprising of those with special needs, orphans, the poor and those who receive monthly welfare assistance, in the occasion of the upcoming Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration this year.

The presentation ceremony of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's personal gifts is held for the tenth time and aims to help alleviate and lessen the burden for certain groups, especially those in need as the country celebrates Hari Raya Aidilfitri soon.

The presentation ceremony of His Majesty's personal gifts for the specified groups in conjunction with the upcoming Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration was held for two days in all districts in the country.

Gracing the presentation ceremony as the personal representatives of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on the 29th of May were His Majesty's sons and daughters.



Their Royal Highnesses presenting His Majesty's personal gifts at Dewan Insani, Seria.

In the Brunei-Muara District, gracing the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman.

The arrival of Their Royal Highnesses at the Reception Hall of Istana Nurul Iman were greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs and Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs together with their spouses.

At the ceremony, Their Royal Highnesses consented to present the personal gifts of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to 3,295 recipients.

At another section of Istana Nurul Iman, the Baitur Rahmah, present to bestow the personal gifts of His Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah.

The arrival of His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Second Minister of Defence and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Awang Mohd. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health together with their spouses.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah consented to present the personal gifts of His Majesty to 3,270 recipients.

In the Tutong District, present at the ceremony to present the personal gifts as the personal representative of His Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

The arrival of Their Royal Highnesses at the Main Hall, Tutong Civic Centre Complex was greeted by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud,

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His Majesty's personal gifts to lessen the burden of the community in need (continued)



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah presenting His Majesty's personal gifts at Baitur Rahmah, Istana Nurul Iman.

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Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Ir. Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development and together with their wives.

At the ceremony, 2,628 recipients received His Majesty's personal gifts.

On the 30th of May, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister Menteri at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman consented to bestow His Majesty's personal gifts to 2,843 recipients in Belait District as the personal representatives of His Majesty.

Upon arriving at Dewan Insani, Their Royal Highnesses were greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong; Minister of Home Affairs and Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs together with their spouses.

In the Temburong District, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah was the personal representative of His Majesty for the bestowment of personal gifts to specified groups.

Upon arrival at the Dewan Belalong, Civic Centre Complex in



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah presenting His Majesty's personal gifts at Baitur Rahmah, Istana Nurul Iman.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah presenting His Majesty's personal gifts at Dewan Belalong, Civic Centre Complex in the Temburong District.

Bangar, His Royal Highness was greeted 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.

At the ceremony, a total of 744 recipients received the personal gifts presented by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

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Her Royal Highness Princess Rashidah Sa'adatol Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah presenting His Majesty's personal gifts at the Reception Hall of Istana Nurul Iman.



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On the same day, in the Brunei Muara District, gracing the ceremony as personal representatives of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were Her Royal Highness Princess Rashidah Sa'adatol Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

Upon arrival at the Reception Hall of the Istana Nurul Iman, Their Royal Highnesses were greeted by Yang Berhormat Ir. Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mat Suny bin Haji Md. Hussien, Minister of Energy, Manpower and Industry as well as their spouses.

At the ceremony, Their Royal Highnesses consented to present the personal gifts of His Majesty to 2,871 recipients.

In another part of Istana Nurul Iman, at Baitur Rahmah, gracing the ceremony as personal representatives of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and



Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah presenting His Majesty's personal gifts in the Tutong District.

Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

Upon arriving at the ceremony, Their Royal Highnesses were greeted by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Motalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications together with their spouses.

At the ceremony, Their Royal Highnesses

consented to present the personal gifts of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to 2,515 recipients.

The Presentation Ceremonies of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's personal gifts to specified groups is a clear manifestation of the monarch's leadership and a true reflection of His Majesty's personality that constantly strives to ensure the welfare and well-being of the monarch's subjects and the residents of Brunei Darussalam especially for those requiring assistance in the country.

The 58th RBAF Anniversary Thanksgiving Ceremony



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah in a group photo.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 31 - The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) this year celebrates its 58th year and as the year before, its celebration falls within the holy month of Ramadhan.

This year's RBAF Anniversary Thanksgiving Ceremony was graced by 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.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusoff, Second Minister of Defence; and Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Commander of the RBAF.

The ceremony began with a recital of the Al-Quran, from *Surah As-Saff* verses 10 to 14 read by Lieutenant Muhammad Hadayatullah Sunazul Fikrar bin Suip (Al-Hafiz).

This was followed by a mass reading of the *Surah Yassin* and *Tahil* led by Syu'aib @ Suhif bin Haji Abdullah, Imam of Surau Ad-Difa'.

A thanksgiving prayer was read by Commander Haji Ainolnizam bin Haji Ibrahim, Head of RBAF Religious Department.

His Royal Highness then received a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from the congregants present. This was followed by the signing of a commemorative parchment and a group photo.

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The 58th RBAF Anniversary Thanksgiving Ceremony (continued)



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah signing the commemorative parchment.

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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; Service Commanders and Joint Force Commander; Deputy Permanent Secretaries; Directors; Commandants; and senior officers of the Ministry of Defence and RBAF; as well as other invited guests which comprising former Deputy Ministers of



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, during the thanksgiving ceremony to mark the 58th Anniversary of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) held at Surau Ad-Difa', Ministry of Defence, Bolkiah Garrison.

Defence and Commanders of RBAF.

The theme of the 58th RBAF's Anniversary Celebration is 'Bersama Menjayakan Wawasan Negara' or Together in Accomplishing the National Vision, with the grand celebration to be held on the 30th of June 2019 at Bolkiah Garrison.

LegCo Speaker receives Farewell Visit and Courtesy Visit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 16 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) received a farewell visit from His Excellency Vladlen Stanislavovich Semivolos, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam which took place at the Department of Councils of State at Jalan Dewan Majlis.

During the farewell visit, both sides expressed their appreciation on the close ties and cooperation between both countries. Both sides touched on the success of the working visit from the delegation of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and also hoped to further enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of education, defence and health, apart from enhancing and strengthening the relations between the two sides.

The LegCo Speaker then received a separate courtesy visit from Her Excellency Yu Hong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council receiving a farewell visit from His Excellency Vladlen Stanislavovich Semivolos, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Brunei Darussalam.

Darussalam.

Among other things discussed at the meeting included the effects of strategic relations between both countries towards Brunei Darussalam's economic development, such as the increasing arrivals of Chinese tourists to Brunei Darussalam. The increase was also due to the availability of direct flights from several regions in China, such as Shanghai, Hong Kong and others.

Her Excellency Yu Hong also expressed hope that the flight service could be extended to Beijing. Both sides also touched on the increasing bilateral trade resulting from cooperation among the private sectors, which has further expanded the country's economy. Both sides also expressed hope that bilateral relations will continue to develop.

Also in attendance were Rose Aminah binti Haji Ismail, Acting Clerk to the Legislative Council and senior officers at the Department of Councils of State.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council during a courtesy visit from Her Excellency Yu Hong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei – America discuss common interests

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 27 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) received a courtesy call from His Excellency Matthew J. Matthews, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America.

The courtesy call was held at the LegCo building, the Department of Councils of State.

Also present were Rose Aminah binti Haji Ismail, Acting Clerk to the Legislative Council as well as several senior officials from the Department of Councils of State.

The courtesy call was the first official meeting between the two sides.

During the visit, both sides touched on matters of mutual concern including manpower exchanges such as in the field of expertise and exchanges in the



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council with His Excellency Matthew J. Matthews, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America.

education field such as the student exchange programme.

Both parties discussed on a new generation where His Excellency Matthew J. Matthews stated that Brunei Darussalam possesses a new dynamic and highly potential generation.

The Speaker of the LegCo explained that each year, among the highest budget was for education matters as it is a

long-term and essential investment that is of importance to a country.

Other matters discussed included Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) that could be further developed in Brunei Darussalam and it is hoped that the manpower in Brunei Darussalam with an English background will ease interested companies from the United States of America to invest in Brunei Darussalam.

Fire and Rescue Department intends to create awareness of fire hazards

BERAKAS, May 4 - The Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) received 182 fire calls for houses, buildings and vehicles in 2018.

The active response of FRD personnel and with the help of the public can save valuable property in an estimated \$20,792,400 compared to the estimated total loss of \$8,738,905.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs stated the matter in his speech at the parade in conjunction with the 59th Anniversary of the Fire and Rescue Department.

The Minister also said that among the main causes of fire are improper usages of electricity in 2018 with 36 cases that have been reported.

"Therefore, the public is reminded to be more attentive to the dangers of fire, especially in the use of safe electrical equipment and wiring. This is vital in today's hot weather condition. Since February until April 2019, the FRD has received 858 calls on forest and bush fires that have affected about 982 hectares of forest in Brunei Darussalam," added the Minister.

Although the FRD managed to extinguish the fire, the fire incidents can still be mitigated, one of which is to create awareness among the public about the dangers of fire which is a very effective early prevention to reduce the rate of fire.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs delivering his speech at the parade in conjunction with the 59th Anniversary of the Fire and Rescue Department.

The Minister further explained that FRD continues to work diligently to provide public awareness on fire prevention procedures, eliminating small fires and actions before firefighters arrive at the scene, as a fire prevention effort.

"In 2018, a total of 35,557 participants from government and private agencies participated in various public awareness programmes conducted by FRD including visits and Fire Marshal

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Fire and Rescue Department intends to create awareness of fire hazards (continued)

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Training. The training and awareness had a positive effect, in which some cases of fire, people have been able to control or extinguish small fires before it could spread," said the Minister.

The Minister further stated that FRD will introduce another training programme called the 'Life Saver 995', which involves the Mukim and Village Consultative Council members under the District Office and fire stations within the National Housing Scheme area.

The Minister in his speech further said that FRD has found more than 448 fire hydrants which are damaged, costing more than \$200,000.00 in order to repair it.

"In this regard, we wish to seek cooperation from all parties, especially mukim and village residents to equally monitor and protect firefighting equipments from being damaged. According to Section 13 from Fire Safety Order, 2016, any person who covers, encloses, or conceals any fire-hydrant will be liable to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.00 and also be liable to pay for any expenses reasonably incurred in repairing or



The Minister of Home Affairs viewing the exhibition in conjunction with the event.

replacing such fire-hydrant," the Minister stressed.

At the event, the Minister presented training certificates for 'Life Saver 995' to the representative of Consultative Council Kampung Rimba Zone II, followed by the presentation of the Exemplary Station and Community Appreciation Awards.

This year's theme, 'Keselamatan Kebakaran Tanggungjawab Bersama' or

Fire Safety the Responsibility of All, aims to further enhance safety, awareness and fire hazards. By practising these aspects, it is hoped to reduce the rate of occurrences, losses and loss of lives.

Also present at the event were members of Legislative Council, Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries, Head of Departments, senior officials and staff of the Ministry of Home Affairs as well as invited guests.

Launching of Kampong Ayer Walking Trail

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 2 – The Tourism and Development Department of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) continue to be committed in promoting the country's tourism products, specifically in Kampong Ayer.

One of the latest initiatives made by the department is the 'Kampong Ayer Walking Trail' which was launched by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism. The launching ceremony took place at the Kampong Ayer Cultural and Tourism Gallery.

Pengiran Haji Kamalrudzaman bin Pengiran Haji Mohd. Ishak, Permanent Secretary at MPRT in his welcoming speech explained that the Kampong Ayer Walking Trails consists of five walking trails in five different villages; Kampung Lurong Sikuna, Kampung Setia 'A', Kampung Tamoi Ujung, Kampung Peramu and Kampung Bakut Berumput.

The Permanent Secretary added that tourists can enjoy interesting views along the routes such as a visit to local cake producers, the Kampong Ayer Police Station and school, and can take a closer look at the traditional lifestyle of the



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism officiating the launching of the 'Kampong Ayer Walking Trail' at the Kampong Ayer Cultural and Tourism Gallery.

residents in Kampong Ayer.

According to him, the Kampong Ayer Walking Trail aims to educate and welcome the arrival of local and foreign tourists on the historical placement that becomes the pride of Brunei Darussalam.

He further stated that it is one of the most important history, culture and heritage of Brunei Darussalam and to show visitors how Bruneians began to settle there, which needs to be preserved and

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protected so that we can educate future generations to do the same.

During the launching ceremony, a total of 10 travel service providers including locals exhibited and sold their products.

The Minister and guests then witnessed some of the attractions offered through the Kampong Ayer Walking Trail.

MPRT will continue to support the sustainability of tourism communities in Kampong Ayer and in Brunei Darussalam including promoting community-based tourism activities that can generate local and innovative employment opportunities in producing and promoting their local products.

The local communities can also create workshops in Kampong Ayer to enable visitors to experience and see how local products are created and can experience a tradition-filled atmosphere during their visit.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong viewing various products exhibited at the launching event.

Through the promotion of the Kampong Ayer Walking Trail, it will further be able to increase the diversity of tourism packages and activities offered by local travel agencies which will allow tourists to choose from a variety of choices offered and to encourage longer visits in the country by offering various activities in the country.

Also present at the event were the members of the Legislative Councils; Deputy Permanent Secretaries at MPRT; Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; Commissioners and Foreign Representatives; members of the Brunei Tourism Development Board; Mukim Penghulus and Village Chiefs.

Fisheries production increase towards 2032

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 2 - Barramundi Asia (B) Sendirian Berhad has obtained the granted license to develop the Nankivell offshore site with a total area of 6,613 hectares and Lot 6054 Kampung Meragang with an area of 25.1 hectares to establish high-quality hatchery and fish nursery for the production of seabass juveniles to be supplied to the offshore fish cages including processing factory.

The signing ceremony for Sea License Agreement and Lease Agreement between the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) and Barramundi Asia (B) Sendirian Berhad from the Republic of Singapore was held at Setia Pahlawan Hall at the MPRT.

Present to witness the signing ceremony was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

Signing on behalf of the Department of Fisheries was Mariani binti Haji Sabtu, Acting Director of Fisheries, while signing on behalf of Barramundi Asia (B) Sendirian Berhad was Ms. Eva Lim, General Manager of Barramundi Asia (B) Sendirian Berhad.

The signing ceremony was also witnessed by Mr. Liew Kou Yew, Chief Financial Officer of Barramundi Asia (B) Sendirian Berhad and Hajah Dayang binti Haji Yusof Rosinah, Head of Aquaculture Industry Development Division at the Department of Fisheries.

Earlier, Pengiran Haji Kamalrudzaman bin Pengiran Haji Mohd. Ishak, Permanent Secretary at MPRT in his welcoming address said that this project will benefit Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore economically and socially.

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Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism in a group photo with officials Republic of Singapore as well as Barramundi Asia (B) Sendirian Berhad.

Fisheries production increase towards 2032 (continued)

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According to him, from Brunei Darussalam's perspective, this project will generate substantive foreign direct investment into the aquaculture industry and will increase the total fisheries production of the country by approximately \$324 million a year by 2032.

"The project will also create about 100 job opportunities for locals and will increase the contribution of fishery exports to the economy as well as in increasing side businesses in Brunei Darussalam, for example in the logistics and service sectors," he explained.

The company will invest a total of \$18 million for the first phase of fish farming in offshore fish cages and will be using the latest technologies and sustainable aquaculture systems adopted in Europe.

At the end of the first phase, the project is expected to produce 4,000 metric tonnes of seabass by 2024.



The signing of agreement between the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism and Barramundi Asia (B) Sendirian Berhad from the Republic of Singapore witnessed by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

Also present at the ceremony were Secretaries; Deputy Permanent Secretaries; senior government officials, officials from Strategic Development Capital, Ministry of Finance and Economy of Enterprise Singapore; Permanent

Brunei - Japan discuss cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 4 - A delegation from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan led by His Excellency Keiichi Ishi, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan were in the country to pay a goodwill visit to the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

His Excellency Keiichi Ishi made a goodwill visit to Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism at the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) building.

During the visit, both ministers discussed and exchanged views on cooperation in tourism.

Also present were Pengiran Haji Kamalrudzaman bin Pengiran Haji Mohd. Ishak, Permanent Secretary of MPRT; Wardi bin Haji Mohammad Ali and Abd. Halidi bin Mohd Salleh, Deputy Permanent Secretary of MPRT; and Salinah binti Salleh, Acting Director of the Tourism and Development Department of MPRT.

His Excellency Keiichi Ishi also made a goodwill visit to Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications.

During the visit, both ministers discussed on matters related to the transport sector, particularly air services and maritime, including opportunities to enhance cooperation in air services between Brunei Darussalam and Japan.

Both ministers also exchanged views on ongoing training initiatives for the regional maritime sector under the ASEAN-Japan transport cooperation.

The visit was the first visit of His Excellency Keiichi Ishi to Brunei Darussalam and the delegation will depart from Brunei Darussalam on the 5th of May 2019.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism with His Excellency Keiichi Ishi, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications with His Excellency Keiichi Ishi, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan.

Support and Buy local produce

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 4 - The Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) is actively carrying out the Local Crop Production Enhancement Project which will be able to increase the production of vegetables and fruits produce to accommodate the increasing demand and to reduce the country's dependence on overseas crop produce.

It is also in line with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with His Majesty's 72nd Birthday celebration in which His Majesty stated that for a country with abundant rain and plenty of undeveloped land, it is no longer practical to continue to import staple foods without striving for food self-sufficiency.

In this regard, cooperation from supermarkets, wholesalers, restaurants and catering services to obtain their raw supplies from local farmers is strongly encouraged to equally support this project.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism stated the matter during the launching of the Local Crop Production which took place at Sim Kim Huat (SKH) Supermarket, Annajat Complex in Kampung Mata-Mata.

"In my opinion, SKH Supermarket has taken a wise step in conducting direct purchase of farm produce from local farmers which is certainly fresher and of good quality and can be sold at an affordable price to all levels of community, which will encourage consumers to choose and purchase locally grown vegetables and fruits that are more secure in terms of freshness and free from pollutants," the Minister added.

The Minister further said that the farmers who supply their crops to SKH Supermarket are those registered under the Agriculture and Agrifood Department of MPRT, who are regularly monitored by the department to make sure that the farms are practising an organised planting system for producing safe and quality farm produce.

"I would also like to thank our local farmers for their efforts in realising MPRT's efforts to achieve the success of this project by providing cooperation with SKH Supermarket and thus ensuring that the crop supplied meets the requirements of the supermarket and supplying consistently not just to give assurance to supermarkets, but also to our customers to choose and buy local produce," said the Minister

The Minister further calls for other supermarkets to follow the steps taken by SKH Supermarket, as well as to other farmers to



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism delivering his speech during the launching of the Local Crop Production held at Sim Kim Huat (SKH) Supermarket, Annajat Complex in Kampung Mata-Mata.



The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism taking a closer look at the vegetables and fruits sold at Sim Kim Huat Supermarket.

jointly participate in the project to ensure that crop yields can be supplied continuously.

During the event, the Minister was brought to take a closer look at the various vegetables and fruits sold by the local farmers at SKH Supermarket.

Also present at the event was Pengiran Haji Kamalrudzaman bin Pengiran Haji Mohd. Ishak, Permanent Secretary at the MPRT; Haji Abdul Halidi Bin Mohd. Salleh, Deputy Permanent Secretary of MPRT as well as senior officials from MPRT and SKH Supermarket management.

Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting 2019

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, May 21 - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health attended the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting 2019 on the 19th of May 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Also present at the meeting was Her Excellency Hajah Masurai binti Haji Masri, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in Geneva, Swiss Confederation and Haji Abdul Manap bin Othman, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health.

The meeting that was attended by Ministers of Health and Senior Health Officers from 53 Commonwealth member nations discussed on the Commonwealth's cooperation in strengthening

actions to achieve universal health coverage, in line with this year's theme, 'Universal Health Coverage: Reaching the unreached, ensuring no one is left behind'.

The meeting also focused on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 that involves health, specifically to ensure the Universal Health Coverage by focusing on main issues, including improving coverage, access and social protection, innovative financing strategies employed to reach the most vulnerable, harnessing the power of innovation and creativity.

The Commonwealth nations, including Brunei Darussalam at

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Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting 2019 (continued)

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the meeting shared various initiatives and best practices that can give positive impact on the achievement of universal health coverage in various aspects that covers main issues.

On the issue of 'improving coverage, access and social protection' on Mental Health and Disability, the Minister shared the actions taken and the achievements of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam which includes replacing the 'Lunacy' Act to the Mental Health Order in the year of 2014. This is to ensure equality and mutual accountability among relevant agencies without discrimination in the treatment and care of people with mental disorders, including rehabilitation and re-integration into society.

In addition, other initiatives were also been shared such as the establishment of the mental health clinics and the Hope Line 145 as well as Mental Health Action Plan.

On the issue of 'harnessing the power of innovation and creativity' on climate change (resilience to communicable diseases and climate change, in the face of Noncommunicable Diseases), the Minister also shared Brunei Darussalam's role in realising the Paris Agreement in addressing climate change where initiatives such as the 'Bandarku Ceria' programme can help reduce carbon emissions by reducing vehicle use, apart from encouraging the increase of physical activities among the society in addressing the problem of non-communicable diseases. These initiatives showed the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration in achieving various targets including addressing the risks of climate change and public health



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health during the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.

with more creativity and effectiveness.

His Excellency Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization in his keynote address focused on challenges and directions in addressing universal health coverage as well as the coordination of issues related to healthcare that are given priority by the Commonwealth and World Health Organization.

The meeting ended with an agreement to approve the Statement of the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting 2019 that will be delivered at the 72nd World Health Assembly which among others emphasises the commitment in managing health to vulnerable groups, mental health, disability, climate change

and non-communicable diseases.

The meeting also agreed to enhance cooperation and innovation among Commonwealth member nations to further strengthen the achievements of Universal Health Coverage through the context of basic healthcare; sharing of progress and experience; recognizing the importance of setting specific goals including in strengthening the health workforce; and develop and tailor health services according to the needs of the country.

The Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting will be held again in 2020 with the theme, 'Strengthening Health Systems for achieving Universal Health Coverage through Sustainable Health Financing and Human Resources'.

Leaders carry huge responsibilities



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office delivering his speech at the 26th Certificate Presentation ceremony of the Executive Development Programme for Senior Government Officers (26th EDPSGO); 26th Executive Development Programme for Middle Management Officers (26th EDPMMO) and the Young Executive Programme (YEP) Cohort 3 2018, which took place at the Theater Hall of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

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BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 13 - A leader's responsibility is huge and not an easy task to be proud of. A leader requires certain characteristics and fitting skills.

If given a responsibility, leaders must try and fulfil the responsibility entrusted earnestly, sincerely, cleanly and fairly, while always upholding noble characteristics and the nature of openness as well as caring for the welfare of the subordinates.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office highlighted the matter at the 26th Certificate Presentation ceremony of the Executive Development Programme for Senior Government Officers (26th EDPSGO); 26th Executive Development Programme for Middle Management Officers (26th EDPMMO) and the Young Executive Programme (YEP) Cohort 3 2018, which took place at the Theater Hall of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

According to the Minister, by embedding noble qualities in daily administration, it will bring the respect of subordinates to the leader, increase the spirit of work, facilitate co-operation, and produce work of good quality.

Earlier, the Minister said that it is the government's hope for all the participants of the programmes to be able to instill and apply their knowledge in working together towards achieving the vision and mission of their respective organisations, contributing to the excellence of the civil service, thus achieving the Brunei Vision 2035.

"Indeed, the responsibility of a leader



The Minister at the Prime Minister's Office presenting a certificate to one of the participants of the Executive Development Programme for Senior Government Officer (26th EDPSGO).

is not an easy and light duty. This fact may be considered as frivolous, but this is the reality. Not all officers are capable in leading, although they possess high knowledge and have performed well," said the Minister.

The Minister also added that there are some individuals who have some natural qualities as a leader, which can be improved and refined through the experience and learning process.

Hence, this is where the leadership development programmes plays a role to facilitate in building up leadership qualities as well as team work in an organisation. However, it is important to note that not all leadership qualities can be mastered entirely through learning.

"This is referring to noble qualities such as honesty, sincerity, justice, accountability, respect, humbleness and tolerance. Especially when confronted with the challenge of influence and power that comes with the position of being a leader," he further explained.

Therefore, in Islam, leadership is a huge and heavy task because of the trust that needs to be borne, taken care of and fulfilled thoroughly and perfectly, whether in management affairs or in administration.

In this regard, besides trying to improve knowledge and leadership skills, the Minister also reminded leaders at the same time to instill and strengthen these noble qualities.

Public Works Department signs three contract agreements

BERAKAS, May 20 - A total of three contract agreements were signed between the Public Works Department and three local retailers which took place at the Atria Simpung Hall of the Public Works Department (PWD) Headquarters.

Present as the guest of honour and to witness the signing ceremony of the three projects was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Ir. Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development.

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The contract-signing ceremony between the Public Works Department represented by the Director of Drainage and Sewerage and Ocean Quarry and Construction Sendirian Berhad for the Coastal Control project contract along Kampung Danau beach in the Tutong District.

Public Works Department signs three contract agreements (continued)

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The ceremony started with the signing of the Coastal Control project contract along Kampung Danau beach in the Tutong District with a total of \$5,686,328.00 which will be carried out by Ocean Quarry and Construction Sendirian Berhad. The project aims to control and reduce the risk of beach erosion as well as to preserve the private land lot and government assets along a 1.5 kilometres route which will take about 72 months to be executed where beach nourishment will take about 12 months and sand reclamation will take about 60 months.

The second contract agreement was the rehabilitation project at Jalan Serasa to Serasa Beach which will take up to 18 months to be completed. The project costing \$6,700,600.50 will be implemented by Salishah & Sons (B) Sendirian Berhad, and will enhance the safety level and comfort of road users, in addition to accommodate heavy vehicles from industrial areas.

The third agreement was for the Supply and Delivery of 37,000 metric tonnes of Calcium Carbonate to water treatment plants in Brunei Darussalam that costs \$3,233,000.00. The project will be carried out for about 30 months by Haji Sanip bin Taram & Anak-anak Sendirian Berhad.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Ir. Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development taking a closer look at the projects' scheme.

The three projects were signed by the Acting Director of PWD, the Director of Road, Director of Drainage and Sewerage, Director of Water Services and representatives of appointed contractors.

Also present at the event were Ar. Awang Haji Marzuke bin Haji Mohsin, Deputy Minister of Development; Haji Amer Hishamuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang

Haji Zakaria, Permanent Secretary (Infrastructure, Housing and Professional) at the Ministry of Development (MoD); Ir. Dayang Hajah Siti Aidah binti Haji Mohammad, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Construction Industry and Development) at the MoD; Ir. Dayang Lim Sui Kau Alice, Acting Director General of PWD; senior officers, officers and staff at the PWD.

Address developmental needs of the Islamic World

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, May 10 - A delegation from the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam, led by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education attended the Extraordinary Session of the General Conference of Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) at the Bay La Sun Expo Center, King Abdullah Economic City in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from the 9th until the 10th of

May 2019.

The Extraordinary Session was attended by Ministers, Deputy Ministers and senior officials from over 50 Member States of ISESCO and representatives of international organisations and observers.

The Minister of Education, in his statement as part of the Extraordinary Session's Statements of Heads of Delegation, expressed congratulations to

His Excellency Dr. Salim Al-Malik as the newly appointed Director General of ISESCO. His Excellency Dr. Salim Al-Malik takes over from His Excellency Dr. Salim Al-Malik who has led the organisation as the Director General of ISESCO since 1991.

The Minister highlighted the current challenges and opportunities brought by the 4th Industrial Revolution facing Brunei Darussalam and the rest of the world, and called for ISESCO to champion initiatives in order to benefit from these changes.

The Minister also called for ISESCO to continue to address the developmental needs in the Islamic world as well as the collective efforts and expertise of all Member States of ISESCO to contribute towards the shaping of the Islamic World and the development of human civilisation, in achieving solidarity, cooperation, progress and peace.

Among those accompanying the Minister of Education were Dr. Haji Azman bin Ahmad, Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) and two officers from the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education delivering his statement at the Extraordinary Session of the General Conference of Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) at the Bay La Sun Expo Center, King Abdullah Economic City in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

7th Asia-Europe Education Ministers' Meeting

ROMANIA, May 16 - The 7th Asia-Europe Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEMME7) was held for two-days from the 15th until the 16th of May 2019 in Bucharest, Romania.

The meeting was attended by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education and Ministers from Asia-Europe Education (ASEM) Member Countries.

The ASEMME is convened every two years, bringing together Ministers of Education from the ASEM Member Countries to discuss current issues and new developments in education as well as to endorse the activities under the ASEM Education Process.

This year's theme was 'Connecting Education: Inclusion, Mobility and Excellence in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals'.

This year's meeting aspires to explore and create opportunities to better connect education and to develop inclusive and adequate avenue for the mobility of students, teachers, academics, researchers and staff while contributing to the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Her Excellency Ecaterina Andronescu, Minister of National Education of Romania in her welcoming remarks highlighted the importance of people-to-people connectivity between the Asia and Europe regions as well as the significance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The two-day meeting began with Plenary Session I on 'Mobility for Everyone: Balanced and Inclusive Mobility in the Digital Era', followed by Plenary Session II with the sub-theme 'Towards



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education and delegates at the 7th Asia-Europe Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEMME7) in Bucharest, Romania.

the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development: How can the ASEM Education Process Contribute?'

The meeting was concluded with the review and adoption of the ASEMME7 Chair Conclusions and the Bucharest Ministerial Statement.

Also present at the meeting was Dr. Haji Azman bin Ahmad, Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) at the Ministry of Education as well as officials from the Ministry of Education Brunei Darussalam.

Launching of First Aid Application

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 3 - The Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society has introduced the First Aid Application in an effort to showcase the procedure in giving first aid as well as emergency measures or disasters to facilitate in providing first aid.

Present as the guest of honour to launch the application 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. The application can be downloaded by iOS and Android users.

The event that was held at Amar Pahlawan Hall of the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MITC) also witnessed the launch and presentation of posters and road safety postcards as part of the ongoing cooperation with the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society and the National Road Safety Council (MKKJR), in both raising public awareness on road safety and how to be smart road users who are prudent and responsible.

The Minister of MITC who is also the Chairman of MKKJR appreciates the involvement of NGOs, private sectors and

the government especially in the current digital era, the Industrial Revolution 4.0 where fast and accurate information is highly expected.

The Minister said that the first aid application will make it easier for the public to obtain important information about the techniques and procedures in providing

assistance during emergencies.

Earlier, Haji Muhammad Suhaimi bin Haji Ibrahim, President of the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society in his welcoming speech stated that anyone can learn the techniques of a First Aider,

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Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications presenting posters and postcards of the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society Road Safety Campaign 2019 to a representative.

Launching of First Aid Application (continued)

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which is offered for free through the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent First Aid Academy.

A talk on the First Aid Application was also delivered at the event by Ms. Grace Lo, Senior Officer of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Also present at the event were Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries at the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, MTIC, as well as the Head of Secretariat and members of MKKJR; Head of Departments and Senior Officers of the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications and other relevant agencies.



Some of the guests present at the launching of the First Aid Application and Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society Road Safety Campaign 2019.

Minister attends 5th e-Governance Conference in Estonia



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications in a group photo during the 5th e-Governance Conference 2019 in Tallinn, Estonia.

TALLIN, ESTONIA, May 23 – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Yusof, the Minister of Transport and Infocommunications led a delegation of senior officers from the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC) and IT Protective Security Services (ITPSS) to the 5th e-Governance Conference 2019 at Tallinn, Estonia, from the 20th until the 22nd of May.

The 5th e-Governance Conference 2019 is an annual event organised by the e-Governance Academy (eGA) of Estonia as the think-tank on e-Governance, national cybersecurity strategy and

the creation of information society in Estonia.

Themed 'e-Governance, Same Goals, Different Roadmap', this year's conference focused on a road map to achieving digital goals with special emphasis on cooperation in the digital transformation process.

The three-day conference was officially opened by President of the Republic of Estonia, His Excellency Kersti Kaljulaid on the 21st of May and also attended by the Vice-President of the European Commission (EU), Andrus Ansip and the Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations,

Fabrizio Hochchild, Ministers, Heads and experts in various fields of digital development.

In his speech, the Minister shared Brunei Darussalam's efforts in moving towards the digital economy, while also thanking the government of Estonia for the invite and for organising the 5th e-Governance Conference 2019 which brought together various stakeholders to join and share their experiences in e-Government, Smart Nation initiatives, digital transformation and cyber security among others.

The Minister and his delegation also attended separate meetings with Her Excellency Kert Kingo, Minister of International Trade and IT; Mr. Marten Kaevats, National Digital Advisor at the Government Office of Estonia; Mr. Siim Sikkut, Chief Information Officer (CIO) of Estonia; and Mr. Uku Sarekanno, the Director of Cybersecurity Branch at the Information System Authority of Estonia to discuss opportunities for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the field of Information and Communications.

Also attending the conference were Haji Hairul Mohd Daud bin Haji Abdul Karim, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Infocommunications, Cybersecurity and Corporate) at the MTIC; Haji Jailani bin Haji Buntar, Deputy Chief Executive of Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam; and Shamsul Bahri bin Haji Kamis, Chief Executive Officer of ITPSS.

Return of Brunei Darussalam contingent



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 in a group photo with the Brunei Darussalam contingent.

BERAKAS, May 1 - The 7-member Brunei Darussalam contingent returned home after competing in the Arafura Games 2019 in Darwin, Australia.

Present to welcome the arrival of national contingent at Brunei International Airport 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 airport, the Minister welcomed and congratulated the officers and athletes of athletics and swimming.

Hirdan bin Haji Abdul Kadir, a para athlete in the athletic event won one gold medal, one silver and one bronze in the Men Open Javelin Seated Wheel Chair category, Men Open Discus Seated Wheel Chair category and Men Open Shot Put Seated Wheel Chair category.

Nor Hensan binti Haji Mataha, also a para athlete in the athletic event won one bronze medal in the Women Open Discus Ambulatory category.

Christian Nazario Anak Nikles, an athlete in the swimming event, won one gold medal in the Men 17 & Over 50M Butterfly category and Nur Haziq bin Samil collected one bronze medal in the Men 17 & Over 200M Backstroke category.

The total number of medals collected by the Brunei Darussalam contingent to date are two gold medals, one silver and three bronze.

Also present at the airport were Pengiran Mohammad Amirrizal bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS); Colonel (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Maddin bin Pengiran Haji Said, Deputy Permanent Secretary of MCYS; Mariam binti Ulat, Acting Director of the MCYS as well as officials from MCYS.

21st ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Meeting

CHIANG MAI, THAILAND, May 18 - Brunei Darussalam, together with other ASEAN Member States, supports Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship and its ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) priority areas towards 'Advancing Partnership for Sustainability', which includes promoting future-oriented actions for human security, promoting people-to-people connectivity and partnerships, and promoting socio-cultural sustainability in the region.

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 of Brunei Darussalam during the 21st ASCC Council Meeting outlined that "Brunei Darussalam recognises the significance

of Thailand's priority areas as they correspond well to the direction ASEAN is going, in ensuring that whatever we seek to achieve must be sustainable and inclusive in nature, thus assuring no one is left behind and always be prepared for the future. We should also embrace and leverage on the challenges we are facing due to the globalisation and technological advancements, particularly the Industrial Revolution 4.0, with a people-oriented, people-centred spirit".

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Vira Rojpojchanarat, Minister of Culture of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The Minister further emphasised the need to provide a deeper understanding of cultural diversity and the fundamental role of culture in shaping and fostering

peace and looked forward to the implementation of the 'Study Proposal on Fostering Greater Understanding, Tolerance and a Sense of Regional Agendas among the Peoples of ASEAN' and hoped that its outcomes will be impactful and sustained for many years to come.

In addition, the Minister highlighted that Brunei Darussalam saw the importance of supporting the year 2019 as the ASEAN Cultural Year, which will open up new opportunity-driven economies through creative industries, while harnessing resources in an environmentally-friendly way through greater ASEAN awareness. This is because of the borderless nature

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21st ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Meeting (continued)



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 of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo during the 21st ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Meeting.

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of 'Culture' which also goes both within and beyond ASEAN.

The Minister also shared that Bandar Seri Begawan is recognised as the Capital of Islamic Culture for the Asian region by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) under the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

With the growing ageing population in the region, Brunei Darussalam also welcomed the soon to be established ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation mooted under the Chairmanship of Thailand, which will allow other ASEAN Member States to tap into some of the guiding policies and innovation towards active ageing in ASEAN.

The Minister further highlighted on the role of the youths in supporting ASEAN's initiatives and urges the ASCC Council to prioritise their agendas, leveraging on the youths' concerns and interests. Thus, Brunei Darussalam will continue to create platforms through initiatives and projects for the youths, including on environmental issues while promoting policies on environmental sustainability and conservation, towards a green society.

The 21st ASCC Council Meeting also deliberated on ASCC outcome documents proposed to be submitted to the ASEAN Leaders at the 34th and 35th ASEAN Summits.

The meeting was preceded by the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on Culture of Prevention (2nd WG on CoP) on 13th of May 2019, 14th Coordinating Conference on the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (14th SOC-COM) on 14th of May 2019 and

the 26th Meeting of the Senior Officials Committee for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (26th SOCA) held on 15th and 16th of May 2019.

Besides attending the 21st ASCC Council Meeting, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports had the opportunity to call on His Excellency Vira Rojpojchanarat, Minister of Culture of the Kingdom of Thailand, ASCC Chair and His Excellency Desmond Lee, Minister for Social and Family Development of the Republic of Singapore.

Accompanying the Minister at the meeting were Datin Paduka Dr. Hajah Norlila binti Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Jalil, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, as well as the Senior Officials of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of Brunei Darussalam and the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in the Kingdom of Thailand.



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