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25th Session of APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting

DA NANG, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM, November 11 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam today attended the Retreat Session of the 25th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM), which was held at the Intercontinental Da Nang Sun Peninsula Resort in Da Nang, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted on arrival at the Intercontinental Da Nang Sun Peninsula Resort by His Excellency Tran Dai Quang, the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam as Chairman of the 25th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

His Majesty then proceeded to attend the AELM Retreat Session, along with other APEC Economic Leaders. The Retreat Session, which carries the theme, "Innovative Growth, Inclusion and Sustainable Employment in the Digital Age," commenced with a speech from His Excellency the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Madame Christine Lagarde, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) who also briefed on the state of the global and regional economy.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other APEC Economic Leaders in a group photo session.

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His Majesty attends 31st ASEAN Summit Plenary Session



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 during the Plenary Session of the 31st ASEAN Summit.

MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, November 13 - His Majesty together with the ASEAN Heads of State and Government attended the Plenary Session of the 31st ASEAN Summit, which was held at the Philippines International Convention Center (PICC).

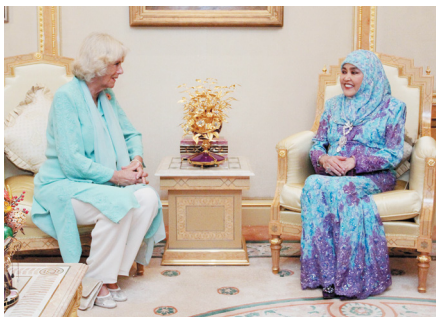
The Plenary Session began with Opening Remarks by His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Philippines and Chairman of ASEAN, whereby His Excellency welcomed the ASEAN Heads of State and Government as well as the ASEAN Secretary General.

During the Plenary Session, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) stating that ASEAN must strive together to strengthen ASEAN Community Building process in order to secure an open, inclusive and peaceful region. By doing so, His Majesty added, can only ASEAN be assured of its' success for generations to come.

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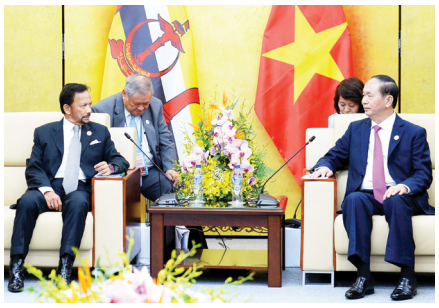
1 His Majesty attends 31st ASEAN Summit Plenary Session



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His Majesty receives audiences

Brunei receives His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall

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 His Royal Highness Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales at the Istana Nurul Iman on November 2.

After the audience ceremony, His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam hosted a High Tea Reception in honour of the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall visit.

Present at the High Tea Reception were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyyah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as well as other members of the Royal Family.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri during the High Tea Reception in honour of Their Royal Highnesses. Also present during the High Tea Reception were other members of the Royal Family.

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 also received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:



Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Laila Utama Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, the Prime Minister of Malaysia on November 23.



His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and Coordinating Minister for National Security on November 4.



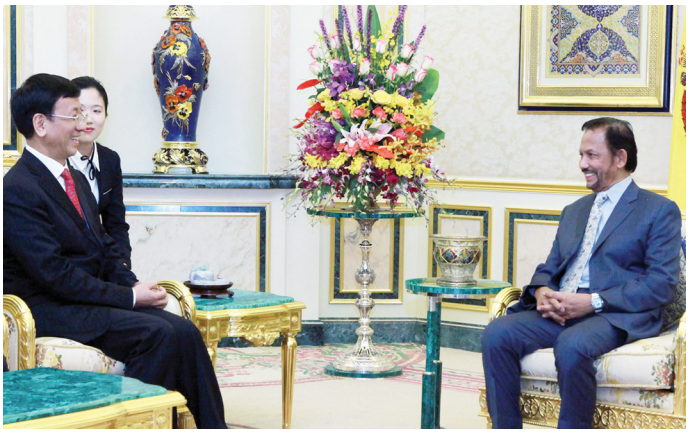
Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Dato' Sri Anifah bin Haji Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia on November 18.



Lieutenant General Nicholas Pope, CBE, Deputy Chief of The General Staff and Colonel Commandant Brigade of Gurkhas of the United Kingdom on November 20.



His Excellency Major General T.N.I. Madsuni, the Commandant General of the Komando Special Forces Unit (KOPASSUS), Indonesia Armed Forces - Land Force (TNI-AD) on November 4.



His Excellency Professor Cao Jianming, the Prosecutor General of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of the People's Republic of China, on November 25.



Sahibus Samahah Datuk Doctor Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri, Mufti of the Federal Territories, Malaysia and Yang Berbahagia Haji Hashim bin Salleh, Deputy Mufti of the Federal Territories, Malaysia on November 7.



Her Excellency Nurul Qomar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam on November 20.



Her Excellency Loan Forgeron, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam on November 20.

Her Majesty receives audiences

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:





Kebawah Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Tengku Puan Pahang Tunku Hajjah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah binti Al-Marhum Almutawakkil 'Alallah Sultan Iskandar Al-Haj, the Head of Malaysian Delegation of the 6th Asean Traditional Textile Symposium on November 20. Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah. (left) and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall on November 2. (right).



Madam Teo Chee Hean, spouse of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore on November 4.



Yang Berbahagia Datin Sri Rubiah Datuk Abdul Samad, spouse of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia on November 18.



Her Excellency Loan Forgeron, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam on November 18.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince receives audiences

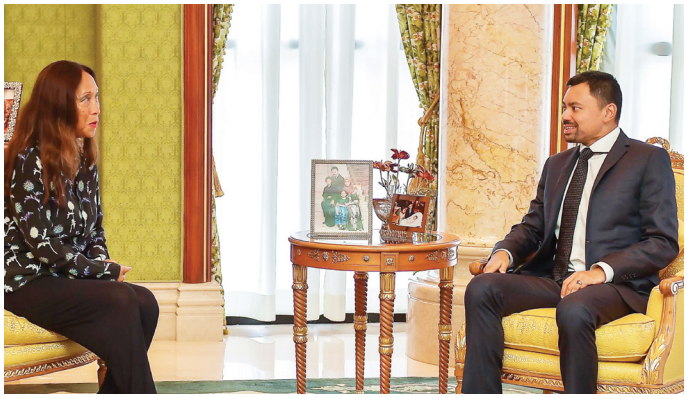
His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezan:



His Excellency Teo Chee Hean, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and Coordinating Minister for National Security on November 4. Also present was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman.



His Excellency Major General T.N.I. Madsuni, the Commandant General of the Komando Special Forces Unit (KOPASSUS), Indonesia Armed Forces - Land Force (TNI-AD) on November 4.



Her Excellency Loan Forgeron, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam on November 25.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah receives audiences

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



Her Excellency Nurul Qomar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam on November 20.



Her Excellency Loan Forgeron, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Brunei Darussalam on November 20.

HIS MAJESTY SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

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

- His Excellency Shinzo Abe, on the occasion of his re-appointment as the Prime Minister of Japan on November 1.
- His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, King of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the occasion of the Kingdom of Cambodia's 64th Independence Day, on November 8.
- His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al-Said, Sultan of the Sultanate of Oman, the government and people of the Sultanate of Oman on the occasion of the Sultanate of Oman's National Day on November 17.

HIS MAJESTY SENDS MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE

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 a message of condolence to:

- Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the attack at the Al-Rawdah Mosque in North Sinai, the Arab Republic of Egypt, on November 25.

Uphold religious harmony through law

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 7 - 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 stressed the need for all '*di'ayah*' affecting or interfering with the religious harmony of this country to be legally handled by introducing provisions under an applicable Act.

Such Act will block opinions or deviant practices that deny activities such as tahlil, dispute the celebration of Maulidur Rasul, the visiting of graves, the recitation of *Surah* and verses from the Al-Quran before starting a job and so on.

In that way alone, all the '*di'ayah*' influencing or disrupting the religious harmony of the country can effectively be blocked.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam addressed the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) delivered at the Knowledge Convention Opening Ceremony 2017 in conjunction with His 71st Birthday Anniversary, at the Plenary Hall, International Conference Centre, Berakas.

His Majesty further said that the world is full of challenges where some of the challenges that often undermine the practice of religion is a challenge in succession, as there is no end.

"The mastermind who brings the challenge, likes to scatter his opinions, such as smearing the practice of *tahlil*, rejecting the visits of grave, disputing the Maulidur Rasul celebrations, reading Al-Quran before commencing a task and others, with the excuse that it was not done by the Prophet Allaah Alaihi Wasallam, '' said His Majesty.

"This cannot be allowed to continue, although we have been working on various ways, through *da'wah* and advice, to discontinue practices and opinions that violate this habit, but still it can be heard, done by those who are stubborn," said His Majesty.

We, he added, could not afford to allow anyone to bring or import any teachings that could divide Muslims in this country.



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).

He firmly asserted that it is our solemn conviction and determination that we will remain with this standpoint.

"The flow of faith we hold, is the flow of the *Ahli Sunnah Waljamaah*, and no one can step over it as it has already been enacted in the Constitution as our ultimate ground," His Majesty said.

Knowledge Convention 2017 Opening Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 7 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to attend the Knowledge Convention 2017 Opening Ceremony held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

Accompanying Their Majesties were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyyah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam during the Knowledge Convention 2017 Opening Ceremony.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam and other member of the royal family in a group photo with the Knowledge Convention 2017 speakers.

Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other members of the Royal Family.

The Knowledge Convention 2017 is one of the events in conjunction with His Majesty's 71st Birthday Celebration, carrying the theme "*Mensyukuri Kepimpinan Terutama Perkhidmatan Ugama Sepanjang 50 Tahun Pemerintahan Kebawah DYMM Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam*" (Grateful for the Leadership in Religious Service during the 50 Years Reign of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam).

Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, the Minister of Religious Affairs in his welcoming remarks stated that the Knowledge Convention this year will focus on His Majesty's role as a righteous ruler who brings blessings to the nation, which is significant to the 50 years of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne. It is also to express inordinate gratitude to Allah the Almighty for his blessings; Brunei Darussalam enjoys peace, prosperity under His Majesty's leadership.

After the welcoming remarks, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti, delivered a special talk titled "*Pemerintahan Raja Shaleh Membawa Berkat*" (The Reign of a Pious Monarch Brings Blessings) highlighting the reign of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah as a particularly blissful period for Brunei. Both are considerate rulers who are always concerned towards the welfare and needs of the people.

"Whatever that has already taken place, or is currently happening in Brunei Darussalam are all historic significance for the ruler and his legacy, since the ruler is the cause behind it all. The country owes its lasting prosperity, peace and stability to the good deeds of its ruler," the State Mufti added.

Before leaving the ceremony, Their Majesties with other member of the Royal Family toured the Knowledge Convention 2017 Exhibition at the ICC's foyer carrying the theme "A Pious Monarch Brings Blessings" which highlights the vision and sincerity of His Majesty in the implementation of Islamic principles to government policies throughout his 50 years reign.

Their Majesties also toured the Balai Kenangan Special Exhibition carrying the theme, "*Raja Kesayangan : Allah dan Rakyat*" (Beloved Monarch : Allah and the people) which highlights His Majesty's recorded accomplishments in Religious Services to uplift the eminence of Islam in Brunei Darussalam.



Their Majesties touring the Knowledge Convention 2017 Exhibition.

His Majesty arrives in Da Nang, Socialist Republic of Vietnam to attend the 25th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM)

DA NANG, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM, November 9 – 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 arrived in Da Nang, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Present at Da Nang International Airport to greet His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were His Excellency Phung Xuan Nha, the Minister of Education and Training of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; and His Excellency Tran Van Mien, Vice Chairman of the Da Nang People's Committee.

His Majesty's arrival in Da Nang, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is for the 25th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM).

The APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) this year is "Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future." The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is the premier forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region. It was established in 1989 to further enhance economic growth and prosperity for the region and to strengthen the Asia-Pacific community. Since its inception, APEC has worked to reduce tariffs and other trade barriers across the Asia-Pacific region, creating efficient domestic economies and dramatically increasing exports.



His Majesty being greeted by His Excellency Phung Xuan Nha, the Minister of Education and Training of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at Da Nang International Airport.

From frontpage (25th Session of APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting)



AELM Retreat Session held at Intercontinental Da Nang Sun Peninsula Resort in Da Nang, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

During the session, His Majesty in a *titah* (royal speech) expressed the view that, in building the positive momentum in the global economy, APEC must continue to emphasise global trade to boost productivity, foster innovation, create jobs, and achieve sustainable development in the region.

His Majesty reiterated the need to achieve the Bogor Goals by 2020, including addressing structural reform and in maximising the potential of the services sector.

Brunei Darussalam meanwhile continues to improve its Ease of Doing Business and to further open up the financial services sector, such as through the launching of the Financial Sector Blueprint (FSBP) 2016-2025.

His Majesty also underscored that the benefits of economic integration should be widely shared in the region by expanding the participation of its stakeholders.

In this regard, His Majesty welcomed the Action Agenda on Promoting Economic, Financial and Social Inclusion in the APEC Region and the APEC Framework on Human Resource Development (HRD) in the Digital Age in helping to promote inclusive growth in the region.

The Monarch also emphasised the importance for APEC to have good engagement with its community, including in helping them embrace changes brought by technology through policy adjustments in education and labour.

His Majesty further stated that the HRD Framework would complement efforts to enhance the marketability and employability of Brunei Darussalam's human resources with initiatives under the i-Ready apprenticeship programme and Capacity Building Centre.

His Majesty also stressed that in order for APEC to remain purposeful and be a value-add to other regional economic frameworks post-2020, it must have the long-term support of the public to instil a sense of ownership of its future.

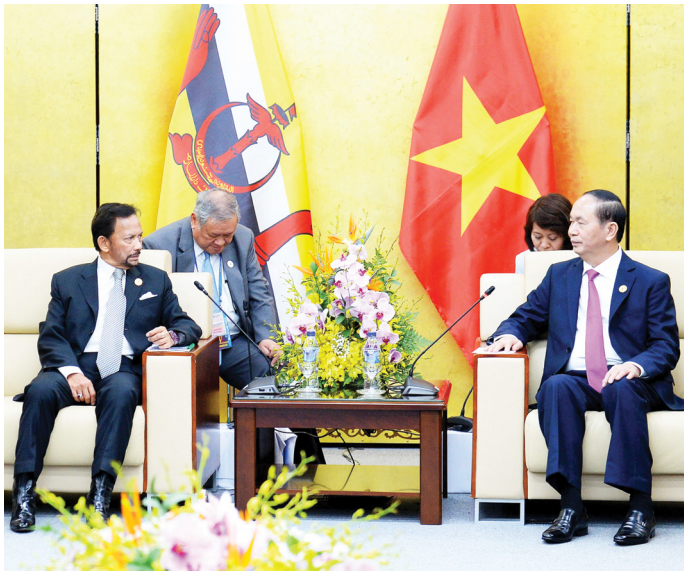
His Majesty then proceeded to join other APEC Economic Leaders for a group photo session. From there, His Majesty, together with other APEC Economic Leaders, proceeded to attend a Working Lunch at Citron Restaurant, Intercontinental Da Nang Sun Peninsula Resort. The Working Lunch brought forth the topic, "Fostering a Shared Future." At the end of the Retreat, the APEC Leaders' Meeting endorsed the "Da Nang Declaration."

His Majesty meets His Excellency the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

DA NANG, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM, November 10 - 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, held a meeting with His Excellency Tran Dai Quang, the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

During the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam exchanged views on regional and international matters of mutual concern and also discussed ways to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries.

Brunei Darussalam and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam established diplomatic relations in 1992, and for the past 25 years, the two countries have enjoyed very good cooperation in the fields of economy, trade and energy.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Tran Dai Quang, the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Bilateral Meeting with The Honourable Prime Minister of Australia

DA NANG, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM, November 10 - His Majesty also held a Bilateral Meeting with The Honourable Malcolm Turnbull MP, the Prime Minister of Australia. During the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and The Honourable Prime Minister of Australia discussed bilateral issues of mutual importance as well as regional and international matters.

Brunei Darussalam and Australia established diplomatic relations in 1984, and have since enjoyed good and friendly bilateral ties. The main areas of cooperation between the two countries are in trade, defence, education and health.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with The Honourable Malcolm Turnbull MP, the Prime Minister of Australia during the bilateral meeting.

His Majesty attends Informal Dialogue with ASEAN Leaders

DA NANG, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM, November 10 - 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 attended an Informal Dialogue with ASEAN Leaders. The dialogue took place at Furama Resort Da Nang in Da Nang, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The Informal Dialogue with ASEAN Leaders was chaired by His Excellency Tran Dai Quang, the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam as Chairman of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) 2017.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the Informal Dialogue with ASEAN Leaders.

AELM 2017 Gala Dinner

DA NANG, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM, November 10 – 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, attended a Gala Dinner hosted by His Excellency Tran Dai Quang, the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam as Chairman of the 25th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM). The event was held at the Sheraton Da Nang Resort and Spa.

Upon arrival, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was welcomed by His Excellency the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and spouse.

The Gala Dinner commenced with a welcoming speech from His Excellency the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for all the leaders and delegates attending the 25th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. The Gala Dinner also featured a number of cultural performances.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and other APEC and ASEAN Leaders in a group photograph session before proceeding to the Dinner Hall.

Launching of UBD FPT Global Centre and Simpur Restaurant

DA NANG, SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM, November 10 - 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, Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam, launched the UBD FPT Global Centre, in a ceremony held at FPT University, Da Nang, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The ceremony commenced with the reading of *Surah Al-Fatihah* and a *Doa Selamat* which was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam then officially launched the UBD-FPT Global Centre, and subsequently signed the commemorative plaque. This was followed by a *takbir* by a group of students attending the launch.

His Majesty then proceeded to tour the centre, and interacted with the teaching staff and students. Before ending the visit, His Majesty consented to join a group photo session with the staff and students at the centre.

The UBD FPT Global Centre is a new education campus established under an agreement that was signed between UBD and Viet Nam-based FPT University on 8th July 2017 to collaborate in the teaching of English. The centre is the first UBD campus abroad, and also the first ASEAN university to establish a campus in Viet Nam.

The centre aims to become the prime English-language training facility in the ASEAN region. To date, UBD has sent 13 Brunei educators and two professors to serve at the centre, along with 15 Bruneian students. UBD and FPT University have been in collaboration since 2012, particularly through student exchange programmes.

From the Centre, His Majesty proceeded to visit Simpur Restaurant in Da Nang. Upon arrival, His Majesty signed the commemorative plaque to mark the official opening of Simpur Restaurant before being invited to a luncheon served by the restaurant.

Simpur Restaurant is an initiative of UBD in catering to the demand for halal food and beverages in Da Nang, Viet Nam. It also serves as an attachment centre for Brunei students. The restaurant currently employs two Bruneian cooks and four students from the Institute of Brunei Technical Education who are undergoing work placement at the restaurant.



His Majesty signing the commemorative plaque to mark the official opening of Simpur Restaurant.



His Majesty interacting with two of the Bruneian chefs of Simpur Restaurant.

His Majesty arrives in Manila, Republic of the Philippines to attend the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits

MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, November 12 - 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 this afternoon safely arrived in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines.

Upon arrival in the Republic of the Philippines, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by Ambassador Marciano A. Paynor, Jr., the Director-General for Operations of the ASEAN 2017 National Organizing Council (NOC).

His Majesty was then introduced by Ambassador Marciano A. Paynor Jr. to His Excellency Sonny Dominguez, the Finance Secretary as Representative of the President of the Republic of the Philippines; and His Excellency Meynardo LB Montealegre, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty then boarded a motorcade heading to a renowned hotel in Manila where His Majesty will reside throughout the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) with Bruneian students.

"Partnering for Change, Engaging the World", ASEAN's theme this year reflects the support of the host country in promoting unity between the ASEAN member states as well as its' global partners.

The 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits will gather the ASEAN Heads of Government and State as well as dialogue partners and representatives of the United Nations (UN) in discussing dynamic and vibrant matters significant for the well-being of communities.

Bilateral meeting with His Excellency, President of the Republic of the Philippines

MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, November 12 - In the evening, 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 attended a Bilateral Meeting with His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte, the President of the Republic of the Philippines and Chairman of ASEAN. The Bilateral Meeting was held at the SMX Convention Center.

During the Bilateral Meeting, His Majesty and His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Philippines exchanged views on regional and international matters of mutual concerns as well as bilateral cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of the Philippines.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines and Chairman of ASEAN during the Bilateral Meeting.

From frontpage (His Majesty attends 31st ASEAN Summit Plenary Session)

His Majesty also stated that ASEAN had made remarkable progress over the years especially in contributing to regional peace and stability and promoting economic growth. It was important for ASEAN to build on its achievements by prioritizing the integration efforts through the ASEAN Economic Community.

His Majesty then welcomed the projection that ASEAN is expected to be the world's fourth largest economy by 2030. In this regard, His Majesty urged ASEAN to step up its efforts in doubling intra-ASEAN trade by 2025 and to conclude the RCEP as soon as possible.

His Majesty further called on ASEAN to quickly respond to the onset of the Fourth Industrial Revolution by enhancing the region's readiness to reap its benefits especially with regard to the digital economy, which is projected to increase the regional market for e-commerce from 30 billion in 2016 to 200 billion US dollars in 2025. In view of the wide ranging impact of the digital economy, His Majesty also called for ASEAN Member States to work on appropriate policy responses in wide ranging areas. In addition, His Majesty underscored the importance of deepening ASEAN's relations with its dialogue partners to further promote regional peace and security.

His Majesty applauded the strong friendship, trust, confidence and close cooperation shared by all ASEAN Member States. His Majesty was of the view that such ties formed the cornerstone of ASEAN's community building agenda.

As a way of further promoting solidarity amongst the ASEAN peoples, His Majesty announced that Brunei Darussalam will provide 50 scholarships in enhancing professional communication skills, for nationals from ASEAN Member States over the next five years.

During the Plenary Session, ASEAN Leaders also agreed to appoint Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam as the new Secretary-General of ASEAN for a five-year term from 2018-2022.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with other ASEAN Heads of State and Government and Dialogue Partners during the Special Gala Celebration for the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN.

50th Anniversary of ASEAN Special Gala Celebration

MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, November 12 - 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 this evening attended the Special Gala Celebration for the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN hosted by His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines as Chairman of ASEAN.

The Special Gala Celebration was also held in honour of the ASEAN Heads of State and Government as well as Dialogue Partners attending the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits.

Upon Arrival at the SMX Convention Center, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines and Madame Cielito Avanceña.

The Special Gala was also graced with music and singing performances.

Bilateral Meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan

MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, November 13 - His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam this morning held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Shinzo Abe, the Prime Minister of Japan. The bilateral meeting was held at the Philippines International Convention Center (PICC), Manila.

During the bilateral meeting, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency the Prime Minister of Japan discussed current matters and exchanged views on regional and international concerns including cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Japan.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Shinzo Abe, the Prime Minister of Japan.

The 5th ASEAN – US Summit

MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, November 13 - His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam first attended the 5th ASEAN-US Summit to Commemmorate the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-US Dialogue Relations.

The ASEAN-US Summit began with Opening Remarks by His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte, the President of the Republic of the Philippines as Chairman of ASEAN, where His Excellency welcomed the President of the United States of America to the Summit. This was followed by a statement from His Excellency Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America.

His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Philippines and Chairman of ASEAN then invited Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Laila Utama Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia as the Country Coordinator for the ASEAN-US relations to convey the ASEAN Common Statement.

During the Summit, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) of which amongst others, highlighted the United States of America as a valuable and strategic partner of ASEAN, and expressed appreciation to the United States' continued commitment to the region.

In commemorating 40 years of ASEAN-US partnership, His Majesty highlighted the importance of ASEAN and the United States of America working together to promote global growth and stability.

Under the economic cooperation, His Majesty called for greater collaboration amongst ASEAN and the United States' companies, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with His Excellency Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America and other ASEAN Heads of State and Government.

The 20th ASEAN – China Summit

MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, November 13 - His Majesty then attended the 20th ASEAN-China Summit which began with welcoming remarks by His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Philippines and Chairman of ASEAN who welcomed the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China to the Summit. This was followed by a statement from His Excellency Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Philippines and Chairman of ASEAN then invited His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore as the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-China relations to convey the ASEAN Common Statement.

During this Summit, His Majesty conveyed a *titah* (royal speech) urging ASEAN and China to work closely to conclude the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership as soon as possible to further strenghten the economic links between countries in the region.

His Majesty greatly valued the support and contributions of China as a significant strategic partner of ASEAN towards enhancing peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

His Majesty then recounted his attendance at the 14th CAEXPO held last September in Nanning and was pleased to work with China in which Brunei Darussalam was accorded "Country of Honour" twice since 2006.

His Majesty commended the impact of the expo has had in creating new opportunities for trade and business for the region and looked forward to China's continued support for the participation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in regional and global value chains.

His Majesty also highlighted the need to ensure that businesses are prepared for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. In this regard, His Majesty looked forward to collaboration in areas such as technological innovation and the digital economy during the ASEAN-China Year of Innovation in 2018.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with His Excellency Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China and other ASEAN Heads of State and Government.

The 19th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with His Excellency Moon Jae-in, the President of the Republic of Korea and other ASEAN Heads of State and Government.

MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, November 13 - His Majesty attended the 19th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit which began with welcoming remarks by His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Philippines and Chairman of ASEAN who welcomed the President of the Republic of Korea to the Summit. This was followed by a statement from His Excellency Moon Jae-in, the President of the Republic of Korea.

His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Philippines and Chairman of ASEAN then invited His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia as the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Republic of Korea relations to convey the ASEAN Common Statement.

The 20th ASEAN-Japan Summit



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the 20th ASEAN-Japan Summit.

MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, November 13 - Following the 19th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit, His Majesty then attended the 20th ASEAN-Japan Summit.

The ASEAN-Japan Summit began with welcoming remarks by His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Philippines and Chairman of ASEAN, where His Excellency welcomed the Prime Minister of Japan to the Summit. This was followed by a statement from His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.

His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Philippines and Chairman of ASEAN then invited His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, as the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Japan relations to deliver an ASEAN Common Statement on behalf of the ASEAN Member States.

Through the Statement, His Majesty acknowledged that Japan's strong support of ASEAN has been invaluable to its overall development. His Majesty then expressed appreciation for Japan's contributions to ASEAN, especially through the Japan – ASEAN Integration Fund, which has supported over 650 million USD worth of projects and activities.

His Majesty added that the heart-to-heart partnership shared between both sides was important in strengthening its future cooperation. ASEAN looks forward to continuing the various exchange programmes such as JENESYS, which sought to build friendships and promote mutual understanding amongst the youth.

His Majesty expressed the view that there is much for ASEAN to learn from Japan on the latter's experience in industrial development and new technology. In this regard, His Majesty conveyed ASEAN's appreciation for the Expanded Partnership for Quality Infrastructure Initiative aimed at promoting connectivity, and commended the launch of the ASEAN-Japan Innovation Network.

His Majesty also highlighted the role of institutions such as the ASEAN-Japan Centre and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) in reinforcing the ASEAN – Japan economic partnership.

Furthermore, His Majesty expressed ASEAN's confidence in the future of its relations with Japan, with the hope to continue developing the dynamic partnership and contribute to the regions' progress.

Bilateral Meeting with Prime Minister India

MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, November 14 - His Majesty held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India. The bilateral meeting was held at the Philippines International Convention Center (PICC), Manila.

During the bilateral meeting, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Republic of India discussed current issues and exchanged views on regional and international concerns including cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Republic of India.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

The 12th East Asia Summit



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with other ASEAN Heads of State and Government and Dialogue Partners.

MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, November 14 - 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 attended the 12th East Asia Summit held at the Philippines International Convention Center (PICC), Manila.

The East Asia Summit began with opening remarks by His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte, the President of the Republic of the Philippines as Chairman of ASEAN, whereby His Excellency welcomed all the East Asia Heads of State and Government to the Summit.

During the Summit, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) affirming his view that the East Asia Summit remains an important mechanism for strategic dialogue and cooperation, and underscored the work of the East Asia Summit as significant in addressing the interests and concerns of the region.

His Majesty looked forward to the finalisation of the new Manila Plan of Action, which sets out practical ways for East Asia Summit member states to work together in finding solutions to common challenges.

His Majesty noted that the work in the priority areas of the East Asia Summit complement the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, especially on environmental concerns and health matters. His Majesty urged relevant officials to collectively address these matters, including raising awareness on the issues, and enhancing preparedness in facing future challenges.

Their Majesties graces dinner hosted by retired RBAF officers

JERUDONG, November 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, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the dinner ceremony hosted by retired officers of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club in Jerudong in conjunction with the Golden Jubilee of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Accession to the Throne.

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Accompanying Their Majesties were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and General of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

Upon arrival, Their Majesties and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince consented to a group photo session with the Executive Committee members of the dinner at the Chesney Hall. Their Majesties then signed a commemorative parchment and were presented with a *pesambah* (gift) after the singing of the national anthem.

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja (Retired) Major General Pengiran Haji Ibnu Baasith bin Pengiran Datu Penghulu Pengiran Haji Apong in his welcoming speech said that as many as 654 officers, aged between 35 and 77, have retired from service, of which 29 are female army officers.

He mentioned that several retired officers were appointed as Cabinet Ministers, Legislative Council members, ambassadors and high commissioners as well as penghulus and village heads which shows His Majesty's trust towards their abilities and it is a great honour for them.

Before departing, Their Majesties and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince received a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from the retired officers and their spouses.



Their Majesties and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince in a group photo session with the Executive Committee members of the dinner at the Chesney Hall.

His Majesty attends Sarawak Regatta 2017

KUCHING, November 19 - 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 attended the Sarawak Regatta 2017 at the Kuching River Wharf. Upon arrival at the Kuching River Wharf, His Majesty was greeted by Yang Berhormat Datuk Haji Abdul Karim bin Rahman Hamzah, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Youth and Sports of Sarawak as the Minister Responsible for the Sarawak Regatta 2017.

His Majesty then joined His Excellency the Yang Di-Pertua Negeri of Sarawak and spouse; the Yang Amat Berhormat Chief Minister of Sarawak and spouse; and the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Youth and Sports of Sarawak for a group photograph session.

His Majesty was then invited to board the "*Sayang Sarawak*" Cruise Ship and sailed upstream along the Sarawak River. On board the cruise ship, the Monarch was invited to officiate the start of the boat race of the Sarawak Regatta 2017 with the firing of the starting gun. His Majesty was then brought to the starting line to participate in the special category of the regatta, the VIP-Category Boat Race.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam participating in the VIP-Category Boat Race. Accompanying His Majesty was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja (Retired) Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Accompanying His Majesty in participating in the VIP Boat Race was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

After the boat race, His Majesty then proceeded to the Grandstand to witness the Brooke Swim and the Duck Catching Challenge, as well as the "*Raja Sungai*" (King of the River) Boat Race

Final - the highlight of the Sarawak Regatta 2017 in which competitors competed for His Excellency the Yang Di-Pertua of Sarawak's Trophy. The Landas 11 team was crowned champions of the boat race.

His Majesty was then invited to receive the winner's trophy for the VIP Boat Race after Team Brunei Darussalam won the event, and the Monarch then presented prizes to the Landas 11 team, the winners of the "*Raja Sungai*" Boat Race Final of the Sarawak Regatta 2017.

At the end of the event, the Monarch also received a *pesambah* (gift) from the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Youth and Sports of Sarawak as the Minister Responsible for the Sarawak Regatta 2017. Prior to leaving the Kuching Waterfront, His Majesty was invited for a group photo session with the Brunei Darussalam rowers.

High Tea Reception

After the Regatta Sarawak 2017 had concluded, His Majesty then proceeded to the Hilton Kuching Hotel for a High Tea Reception, which was hosted by His Excellency Tun Dato Laila Utama Pehin Sri Doctor Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, the Yang Di-Pertua Negeri of Sarawak.

Held annually since 1872, the Sarawak Regatta today prides itself in being the oldest watersports event in Sarawak. Activities such as boat races, a cultural show, and a food and trade fair were also held during the regatta festival.

The Monarch's visit to Kuching also reflects the strong and harmonious relationship between Brunei Darussalam and the state of Sarawak, particularly in water sports.



His Majesty during the High Tea Reception hosted by His Excellency Tun Dato Laila Utama Pehin Sri Doctor Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, the Yang Di-Pertua Negeri of Sarawak.

His Majesty graces Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 21 – 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 attend a Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony hosted by Mukim Penghulus, Village Chiefs and Heads of Longhouses from all four districts in the country held in honour of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Accession to the Throne, at Tarindak D'Seni.

Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Upon arrival, His Majesty and other members of the royal family posed for a group photograph with Mukim Penghulus, Village Chiefs and Heads of Longhouses at Serambi Batil Hall. His Majesty then proceeded to Serambi Suluh Hall for Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony.

Yang Berhormat Haji Tahamit bin Haji Nudin, a member of the Legislative Council and Penghulu of Mukim Gadong 'A', said in his speech, on behalf of Mukim Penghulus, Village Chiefs and Heads of Longhouses, expressed gratefulness for the celebration marking the Golden Jubilee of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne on the October 5, 2017.

He said that under His Majesty's reign over the past 50 years, mukims, villages and longhouses in the rural areas are able to enjoy peace and stability.

He also expressed unwavering support to His Majesty's *titah* (royal speech) during the Golden Jubilee Celebration at Istana Nurul Iman, "the obligation of the ruler is to be fair to the people, while the people's obligation is to pledge loyalty in return. The sovereign is obliged to know the problems of the people while the people sympathise with the sovereign. That is the mutual obligation for the well-being of all," said Yang Berhormat.

Before leaving the ceremony, a *Doa Selamat* was read and His Majesty and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince consented to a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from other guests present.



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; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah during the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony.

Outstanding Civil Servants serve honestly and sincerely

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 22 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) at the 24th Civil Service Day Celebration held at the International Convention Centre (ICC) said that good public civil servants are those who serve honestly and sincerely, and not those who are efficient but dishonest, misuses authority and makes defamatory remarks.

His Majesty stressed that it is essential for the Civil Service to be clean from all negative elements for the nation and government to be blessed. Initiatives drafted under the Civil Service Framework will not be complete without considering the spiritual, moral and ethical factors in Civil Service.

His Majesty encouraged people to practise team spirit, as teamwork can ensure more benefits. When we talk about teamwork, it is not about forming an alliance which involves conspiracy or cronyism. Cronyism, His Majesty added, normally has a leader to control the group. Teamwork is different from that and a team flourishes through consensus and consultation.

His Majesty was pleased to note that the Prime Minister's Office, as the core agency in leading the public service, is actively implementing the Civil Service Framework. One of the initiatives that have been introduced beginning on October 1, 2017, is the New Performance Management System for all civil servants. The objective is to ensure that the assessment of work results of every officer and staff is carried out fairly and transparently, reflecting their true contributions.

His Majesty further said, "the assessment system must focus on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), besides competency evaluation. In this context, I urge every civil servant to take seriously the implementation of the new performance assessment system according to the stipulated guidelines. His Majesty also believes the new system will contribute more to productivity and competitiveness in providing quality Civil Services as well as promote innovation as a work culture.



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).

24th Civil Service Day Celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 22 – 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 attend 24th Civil Service Day Celebration at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

Also attending the celebration were 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 Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The event was graced with a special talk titled "*Etika Kerja Perkhidmatan Awam Berasaskan Falsafah Negara Zikir*" (Civil



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 awarding a trophy to the 3GS Group from the Survey Department, Ministry of Development, champions of the 20th National-level Quality Control Circle (KKC).

Service Work Ethics are Based on the Philosophy of a Zikir Nation), by Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Japar bin Haji Mat Dain @ Maidin, the Deputy State Mufti.

The 3GS group from the Survey Department, Ministry of Development was crowned champion of the 20th National-level Quality Control Circle (KKC) Convention with their project titled "Difficulties in Management of Computer EquipmentInformation" receiving a trophy, certificates and $6,000.

In second place was the Lifesaver995 group from the Fire and Rescue Department, Ministry of Home Affairs, with their project titled The Increase of Peat Fires during the Hot Season in Mukim Seria Areas", for which they received a trophy, certificates and $4,000.

Finishing in third place was the Mu@kad group, also from the Survey Department, Ministry of Development with their project titled "Rectified Skew Orthomorphic (RSO) Map not Achieving Customer's Expectations" for which they received a trophy, certificates and $2,000.

Seven other groups from various government departments each received certificates and $1,000. The event also saw 41 government officers and staff from Division II, III, IV and V of each ministry receiving the Civil Service Outstanding Employee Award from His Majesty.

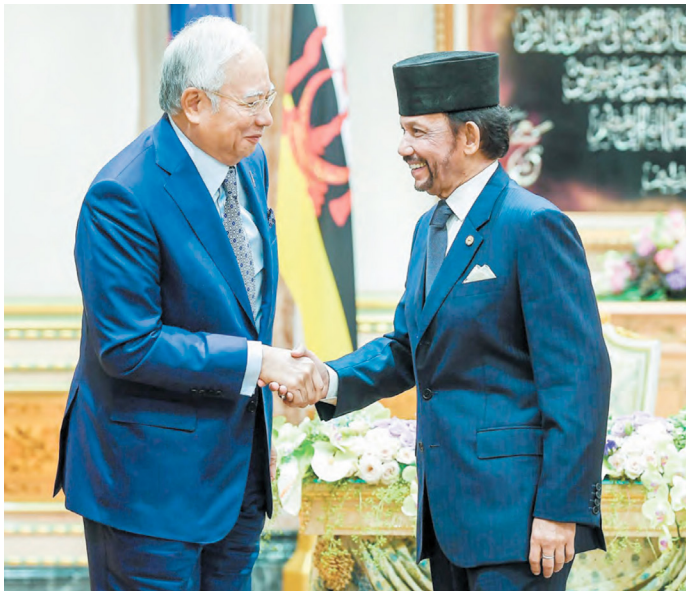
Carrying the theme of "Transformation Towards a Progressive Civil Service", it reiterated the government's pursuit of a transformed civil service that strives to be more responsive towards the needs and aspirations of the public, especially in the execution of government policies.

The 21st Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 23 - 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 this morning held a Four-Eye Meeting with Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Laila Utama Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, the Prime Minister of Malaysia for the 21st Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. The Four-Eye Meeting was held at Cheradi Ratna Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Following the Four-Eye Meeting, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Yang Amat Berhormat the Prime Minster of Malaysia witnessed the Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and two Framework Agreements in a ceremony held at the Baitul Masyuarah.

Also present to witness the Signing Ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Laila Utama Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, the Prime Minister of Malaysia.



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism and Dato Seri Paduka Dato' Sri Anifah bin Haji Aman, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia during the signing of Memorandum of Understanding.



Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Jamain bin Haji Julaihi, the Deputy Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office as Chairman of NUS and Yang Berbahagia Muhammad Zamri Jusoh, the Vice President, Malaysia Petroleum Management, PETRONAS during the signing of Memorandum of Understanding.

Signing the MoU between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Malaysia on Co-operation in the Field of Tourism on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, whilst signing on behalf of the Government of Malaysia was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Dato' Sri Anifah bin Haji Aman, the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Luncheon in conjunction with the Prime Minister of Malaysia's working 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; 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 Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade at the luncheon with Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Laila Utama Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia and other Malaysian Ministers.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 23 - His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam then hosted a Luncheon in conjunction with the working visit of Yang Amat Berhormat the Prime Minister of Malaysia for the 21st Annual Leaders' Consultation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. The luncheon was held in Baitul Rahmah, Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present at the Luncheon were 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 Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Regatta in conjunction with the Golden Jubilee Celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 26 - 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 attended the Regatta in conjunction with the Golden Jubilee Celebration of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Accession to the Throne.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other members of the Royal Family.

Starting the afternoon's event was the 15-Rower Fibreglass Boat Special Category Race held at the Brunei River that was competed by eight teams, including one in which His Majesty led to victory. His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah's team finished in second place, while the Mukim Penghulus and Village Heads team finished in third place. His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah's team finished the race in fourth place.



His Majesty's team during the 15-Rower Fibreglass Boat Special Category Race.

After the competition, His Majesty proceeded to the Dermaga Diraja and witnessed other events including the 20-Rower Under-30 Youth Fibreglass and the 15-Rower Higher Education Institutions Fibreglass.

His Majesty then boarded a boat from the Dermaga Diraja jetty and proceeded to the mouth of Sungai Lumapas to flag off the 5km 30-Rower Traditional Marathon Boat Race.

Sixteen teams from Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia took part in this much-anticipated event. Laksamana Sinapuan from Sarawak, Malaysia won the category, with Mukim Saba finishing as runner-up. The Lela-Cheteria team took the second

runner-up spot.

His Majesty later toured the exhibition set up by the Museums Department, Information Department and the Brunei Darussalam Jet-Ski Association at the Dermaga Diraja, which featured vintage and contemporary photos of boat races along the Brunei River, and a jet ski exhibition.

Towards the end of the event, His Majesty presented prizes to the winners of the main boat race categories at the royal dais.

Earlier in the morning, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah flagged off the regatta's first category event, the 25-Rower Inter-Ministry Traditional, which was won by the Ministry of Defence, before later presenting prizes to the winners of the different categories.

The morning event also saw teams competing for the winning title of the 30-Rower Traditional Open and 20-Rower Youth Open Fibreglass categories.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah during the 15-Rower Fibreglass Boat Special Category Race.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah participating in the 15-Rower Fibreglass Boat Special Category Race.

892 receive land lots and house keys

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 29 - 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 award land lots and house keys to 892 individuals under the National Housing Scheme (RPN) and the Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme (STKRJ) for Brunei Muara District.

From the total of 892 individuals, 12 received land lots and 880 received house keys.

Shortly after the key handover ceremony at the International Convention Centre (ICC), His Majesty visited the Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Masna Secondary School at Jalan Utama Mentiri in Kampung Sungai Akar, Mukim Berakas 'B'.

The Monarch then visited the house of Dayangku Nur Zirwatul Amal binti Pengiran Haji Mohammad who was awarded with a land lot, under the scheme for Division II government officers, at RPN Madang in Mukim Berakas 'B'.

The land lot scheme was launched in 1985 and was initially for government officers in Division II, but it was later extended to government officers and staff in Division III, IV and V as well as eligible members of the public. Land lots issued under this scheme must be developed within three years after the balloting date.

The Monarch then stopped by at the residence of Mohammad bin Haji Tahir @ Mohamad bin Tahir, the Village Head of Zone I of RPN Kampong Lambak Kanan. The village is home to some 5,600 people with a total of 648 houses.

His Majesty also toured the Jalan 49 Lambak Kanan Primary School, Cluster 3. The school has 478 pre-school to Year 5 students and 69 teachers.



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 keys to a recipient.

His Majesty concluded the day's tour by visiting the residences of house key recipients in RPN Kampung Panchor Mengkubau, Mukim Mentiri.

According to statistics provided by the Housing Development Department, to date over 2,800 houses and land lots have been provided to over 28,000 recipients across the four districts under the National Housing Scheme and the Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme.

The majority of the recipients are in the Brunei-Muara District with 19,894 recipients, followed by Belait District 6,585 recipients; Tutong District 1,943 recipients and 402 recipients at Temburong District.

Do not misuse power and position to oppress

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, November 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 delivered a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Maulidur Rasul, for the year 1439 Hijrah, which took place at Istana Nurul Iman, reminding that anyone entrusted with position and power must not use them to oppress others.

The most terrible form of oppression is slandering innocent people and this must be prevented.

"Brunei must be free from all signs of slander and oppression. This is the only principle that can save us and Allah the Almighty will surely bless the nation and the government fairly," added the Monarch.

Earlier, His Majesty said that justice was contaminated by irresponsible parties. Some of them are too cruel, looting the happiness of others with tyranny. The act was strongly condemned in his speech, just waiting for the moment to be punished by Allah the Almighty.

"In Brunei Darussalam, we do not allow tyranny to happen. We taboo it from happening. Surely in this lucky earth, there is no place for tyranny, it is our enemy. We can not afford to compromise with it, His Majesty said.

Tyranny said His Majesty, is usually done by the strong or powerful parties, including in the world of work or service.

''Because of this, I have a duty to remind that any person entrusted with the position or power, shall not use his position or power to oppress other people,'' he said.

His Majesty added, the celebrations of Maulidul Rasul is a memorable celebration to be remembered in the country.

Therefore, he said, reminding us that any attempt to disdain or diminish this festival, it is best to be handled by the act, not just by advice or preaching.

''It is not necessary to collect so much evidence of those who reject *tahlil*, reject the *talqin*, reject the celebration of Maulidul Rasul, refuse to answer to the imam's prayer and others. The important thing is that this has happened. If we are in our place, it may just happen sometimes, but in the other place it is already a common problem, His Majesty said.

According to His Majesty, it is reasonable for us to be cautious. So, drafting a law on it is appropriate at least as our preparation to deal with it.



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*.

''It is not necessary to collect so much evidence of those who reject *tahlil*, reject the *talqin*, reject the celebration of Maulidul Rasul, refuse to answer to the imam's prayer and others. The important thing is that this has happened. If we are in our place, it may just happen sometimes, but in the other place it is already a common problem,

Touching on the Maulidul Rasul theme this year is 'Rasulullah: Fair Qudwah Leadership', His Majesty said, Rasulullah Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam is an excellent example of the superior justice.

In his *titah*, the Prophet never did any injustice, that he once said: ''If Fatimah binti Muhammad stole, I would cut her hand as well.''

This is His Majesty's picture about the justice of Rasulullah, which in history, nobody has ever been mistreated by him because all people enjoy the justice of him even though the Musyrik who are hostile to him.

"This is why the efforts of the Prophet to develop Islam are very successful because through that justice, the human heart is easily attracted to Islam brought by him. This is the secret of justice when it is implemented. God will not disappoint anyone who works for justice,'' he said.

In conjunction with the commemoration of Maulidul Rasul this year His Majesty urged us to put together the resolutions to truly appreciate the theme of the celebration of the justice of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

Let the theme, not only be read or mentioned, but the important thing is to make it as a source of inspiration for us to emulate the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in the matter of practising and exercising that justice.