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Continuous effort as the only way forward



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 New Year Celebration which was broadcasted on Radio Television Brunei (RTB)

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 1 – One of the issues causing pressure in certain Asian countries is currency depreciation, which among other reasons, was due to activities of unethical and irresponsible currency speculation.

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, highlighted the matter his *titah* (royal speech) which was broadcasted on Radio Television Brunei (RTB) in conjunction with the New Year Celebration.

As a result, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam continued, the long-term economic excellences of these respective nations have been suddenly affected. According to His Majesty, this issue has evidently caused burden to the countries involved, especially those who had to loan money from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

This issue has also gained the attention of many to the extent that it has been discussed in various regional and international forums, which Brunei Darussalam has also participated in.

His Majesty suggested that the ASEAN community needs to unite and take integrated steps in overcoming this crisis.

His Majesty further stated that these measures include ensuring that the trade among ASEAN countries is still ongoing despite the problem of currency.

His Majesty also mentioned in his *titah* that the only way forward is through continuous effort, so that the journey will continue to develop smoothly.

"Aside from that, we also need to make preparations in facing all kinds of possibilities brought by the currents of globalisation," said His Majesty.

These currents, His Majesty explained, are not only in the form of economy and politics, but it also encompasses all

aspects of the environmental situation and security.

His Majesty stated that the year 1997, which left us with many experiences and incidents, has surely given us valuable teachings and lessons.

Among the incidents which made us concerned was the outbreak of an infectious disease which affects children.

However, His Majesty is nevertheless thankful, for it is with the will and mercy of Allah that our country is free from such misfortune.

"To put it simply, we are stepping into this new year with confidence and a resolution that improvement needs to be attained for the welfare and preservation of our country's name," His Majesty stated.

The citizens and residents of the country are also encouraged to continuously pray for the help and guidance of Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala in all affairs, as it is only with His help that we are able to achieve our aims regardless of difficulty.

His Majesty also stated his gratitude to Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala for His blessing, which has allowed our country to enter the year 1998 with maintained peace and security.

With the new year coincidentally coinciding with the beginning of Ramadan, His Majesty also expressed his hope that the blessings of Ramadan, which we are celebrating together, will give us unwithering strength in facing the challenges throughout the year.

His Majesty ended his *titah* with a heartfelt wish in facing the New Year and the fasting season. His Majesty also expressed his hope for Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala to continue to bless the country and its people with prosperity and guidance, as well as the wisdom and strength to pursue the desired journey towards development.



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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 Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) and the Myanmar Union Government (MUG) on the occasion of Myanmar Independence Day on January 4.
- The Honourable Mr. John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia; and The Honourable Sir William Deane, Governor-General of Australia on the occasion of Australia Day on January 26.
- His Excellency Mr. K.R. Narayanan, President of the Republic of India; and His Excellency Mr. I.K. Gujral, Prime Minister of the Republic of India on the occasion of the anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of India on January 26.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs, received audiences at the Balai Penghadapan Bukit Kayangan from:



His Excellency Wan Yusof bin Embong, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam on January 10.



His Excellency Muhammad Mumtaz Hussain, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam on January 10.

'Love our nation, love our community, love our language'



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 of Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1418 Hijrah celebration (left). His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attending the mass Sunat Aidilfitri Prayer with other members of the royal family at Jame' 'Asr Hassani Bolkiah, Kampung Kiarong (right).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 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 highlighted that everyone needs love aside from possessions.

Without love, the world will forever be shattered; His Majesty the Sultan and

Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in a *titah* (royal speech) broadcasted on Radio Television Brunei (RTB) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri for the year 1418 Hijrah.

"Love our nation; love our community; love our language; and love ourselves by upholding and practicing all the noble values in life, especially our holy religion," His Majesty continued.

Touching on love, His Majesty emphasised that the poor and weak would not be redeemed if those who are well off do not possess any feelings of love and sympathy.

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Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam receiving audience and *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) greetings from the spouses of foreign and state dignitaries (left). Other royal family members during the audience and *junjung ziarah* ceremony at the Istana Nurul Iman (right).



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, along with His Royal Highnesses, receiving audience and *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) greetings from national leaders and foreign dignitaries in conjunction with the celebration of Hari Raya Aidilfitri at Baitul Rahman, Istana Nurul Iman.

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According to His Majesty, children would continue to languish and suffer, in fact, some of them could be abused if their parents are poor when it comes

to love. His Majesty further called upon his beloved nation to firmly hold the values of love.

"Let us acknowledge the months of Ramadan and Hari Raya as months

of love, and may their spirits and lives continue to inspire us across time," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also expressed his hope that the blessings of the month of Ramadan will not be overshadowed by our excitement to celebrate Hari Raya, and that we will instead remain steadfast and cautious in going through our daily lives.

In his *titah*, His Majesty also said that the month of Ramadan serves as a personal platform to revive the heart.

"In addition to fasting, reciting the Al-Quran and performing Tarawih prayers; Ramadan also gives birth to praiseworthy traits in the community, which includes generosity and philanthropy," His Majesty explained.

His Majesty stated that a lot of donations were made by the philanthropic parties to those in need – especially to members of the community who are really in need of sympathy, such as people with disabilities and orphans – between the months of Ramadan and Hari Raya.

His Majesty expressed his joy of seeing this out turn as it signifies a healthy development, which the community should be proud of.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam interacting with foreign diplomats to Brunei Darussalam during the Hari Raya Celebration.



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 sharing a lighthearted moment while receiving audience and *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) from state dignitaries.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam with spouses of state dignitaries.

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His Majesty expressed his hope that this crucial moral characteristic will be further developed as a plan or step towards addressing the shortcomings of the society.

His Majesty then proceeded to perform the Sunat Aidilfitri Prayer at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah, Kampung Kiarong with the nation.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal

Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

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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 having a conversation with a foreign diplomat to Brunei Darussalam during the Hari Raya Celebration.

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The Sunat Aidilfitri Prayer was led by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal; and was followed by a sermon recited by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya bin Haji Ibrahim.

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His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah interacting with foreign diplomats to Brunei Darussalam at the event.



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 Mohamed Bolkiah with a foreign diplomat to Brunei Darussalam at the event.

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Afterwards, His Majesty along with Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran

Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz; consented to receive audiences and *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) from state

dignitaries and foreign diplomats along with their spouses in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration.

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His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah receiving *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) greetings from state dignitaries in conjunction with the Hari Raya Celebration.



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 having a friendly conversation while receiving audience and *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) greetings from state dignitaries.

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The audience and *junjung ziarah* ceremony took place at Baitul Rahman, Istana Nurul Iman, on the first day of Hari Raya, after the Muslims had finished performing their Sunat Aidilfitri Prayers at mosques and prayer halls across the country.

Present at the event were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed

Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Also in attendance were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah

Hafizah Sururul Bolqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Nor'ain; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Norhayati; and Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam, as well as other members of the royal family.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Princes 'Abdul Mateen interacting with foreign diplomats at the event.

His Majesty grants and receives Letters of Credence



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting Letters of Credence to His Excellency Colonel (R) Dato Seri Laila Awang Jocklin bin Kongpaw, Brunei Darussalam's newly appointed High Commissioner to Canada.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 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 consented to confer Letters of Credence to Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner, as well as receive Letters of Credence from High commissioners from two different countries at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented Letters of Credence to His Excellency Colonel (R) Dato Seri Laila Awang Jocklin bin Kongpaw, Brunei Darussalam's newly appointed High Commissioner to Canada.

His Majesty then received Letters of Credence from His Excellency Wan Yusof bin Embong, the new High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam who will

be replacing His Excellency Haji Salim bin Hashim upon his retirement.

His Majesty also received Letters of Credence from His Excellency Mohammad Mumtaz Hussain, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam.

Following the conferment and acceptance of the Letters of Credence, His Majesty then consented to receive audiences from the three High Commissioners separately.

His Majesty first welcomed His Excellency Colonel (R) Dato Seri Laila Awang Jocklin; who was then followed by His Excellency Wan Yusof; and His Excellency Mohammad Mumtaz afterwards.

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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 receiving Letters of Credence from His Excellency Wan Yusof bin Embong, the new High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving Letters of Credence from His Excellency Mohammad Mumtaz Hussain, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty expresses appreciation for Saudi Arabia



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 Courtesy Visit to His Majesty Al-Malek Fahd ibn Abdul Aziz, King of Saudi Arabia at the Palace of Al-Safa, the Holy City of Mecca. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

MECCA, January 25 - 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 hold a Courtesy Visit to His Majesty Al-Malek Fahd ibn Abdul Aziz, King of Saudi Arabia at the Palace of Al-Safa, the Holy City of Mecca.

During the visit, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty the King of Saudi Arabia exchanged their views on bilateral and regional issues.

His Majesty also expressed his appreciation for the facilities and hospitality the government of Saudi Arabia has provided to the haj pilgrims of Brunei Darussalam throughout all these years.

Present alongside, His Majesty during the visit were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah. Also in attendance was Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Manteri Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Ibrahim, Special Advisor to His Majesty at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Home Affairs; and His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah bin Haji Mohd. Jaafar, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Saudi Arabia.

Other attendees of the visit included His Royal Highness Salman bin Abdul Aziz, the Crown Prince; the Governor of Riyadh as well as other royal members of Saudi Arabia.

His Majesty set out to perform the Umrah in the Holy City of Mecca.

Islamic teachings as relevant lessons

BERAKAS, January 17 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs in his capacity as the Deputy Sultan, consented to attend the Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for the year 1418 Hijrah held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

Upon arrival at the event, His Royal Highness received a warm welcome from

Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Md. Zain bin Haji Serudin, as well as members of the 1997 National Level Major Islamic Events Executive Committee.

The event, which was attended by over a thousand special guests, was preceded with a recitation of Quranic verses by Awang Zulhelmi bin Haji Abidin; followed by its interpretation

read by Awang Haji Mohammad bin Haji Garing.

During the ceremony, His Royal Highness delivered a *sabda* (royal speech) encouraging the Muslim community to look at the Islamic teachings as something no less relevant in dealing with the problems faced by Muslims of the world today.

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Islamic teachings as relevant lessons



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs in his capacity as the Deputy Sultan receiving a warm welcome from members of the 1997 National Level Major Islamic Events Executive Committee upon arrival at the Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for the year 1418 Hijrah at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

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His Royal Highness further explained that the unfortunate news are always seen and read on newspapers and television,

which cause major concerns for our children and grandchildren's future.

His Royal Highness also said that in far-away states such as those in

Africa, Asia, West Asia and Europe, the conditions faced by the Muslims are disheartening.

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His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the event.

Islamic teachings as relevant lessons



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs in his capacity as the Deputy Sultan during the Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for the year 1418 Hijrah at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

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On the other hand, His Royal Highness added, the economic problems in the Southeast Asian region are extremely alarming, while the fluctuating stock market is causing currency values to decline.

Well established trade firms have been affected, and unemployment has increased while savings are at stake, said His Royal Highness.

"When these situations happen, the lessons given to us through the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam have significant meanings," His Royal Highness highlighted.

In other words, His Royal Highness further elaborated in his *sabda*, the Quranic lessons encourage us to have hope and not give up.

"Through the Al-Quran, we can uproot our sadness and confusion as its teachings encourage us to live in peace and harmony with one another and respect our neighbours," His Royal Highness stated.

From here, His Royal Highness continued, we can again find inspiration

and peace during times of despair by turning towards a new hope, tranquillity and tolerance.

At the ceremony, Professor Dato Dr. Awang Haji Mahmud Saedon bin Awang Osman, Islamic Legal Specialist at the Ministry of Religious Affairs also delivered a talk on

Nuzul Al-Quran as well as the teachings and benefits the event contains.

Towards the end of the event, a *Doa Selamat* was read by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal.



An Al-Quran recitation presented by Awang Haji Zulhelmi bin Haji Abidin and accompanied by a translation recited by Awang Haji Mohammad bin Gais also took place at the event.

Village development and progress promoted through broadcast



Dato Paduka Awang Haji Omar bin Haji Serudin, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs, during the launching of the 'Our Village' programme held at the Dewan Raya, Radio Television Brunei (RTB).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 26 – Radio Television Brunei (RTB) has been commended for promoting Brunei Darussalam's image to the world. The honours and appreciation came from Eurovision following a television programme known as 'Asian World', which is produced by RTB.

The statement was given by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Omar bin Haji Serudin, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs, who added that the programme was produced under RTB's initiative in coordinating the ASEAN News Exchange Programme.

The Permanent Secretary presented his speech during the launching of the 'Our Village' Programme at the Dewan Raya, RTB.

"Our Village' served as another success for RTB in providing local shows to the audience," he said.

This success, he further stated, is dependent on the response of the audience. Since 'Our Village' is a

programme that is close to the hearts and souls of the viewers, it will surely attract them.

"Our Village' will unveil and explore the life stories of the community, the rural development, the citizens as well as the country," he elaborated.

Meanwhile, Awang Haji Mohd. Yusof bin Haji Abd. Rahman, RTB's Acting Director, in his welcoming speech, highlighted among other matters, that the 'Our Village' Programme will bring understanding to the citizens of the country in general as well as the television audience, especially when it comes to villages and mukims in Brunei Darussalam.

Through the programme, positive values will be absorbed; and the developments brought about by the government, the excellence of its citizens, the advancements of cultural arts, agriculture, as well as other fields will be displayed.

The Acting Director also stated that one of the objectives of the programme is to provide exposure for the government's

plans in the developments outside the city; the initiatives of the rural youths in supporting and cultivating progress in their villages; the uniqueness of each village in terms of arts and culture; the socioeconomic aspects and the excellence of their residents; the roles of the village youths and leaders in the village and mukim consultative council; as well as the management of village neighbourhoods.

"An aim which will be achieved through the 'Our Village' programme is its development as a platform for national and cultural unity that is grounded on the *Melayu Islam Beraja* (Malay Islamic Monarchy) philosophy," he further explained.

The 'Our village' programme began airing on January 27 with broadcasts that last between 20-30 minutes. For the time being, it will be produced once a month, with 60 per cent of its contents touching on village backgrounds, whereas the rest of the show will consist of interviews with village and mukim heads, as well as contents involving youths of the villages.

Cyberspace management fundamental to national economic development



Dato Paduka Malai Haji Ali bin Malai Haji Othman, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, giving a briefing during the Meeting and Briefing Ceremony with General Managers of the Business Community and National Banks of Brunei Darussalam.

BERAKAS, January 15 – The development and management of cyberspace in Brunei Darussalam is fundamental to the country's economic, social and political development.

The statement was delivered by Dato Paduka Malai Haji Ali bin Malai Haji Othman, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications during the Meeting and Briefing Ceremony with General Managers of the Business Community and National Banks of Brunei Darussalam, which took place at the Briefing Room of the Ministry of Communications headquarters.

Early in the briefing, the Permanent Secretary explained that the development of the Cyberspace project in Brunei Darussalam incorporates the theme 'Brunei Info-Communications Infrastructure, Interacting, Globally' (BIIIG).

The Permanent Secretary mentioned three components of BIIIG: which are

Infrastructure, BruNet Development and Electric Commerce Development, which is centralised via Electronic Multi Services Counter.

According to Dato Paduka Malai Haji Ali, the development of an effective Cyberspace is important and will require close cooperation between the government, private sector and the business community.

"Our responsibility right now is to make full use of the information infrastructure so that we will be more competitive, and that we will be able to preserve and improve our state of living and facilities," he further emphasised.

Also giving a briefing during the meeting was Mr. Peter Chin, Head of Network Services Division of the Telecommunications Department. The briefing provided an elaboration on the provision of cyberspace infrastructure: which are related

to operations, requirements and applications, especially in the preparation for the 20th South East Asian Games in 1999, and the Asia-Pacific Heads of States 'APEC' in 2000, with Brunei Darussalam as the host country.

On the other hand, Mr. Wallace Koh, Head of Information Services Division, Telecommunications Department; in his briefing, also touched on the development of the Internet and BruNet, as well as the Electronic Counter Services Diversity Project (EMC), in addition to the latest services for consumers, especially in the business community.

Dato Paduka Malai Haji Ali also emphasised that the efforts made are in line with the intention to make Brunei Darussalam as a Trade and Tourism Service Center (SHuTT) by 2003, and afterwards, in preparation for the upcoming 20th SEA Games and APEC Conference.





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