



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

28 FEBRUARY 2003



National Day royal address

HM: PATRIOTISM FOUNDATION OF NATION-STATE

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the 19th National Day Celebration.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah singled out a list of factors that could sustain national progress, in which patriotism featured prominently.

Every citizen must have a sense of love for the country, he said on February 22 on the eve of Brunei's national day celebration. The sovereign likened patriotism as the 'much-needed fuel'; its absence would grind all machinery to a halt.

"Such is the human nature, in need of inner stimulus to inspire dedication and sacrifice for the nation-state," said His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

On the grounds of patriotism, the sovereign urged all citizens to uphold unity as national harmony and well-being are underpinned by mutual respect, tolerance, and the teachings of Islam.

On Brunei's ability to compete in the international arena, the sovereign outlined four major topics that could help determine the country's development. First, the government had given serious attention to efforts designed to strengthen Brunei's socio-economic development that stipulated an educated and skilful labour force.

"In this context my government will continue to ensure that our national education system is relevant to fulfil all the needs and requirements of the country," said His Majesty.

The sovereign commended the private sector's proactive involvement in offering internationally recognised tertiary education at diploma and degree levels. According to His Majesty, such service provides options for students and youths to continue their studies in Brunei at affordable costs.

Secondly, Brunei is mindful of its unemployment problem and is finding ways to generate enough job opportunities to avoid manpower wastage. At the same time Brunei is dissuading its citizens from being over dependent on the government sector for employment, hitherto the usual practice.

According to the sovereign, setting up a private sector-friendly and self-sustaining economic environment could help alleviate the unemployment problem. Through the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB), the government had launched a new initiative designed to develop two industrial sites. The areas are Sungai Liang in the Belait district and the Pulau Muara Besar, an island off the coast of the Brunei-Muara district.

His Majesty said that the implementation of such initiative could offer local job opportunities, and

* Continued on centre page

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on March 2003. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383400/ext.BDN Division or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

HM receives accreditation from five envoys



Above and below: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives diplomatic credentials from His Excellency John Bentum-Williams, Ghana's non-resident ambassador to Brunei and His Excellency Abdullah Mohamed Talib Al-Marri, the Qatari non-resident ambassador to Brunei.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah received diplomatic credentials from five foreign envoys on February 19, held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Excellency John Bentum-Williams, 64, Ghana's non-resident high commissioner to Brunei was first to submit his diplomatic credential. Based in Kuala Lumpur, high commissioner Bentum-Williams previously worked as financial and investment adviser to various institutions.

Next was His Excellency Abdullah Mohamed Talib Al-Marri, the Qatari non-resident ambassador to Brunei. Based in Jakarta, ambassador Al-Marri, 53, began his career with the Qatari diplomatic service in 1980.

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** From page 2
(diplomatic appointment)*

He was formerly the Qatari ambassador to Sudan from 1993 to 1999.

His Excellency Daniel Woker, the Swiss non-resident ambassador to Brunei, was the third envoy to submit his diplomatic credential. Based in Singapore, Ambassador Woker was formerly the Swiss ambassador to Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar while holding the ambassador-level post director of politics and security. His Excellency holds a doctorate in law.

Next was His Excellency Hugh Swift, Ireland's non-resident ambassador to Brunei. Ambassador Swift, 60, previously held a string of ambassadorship to several states throughout his 38-year career with the Irish diplomatic service: Botswana, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Namibia, South Africa, Sudan, and Zimbabwe. He also previously held the post special representative of Ireland to Palestine in 1993.

The fifth envoy was His Excellency Philippe Kridelka, Belgium's non-resident ambassador to Brunei. Based in Singapore, ambassador Kridelka, 42, began his career with the Belgian diplomatic service in October 1987. A graduate of law, His Excellency's previous postings include Iran, Poland, and the European Union.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granted separate audience sessions to the five ambassadees after the accreditation ceremony.

The five ambassadors' itinerary was concluded with separate audience sessions with Brunei's Foreign Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at the Balai Penghadapan of Bukit Kayangan.



Top picture, above and right: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives diplomatic credentials from His Excellency Daniel Woker, the Swiss non-resident ambassador to Brunei; His Excellency Hugh Swift, Ireland's non-resident ambassador to Brunei; and His Excellency Philippe Kridelka, Belgium's non-resident ambassador to Brunei.





A gesture of close friendship between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore. Singapore's President, His Excellency S.R Nathan and wife welcomes His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri.

State visit to Singapore

HM: CLOSE FRIENDSHIP PRODUCES MUTUAL BENEFITS

His Majesty singled out areas of cooperation, which are expected to grow in strength and scope in the future, that had benefited Brunei: culture, defence, education, health, technology and trade.

He commended the Brunei-Singapore relationship that had produced two strong modern states that share hopes and help each other realise them.

“We are doing this both bilaterally and as cooperative partners in a host of regional and international bodies,” said His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

He also expressed Brunei’s admiration for Singapore’s rapid rise to prosperity.

“In all these endeavours, the people of Singapore and their government have not just concentrated upon their own country’s development. They have made a tremendous contribution to the whole of South East Asia,” he said.

Brunei-Singapore relationship goes beyond the formalities of a state occasion. His Majesty’s response to future reciprocal visits between the two states reflected the close relationship: “Come and see us anytime. You are always welcome.”

This was His Majesty’s second state visit to Singapore; the first one was in 1990. Brunei’s modern diplomatic history with Singapore began with the setting up of a Brunei Government Agency on February 1, 1975. The Singapore-based office was upgraded to Commission-level in September 1, 1982, and later upgraded to High Commission-level in January 1, 1984 when Brunei resumed its status as an independent sovereign nation-state.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at a one-to-one meeting with Singapore's Prime Minister, His Excellency Goh Chock Tong.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri at Asian Civilisations Museum at Empress Place.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with Singapore's president, His Excellency S.R. Nathan at a state banquet held at the Istana (national palace).

State visit to Singapore

HM: BRUNEI AND SINGAPORE SHARE COMMON HOPES FOR ASEAN

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah highlighted the similarity of interest held by Brunei and Singapore concerning the region's security.

"No criminal groups whether trafficking in narcotics, finance, human beings or religious extremism will be permitted to damage our peoples' lives nor cloud their dreams of a happy and prosperous future, he said.

He said that ASEAN overcame such predicaments before and would continue to do so again by means of 'resolute action, shared expertise and common determination'.

"They will not darken the vision our governments have for our region," said His Majesty on February 27 during the state banquet hosted by Singapore's President, His Excellency S.R. Nathan.

He expressed his support and appreciation of Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong's call on ASEAN to implement relevant programmes and projects scheduled for completion within this generation's lifetime.

His Majesty also called on ASEAN 'to be strong, positive and optimistic' if it is to achieve its ambition of becoming a region where 'millions of people for whom it is home, will live in peace and stability'.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Camp Hendon, the commando headquarters of the Republic of Singapore Armed Forces.

State visit to Singapore

LOG BOOK OF THE SOVEREIGN AND CONSORT

Their Majesties' itinerary began with a state banquet hosted by the Singapore President at the Istana on February 27. His Majesty's speech emphasised the close relationship between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore that had brought mutual benefits to the two states.

Their Majesties visited the Asian Civilisations Museum's (ACM) second site at Empress Place the following day. Opened since March 2, ACM's new flagship showcases ancient artefacts from Southeast Asia, China, India, and West Asia reflected Singapore's ancestral cultures.

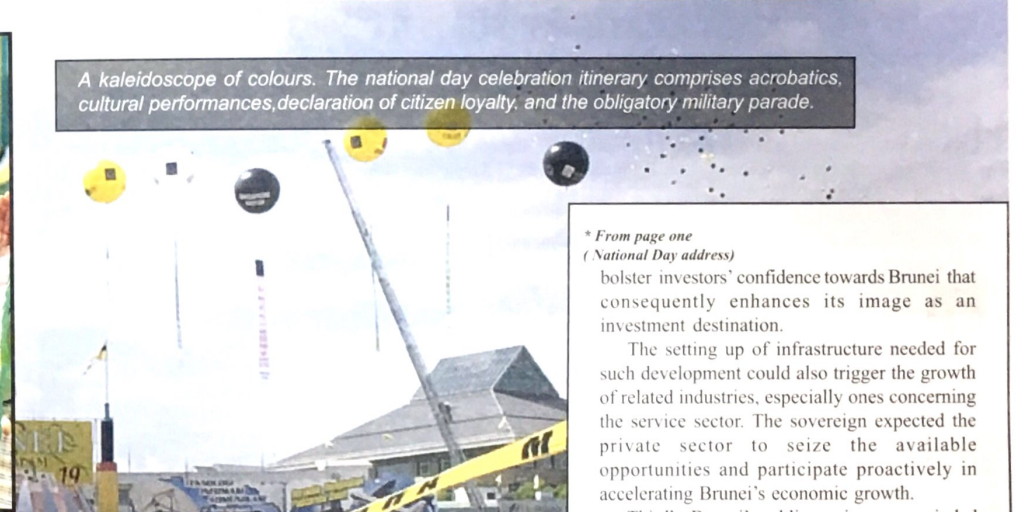
His Majesty's itinerary on February 28 also included the one-to-one meeting with Singapore's Prime Minister, His Excellency Goh Chok Tong. The sovereign also held a meeting with Mr Lee Kwan Yew, Singapore's senior minister.

His Majesty next visited Camp Hendon, the commando headquarters of the Republic of Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) where he was awarded the Honorary Airborne Wing. The award was in recognition of His Majesty's contribution in fostering closer ties between the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and the SAF. The tour of Camp Hendon also included witnessing military training.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri's two-day itinerary began with a visit to the Kandang Kerbau Women and Children's Hospital on February 27. The following day, Her Majesty visited the Pertapis Centre for Women and Girls. Pertapis is the Malay acronym for the non-profit welfare organisation administered by the Islamic Association of Singapore. Her Majesty also visited the Esplanade, Singapore's national performing arts centre.



A kaleidoscope of colours. The national day celebration itinerary comprises acrobatics, cultural performances, declaration of citizen loyalty, and the obligatory military parade.



National Day celebration YOUTH SPEARHEADED SHOW

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and members of the royal family consented to attend the 19th National Day celebration on February 23. About 15,000 people were mobilised for the show at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin, a public square at the heart of the capital. Two-segment drama acts served as highlight of the event.

The first engaged 800 participants, in which the content include poetry recitals with relevant props to match. The second displayed a ten-part act depicting the multi faceted lives of youths and their contribution to nation building.

The national day celebration's itinerary comprised cultural performances displayed through the two-segment drama acts, declaration of citizen loyalty, and the obligatory military parade.

The day before, the sovereign and entourage joined scores of Muslims for the thanksgiving prayer at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque.

** From page one
(National Day address)*

bolster investors' confidence towards Brunei that consequently enhances its image as an investment destination.

The setting up of infrastructure needed for such development could also trigger the growth of related industries, especially ones concerning the service sector. The sovereign expected the private sector to seize the available opportunities and participate proactively in accelerating Brunei's economic growth.

Thirdly, Brunei's public service was reminded to be aware of the private sector requirement. Through a two-way communication, said His Majesty, the former could ensure that the culture of self-reliance among citizens continues to flourish and not weakened by inefficient management.

Finally, the sovereign urged Brunei's youths to engage their careers with dedication and commitment.

Brunei Darussalam had announced its two-pronged economic diversification strategy on January 15. The first prong involving Sungai Liang and Pulau Muara Besar was estimated to cost US\$4.5 billion, much of it from foreign direct investment (FDI), and offer 6,000 permanent new jobs for locals. The second, pledging a US\$300 million of FDI, entailed the development of strategic non-oil and gas industrial clusters.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Leaders' Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

NAM LEADERS' SUMMIT 2003

HM: DIPLOMACY VITAL FOR WORLD PEACE

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah said that diplomacy is the best means to resolve international problems whereby dispute settlements are decided by the United Nations (UN) and international law. The sovereign made the announcement on February 24 at Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Leaders' Summit held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

His Majesty commended NAM's effort in fostering the South-South Cooperation, a cause also being championed by other international bodies that Brunei holds membership such as ASEAN, APEC and the Commonwealth.

According to the sovereign, NAM serves as a useful platform that establishes the modern relationship between developing and developed states. NAM is an important actor in the international arena, he said, because it expresses the voice of developing states.

The 2003 Summit was concluded with a six-point statement called the Kuala Lumpur Declaration. Among other things, the Declaration stressed the primacy of state-to-state dialogues, diplomacy, and multilateral process as the means to attain world peace.



His Majesty joins the leaders of the NAM member states into the plenary session.

NAM LEADERS' SUMMIT 2003

HM: BRUNEI READY TO COOPERATE

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah touched on Brunei's participation in helping NAM to enhance member states' development.

"As a small-member state, Brunei offers modest contribution to the fostering of South-South Cooperation; an exercise that will take time and is difficult to bring into fruition," he said.

His Majesty also highlighted Brunei's readiness to cooperate with Indonesia in strengthening the latter's development capacity via the Jakarta-based South-South Centre.

His Majesty's itinerary also included bilateral meetings with the presidents of Afghanistan, East Timor, and Iran; and a one-to-one meeting with the Lebanese prime minister. His Majesty's schedule also included a meeting with the Syrian vice-president.

Brunei Darussalam joined NAM in 1992.

Courtesy visit to the Malaysian sovereign

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah paid a courtesy visit to His Majesty Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia at the Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur on February 25.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah were in Malaysia attending the NAM 2003 Leaders' Summit.

The Brunei royal entourage also attended the non-official consultation with the leaders of member-states of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) the following day. Much of the discussion revolved around Iraq, the Middle East, and the role of the United Nations in settling disputes among nation-states.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on a courtesy visit to His Majesty Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia.

CEO: New software improves aircraft use and maintenance



Dato Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah (left) at the launching of the implementation of the maintenance management system software called Boeing Enterprise One™.

Peter Foster said Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) would continue to acquire sophisticated technology to make the company become the certified third party maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility.

The chief executive officer's announcement on February 11 was referring to RBA's implementation of the maintenance management system software, Boeing Enterprise One™.

Boeing Enterprise One™ comprises a set of integrated software modules that together provide an enterprise resource-planning tool specifically tailored to the air transport industry. As the system is divided into specific modules, airlines could select ones suitable for their needs: RBA chose four.

The cost reducing software promises operational efficiency by enabling RBA to optimise its support functions covering aircraft maintenance, spare part inventory, and fleet utilisation.

Acting chairman: Have commitment, RBA will succeed

Dato Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah said Royal Brunei Airlines' (RBA) success depended on employee commitment and citizens' support.

"RBA's objectives are to strengthen the company's standing, engender public pride, and enable it to offer employment opportunities for Brunei citizens," said the airline's acting chairman.

According to Dato Haji Hazair, employee commitment to build a strong and competitive organisation is crucial; the implementation of Boeing Enterprise One™ functioned as one of the tools that could lead to RBA's success.

"The implementation of this software enables staff to carry out their tasks and responsibilities more quickly and diligently," he said.

Fast-track employee recruitment in public service

Ministries could now speed up the hiring of non-executive staff and enforce disciplinary action applicable to both managerial and non-managerial personnel.

This was outlined in a State Circular No. 04/2003 that required each ministry to establish a personnel board tasked to hire posts unique to the ministry concerned.

Dato Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah announced the criteria on February 27

during a briefing on staff recruitment and disciplinary action process.

The permanent secretary at the Prime Minister's Office said that personnel boards assist, not supersede, the Public Service Commission in the management of employment vacancy and enforcement of disciplinary action in ministries.

"The Public Service Commission is still the agency responsible and accountable for appointments in the

public service and final arbitration on disciplinary cases as provided by the Public Service Commission Act," he said.

The employee selection process could now be made quicker because a personnel board deals with applications for specifically designated jobs that are unique to the institutional needs of each ministry. The Public Service Commission previously managed this routine exercise.

UBD launches second book on Brunei economy

Researchers and international academia could now access additional information on Brunei's economy following the launching of the "*Readings on the Economy of Brunei Darussalam Volume 2*" on February 20.

Its publisher, University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD), issued the first volume in 1999 that became standard reference material for studying Brunei economy and enjoyed subscriptions from foreign libraries and universities including Oxford and Cambridge.

Pehin Dato Haji Yahya bin Pehin Dato Haji Bakar, permanent secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, said that Brunei-based academic writings could balance ones published by experts overseas.

UBD vice chancellor, Dr Haji Ismail bin Haji Duraman said an American company, Proquest Incorporation, had offered to market the second volume online payable per customer access.

The 14-chapter book is sold for B\$20 for hardcover and B\$15 for soft cover.

More UBD link ups

Students and staff of the University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) could soon attend short-term courses at the Sultan Idris Education University of Malaysia (UPSI).

This was disclosed during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UBD and UPSI on February 17. The MoU included provision that allows members of both universities to alternately hold academic gatherings such as conferences, seminars, and workshops.

This was the second MoU signed by UBD this year. The first MoU was signed with the Sultan Qaboos University on January 22. This agreement enables Brunei and Omani universities to exchange academic publications and faculty visits. It also enables Brunei students to enrol into the Omani university and vice versa.

Seven digit national phone numbers commences

Brunei Darussalam is switching into a seven digit national numbering system, previously six, effective March 22 in preparation for future demands from users.

The seven digit numbering is applicable for line users of the state-owned Brunei Telecom Department (JTB) and the privately held company, Data Stream Technology (DST).

This was announced on February 17 by Buntar bin Osman, the chief executive officer of Brunei's Authority for Information Telecommunication Industry (AITI).

Brunei previously switched from a five-digit telephone numbering system into six-digit in 1990.

Dialogue between state and locality

PERMANENT SECRETARY: MIND THE INFORMATION FROM ICT

The prevalent use of the information communication technology (ICT) in homes throughout the country exposes users to all kinds of details. Dato Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah urged citizens not to get easily influenced by accusations against the government and its officials.

He called on people to exercise caution and be discerning towards information acquired through the ICT.

"Citizens should be aware of elements that try to confuse and manipulate people with the intention to disturb this country's unity and harmony," he said.

The permanent secretary of the Prime Minister's Office made the remark on February 16 during the dialogue session between senior government officials and locals of Mukim Bukit Sawat. The area, Mukim Bukit Sawat, is a cluster of villages in a remote location in the Belait district.

His remark also stressed the importance of good family upbringing as prerequisite to building a successful country (see Box).

According to Dato Haji Hazair, Bruneians are fortunate. Free from threats and violence, unlike some states that are marred by internal problems, Bruneians run their daily lives without fear or apprehension. "We can sleep peacefully at home and feel at ease when we leave home," he said.

Peace and stability underpin national survival and tranquillity, and citizens should be mindful of these, according to the permanent secretary. If neglected, their absence could jeopardise the current growth and

development.

The bases of national integrity - social harmony, mutual respect, tolerance and goodwill - should be nurtured and practised, he said

"This includes citizens' constant support and cooperation with the government under the wise leadership of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam," said Dato Haji Hazair.

According to the permanent secretary, once a country is afflicted with security problem it would be difficult to restore law and order. This impedes the government's implementation of socio-economic development and obstructs citizens' pursuit of a comfortable and secure livelihood.

The responsibility of maintaining peace and security does not rest solely on government agencies. According to the permanent secretary, citizens also contribute to peace and security by sustaining Brunei's way of life that emphasises mutual respect and upholds culture.

Dato Haji Hazair said that in 1991 the sovereign reminded citizens to practise community life based on consultation and goodwill as stipulated by the teachings of Islam. His Majesty also said that citizen disunity afflicted some states with instability: the problem happened because of self-serving motives pursued by some quarters at the expense of national interest.



Dato Haji Hazair, permanent secretary at Prime Minister's Office urges citizens not to get easily influenced by what they read in the Internet.

Permanent secretary: Family an important institution

The family plays a pivotal role in combating social ills affecting today's youths. Dato Haji Hazair urged each community member to build a generation that is both devout and enjoys proper upbringing.

"An individual born and raised in a decent society has the potential of becoming the backbone of the community and country," he said.

He also expected families to give attention to academic development, discipline, and behaviour and social interactions of children and youths.

According to Dato Haji Hazair, a strong society is likely to produce a successful country.

The government's engagement in stemming social problems could be traced in the strategies and action plans implemented by the Social Problems Committee, he said.



Dato Haji Hazair, and acting Director of Information, Haji Bujang bin Haji Masu'ut at the dialogue session between senior government officials and locals of Mukim Bukit Sawat.

National Day royal address

HM: PEACE VITAL FOR NATION-STATE WELL-BEING

His Majesty said that Brunei strongly upholds the principles of justice and peace as defended by all members of the international community.

According to the sovereign, Brunei would not neglect any efforts to maintain peace and tranquillity because both attributes underpin a country's prosperity. "Effective development can only be achieved when there is peace," said His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

His Majesty frequently said that there is price for peace and stability in the life of a nation-state. "We can appreciate its value more as we continue facing world turbulence threatening mankind today. ASEAN is not exempted from incidents that can jeopardise peace and stability," he said.

He emphasised the country's stand regarding threats to national integrity: Brunei does not give blessing or support to any action that could jeopardise peace.



Standing proud as Brunei Darussalam celebrates its 19th National Day at Taman Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Brunei In Brief

Official name: Negara Brunei Darussalam

Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size: 5765 sq. km

Geographical Position: North-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia

Population: 340,800 (2002 estimate)

National Carrier: Royal Brunei Airlines

Official Language: Malay

Official Religion: Islam

Official Website: www.brunei.gov.bn

January Rainfall: 60.0 mm

PUBLIC WARNING. The trafficking of **controlled drugs** carries the **death penalty** in Brunei Darussalam.

Printed by BORNEO PRINTERS & TRADING SDN.BHD. Simpang 636, No.5,6,7, Block B, Ong Keh Beng Building, Jalan Tutong, Bandar Seri Begawan BF 1320, Negara Brunei Darussalam.