



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

29 FEBRUARY 2004



20<sup>th</sup> National Day logo

## 20<sup>th</sup> National Day royal address HM: Agencies for a sustainable economic growth

**B**runei Darussalam would soon set up a special task force in its bid to sustain national growth for the next 30 years.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted the government's plan in conjunction with the nation's 20<sup>th</sup> National Day on February 23.

The multi-phase economic strategy, according to the sovereign, would need two agencies to commence by 2006's

financial year. Main responsibilities of these agencies are to update the National Vision; and to prepare a 30-year work strategy and development plan. These agencies would be spearheaded by a minister.

Citizens are urged to be committed with the new work strategy as they as stakeholders should be involved.

His Majesty also said that economic growth relies on sound administration and effective managing mechanism. It should be

more effective and proactive. While managerial and the decision-making system should be adaptable if the situation entails it to do so.

The sovereign also said that it is fundamental that the nation has a skilled and value-added human resources. This could only be achieved through the education system which prepares policies and curriculum relevant to the job-market, especially at the tertiary and vocational level.

*'Patriotism core of National strength'*

## **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER**

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### **YOUR TURN**

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 30 April 2004. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 238 3400/ext.BDN Division or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

## **PALACE NEWSROUND... PALACE NEWSROUND...**



*Their Majesties the King and Queen of Sweden on a three-day state visit to Brunei*

## **Swedish King & Queen Visits Brunei**

**D**istance, and differences in culture, history and tradition do not impede bilateral relationship between nation-states.

In some instances, governments make common cause for a few purposes. The governments of Brunei and Sweden, for example, exercise functions that have similarities: contributing to world peace, sheltering the vulnerable members of society, and upholding universal values.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam remarked on February 7. His banquet speech was for Their Majesties the King and Queen of Sweden who were on a three-day state visit to Brunei.

"I believe we have much to offer each other and I look forward to our governments and our business sectors continuing to work together in close cooperation and friendship," said His Majesty.

Brunei and Sweden, he said, hold 'similar world view' by acknowledging that citizens expect a government to shape a future where they engage challenges 'with hope and

confidence'.

According to the sovereign, citizens also expect a government to champion the preservation of natural heritage and act as repository of national history.

"And as the Kingdom of Sweden has long demonstrated, these twin objectives need not be in conflict," he said.

He commended Sweden's contribution to 'international peace, progress and security'. He also singled out the hallmark of the Swedish royalty's functions. The first referred to the king's commitment to advancing 'universal knowledge, understanding and excellence' through the Nobel Prize Awards in the humanities and sciences.

The second was on Their Majesties' effort in championing the rights of the vulnerable members of society. And the third referred to Their Majesties' call to preserve the world's natural environment.

"We deeply respect the dedication you have both offered not just to your own country but to the strengthening of a world community that is caring, tolerant and informed," said His Majesty.



*Their Majesties exchange gifts and honours at the Istana Nurul Iman*



## Log book of the Swedish royalty in Brunei

Their Majesties' three-day state visit to Brunei began with the exchange of gifts and honours with the hosting monarchy on February 7 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

From Brunei:

- The Royal Family Order of the Crown of Brunei (DKMB) to His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf
- The Most Esteemed Family Order of Laila Utama (DK) to Her Majesty Queen Silvia

From Sweden:

- The Royal Order of the Seraphim to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam
- The Royal Order of the Polar Star to Her Majesty The Raja Isteri

Highlights of their Majesties visits include:

- A visit to the headquarters of the Brunei Scouts Association, Brunei Museum, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and the Ministry of Development by His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf
- A visit to the Jame' 'Asr Hassnail Bolkiah mosque, Brunei Arts and Handicrafts Training Centre and a boat ride to view Kampong Ayer (clusters of villages built along parts of the Brunei River) by Her Majesty Queen Silvia
- A visit by their Majesties to the Temburong district and to the royal regalia building based in Bandar Seri Begawan

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received His Royal Highness Tengku Mohamad Faris Petra Ibni Sultan Ismail Petra, the Crown Prince of Kelantan on February 10 at the Istana Nurul Iman.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received diplomatic credentials on February 16 at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

- ① His Excellency Christian David Bennett, the new Australian High Commissioner to Brunei.
- ② His Excellency Alexios G. Christopoulos, the new non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Greece to Brunei.
- ③ His Excellency Dr. Oleksandr Horin, the new non-resident Ambassador of Ukraine to Brunei.
- ④ His Excellency Javier Gonzales Terrones, the new non-resident Ambassador of Peru to Brunei.



# HM: Carry out work with good intention

Citizens need to forgo some aspects of leisure if they are to secure greater rewards. It entails sacrifice of all kinds, which is not limited to life and possessions.

One of the characteristics of sacrifice is patience. In practice, this calls for submission to the will of Allah, and keeping away from anything that causes sins. The other characteristic is the pledge to infuse good intentions into the process of any activity – a necessity for earning good deeds.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah remarked on February 2 to commemorate the *Aidil Adha*, a religious festival marking the culmination of the Haj.



*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Aidil Adha celebration*



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received audiences on February 17 at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

- ① Madam Kathleen Anne Buckley, the wife of newly accredited Australian High Commissioner to Brunei.
- ② Madam Shirley Tan, the wife of newly accredited Canadian High Commissioner to Brunei.

# HM: Leadership vital for nation's survival

**H**is Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stressed the importance of a good leadership for nation's survival.

The sovereign made the address at the officiating ceremony for 'Pameran Kepimpinan Raja' (Sovereign's Leadership Exhibition) on February 18 at the International Convention Centre.

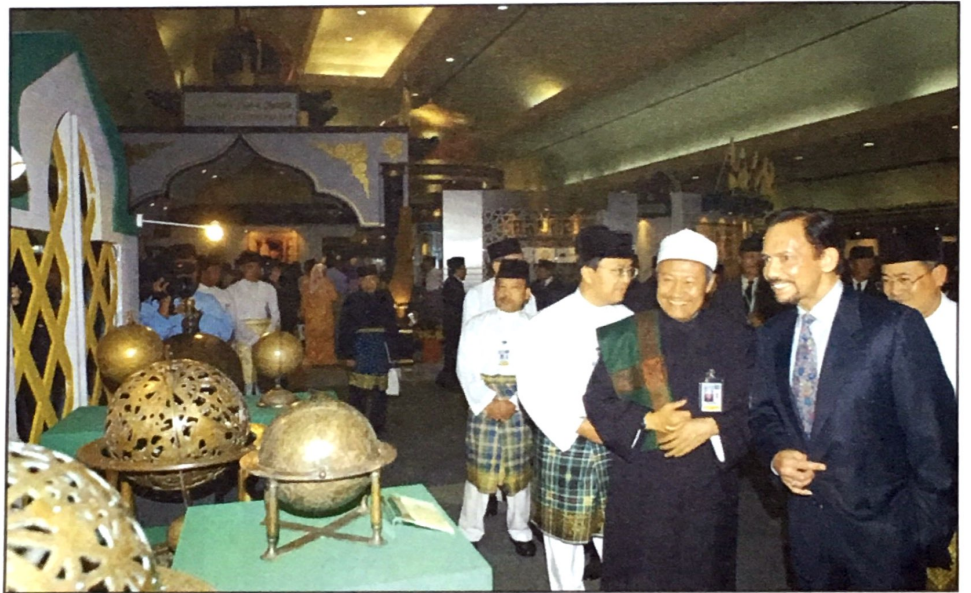
His Majesty said that proper and effective work could only be achieved with leadership. A weak leadership would reduce the quality of work, or if not a total failure.

Along with normal qualifications, leadership is needed for the survival of the nation. His Majesty said that when leadership is available, we not only exist but we become champion in competitions.

The sovereign further stated that leadership does not need to refer to seniority but 'big mind'. This is when constructive ideas are produced and manifested into plans and work.

'Pameran Kepimpinan Raja' is open for the public from February 18 to March 3 at the International Convention Centre. It showcased the accomplishments achieved by the nation for the last 20 years. Another section of the exhibition exhibited Islamic artifacts, a personal collection of His Majesty.

*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam officiates the exhibition*



*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam takes a closer look at Islamic artifacts exhibited (above and left)*

# HM: Change in line with ‘Brunei’s identity’



*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam urges citizens to bring changes according to Brunei's identity*

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said that in facing the challenges of changes in entering the new year, we should not only accept and view it, but bring changes.

His Majesty delivered the royal address in conjunction with the celebration of the new Islamic year of 1425 Hijrah corresponding to February 22.

The changes, according to the sovereign, should be in line with Brunei's identity (*Calak Brunei*) which is independent, fair and religiously devout.

At the Hijrah celebration, His Majesty consented to present the Hijrah Meritorious Award 1425.

The new Islamic calendar is a religious festival celebrated nationwide in Brunei.



*His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan on a two-day visit to Brunei*

## King Abdullah II of Jordan visits Brunei

His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan was in Brunei for a two-day visit.

His arrival on February 26 was received by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Brunei International Airport.

Brunei Darussalam and Jordan established diplomatic relations after Brunei achieved her independence in 1984.

## Deputy minister: Monetary body safeguards Brunei currency

The state's transactions with Treasury Bills and government securities with 30-year maturity are now exercised by the Brunei Currency and Monetary Board (BCMB) effective February 1.

BCMB functions as Brunei's monetary authority after the government had passed the Currency and Monetary Order 2004 to replace the 1967 Currency Act. Its remit covers the issuing of currency notes and coins, maintaining international reserves to safeguard the value of the Brunei dollar, and promoting Brunei's monetary policy.

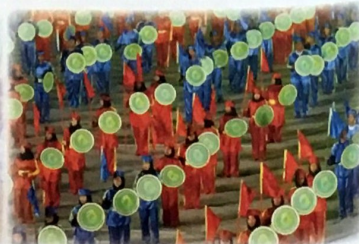
Dato Haji Yakub bin Haji Abu Bakar, the Deputy Finance Minister, announced on February 5 during the official opening of the Sun Hung Kai International Bank (Brunei).

According to the deputy minister, the new law does not affect the Brunei-Singapore Inter-changeability Agreement that allows Brunei and Singapore to mutually accept each other's currency on a par.

# 20<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL DAY

*'Patriotism core of National strength'*

23 February 2004



## 20<sup>th</sup> National Day royal address

### HM: More room for exploration

**B**runei still has responsibilities to be carried out after twenty years of independence.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed this at the 20<sup>th</sup> National Day of Brunei Darussalam on February 23.

His Majesty urged every citizen to face it for the sake of the nation.

“We fill it with proper development, genuine commitment and patriotism and not with meaningless slogans,

“Although we are in the era of globalisation, true identity should not be neglected. We should nourish positive traditional values, accept values that has constructing elements, not the ones that obliterate,” said His Majesty.

His Majesty also reminded that nation’s independence is a gift from Allah S.W.T. Therefore, efforts towards developing the nation and protecting the sovereignty should be seen as wholly owned by Allah S.W.T.

His Majesty stated that Brunei has peace and harmony which is desired

by everyone. “This is truly a gift from Allah S.W.T as a result of our capability in performing our responsibility with honesty and justice.”

His Majesty also highlighted Brunei’s firm stand against any violent acts. Brunei respects international law, a stand which has been recognised as fair and responsible by all concern. A reflection of Brunei’s stand could be seen through its domestic scenario where prosperity, harmony and unity prevail.

## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

**H**is Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received congratulatory messages from the heads of state and other foreign dignitaries in conjunction with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brunei Darussalam’s National Day.

The messages were from Their Majesties Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin ibni Almarhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail, Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia; Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman; Syeikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates; Queen Koningin Baetrix Wilhelmina Armgrad of the Netherlands; and King Albert of Belgium.

Also sending congratulatory messages were Their Excellencies President Megawati Soekarnoputri of Indonesia; President S.R. Nathan of Singapore; President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of Philippines; President Khamtay Siphandone of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic; President Tran Duc Luong of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; President Hu Jintou of the People’s Republic of China; General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; President George W. Bush of the United States of America; President Johannes Rau of the Federal Republic of Germany; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and the Right Honourable Governor General Adrienne Clarkson of Canada.

Their Excellencies Major General Jeffery, Governor-General of Australia; President Mary Mc Aleese of Ireland; President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia; Professor Guido De Marco, President of Malta; President Joseph Deiss of Swiss Confederation; President Thomas Klestil of Austria; President A.P.J. Kalam of India; President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of Maldives; President Stjepan Mesic of Croatia; President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland; President Vicente Fox Quesada of the United Mexican States; President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine; President Askar Akaev of Kyrgyzstan; His Royal Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates; and the Right Honourable Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia.

Their Excellencies Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore; Prime Minister Boun Nhang Vorachith of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic; Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen of Cambodia; Prime Minister Phan Van Khai of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain; Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi of Tunisia; and Kofi A. Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations.

**H**is Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam issued congratulatory messages to:

- Her Excellency Dame Silvia Cartwright, the Governor General of New Zealand and her Prime Minister, Her Excellency Helen Clark in conjunction with Waitangi Day on February 6.
- His Excellency Hajatole Eslam Seyyed Mohamed Khatami, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran in conjunction with the republic’s national day on February 11.

## HER MAJESTY TO 'MY DREAM' SHOW

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha attended the premier of 'My Dream' on February 27 at the Jerudong Park and Country Club Amphitheatre.

The show was held in conjunction with the nation's 20<sup>th</sup> National Day anniversary.

'My Dream' was a performance by China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe.

## First *Sharia* cards launched

The Islamic Development Bank of Brunei (IDBB) has introduced its first *Sharia* compliant cards in Brunei with the cooperation of MasterCard.

Launching the credit cards was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah on February 12 at Jerudong Park Polo Club.

Pehin Dato Haji Ahmad Wally Skinner, the chairman of the IDBB remarked that although the bank is new in Islamic banking, it has achieved a milestone by introducing such facilities.

The cards which are recognised by more than 32 million businesses worldwide is equipped with enhance security features which prevents fraud and forgery.

According to the chairman, the cards are not only *Sharia* compliant but it also comes with zero interest as it operates under the *Sharia* principles. Cardholders enjoy a 24-hour instant cash access at various MasterCard, Cirrus and ATM cash points world wide.

Islamic Development Bank of Brunei is a fully owned entity of the government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



*His Royal Highness launches the first Sharia compliant cards*

## Village Chief told to abide by rules and regulations

Village chief and headmen's are urged to carry out their duties according to the rules and regulations which are stated in the Scheme of Services for Village Chief and Headmen of Brunei Darussalam 1998.

This was disclosed by the permanent secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Dato Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Mohiddin, at the appointment ceremony for the new village headman of Kampong Kupang on February 6.

He stated that the responsibilities of a village chief and headmen is vast as they do not only deal with village's welfare but as well as security, well-being and economy.

The permanent secretary also stressed on the importance of choosing the right person to hold the task of village's chief or headmen.

The post, village headman, is an elected office voted by people living in a locality. The same concept is applicable for the post of, penghulu (village chief).

## Crown Prince on working visit

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah was on a working visit to various agencies. The agencies visited were:

- Baiduri Bank on February 3.
- Ministry of Home Affairs on February 10.
- Belait District's Office and Kuala Belait and Seria Municipal Board on February 14.



## Minister: Expand international framework to combat terrorism

Nation-states should not rely only on bilateral agreements if they are to stay ahead of the fight against terrorism. The current practice of using treaties to enable signatories to stem the threat is 'cumbersome and restrictive'.

Pehin Dato Haji Isa bin Pehin Dato Haji Ibrahim, the Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Home Affairs, remarked on February 5.

He was addressing the final plenary session at the two-day Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter Terrorism held in Bali, Indonesia.

"I believe that countries should be able to render mutual legal assistance and accede to extradition requests on an ad hoc basis, and should not need to depend on to a formal treaty framework between the requesting and requested countries," said Pehin Dato Haji Isa.

His call for 'more regional

cooperation, coordination and technical assistance' takes account of Brunei's ability to fight terrorism on its own. So far, Malaysia and Thailand house institutions that offer training in law enforcement and counter terrorism.



*Pehin Dato Haji Isa calls for more regional cooperation, coordination and technical assistance*

According to the minister, fighting terrorism in concert is not dependent only on the speed of response to attacks. It requires

ongoing 'cooperation in training, capacity building and information sharing'. This allows institutions to 'complement each other's facilities and levels of expertise'.

He commended Australia and Indonesia for the merit of establishing the Indonesian Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (ICLEC).

"I am gratified by the assurance that although this effort has been undertaken on a bilateral basis, its facilities will be made available to law enforcement agencies in the region as a whole," said Pehin Dato Haji Isa.

Brunei Darussalam is the signatory to the Agreement on Information Exchange and Establishment of Communication Procedures since October 5, 2003. Member states now include Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

The agreement allows member states to cooperate in the fight against transnational crimes such as marine pollution, money laundering, terrorism, and the trafficking of arms, goods and persons.

# Permanent secretary: Temburong is not left out

Distance does not reduce Temburong to a position of weakness when asking for development assistance. The government plans to enhance the living standards of Temburong locals by upgrading public-funded facilities there. But they are expected to share the burden of nation building through self-reliance and minimising the tendency to seek government handouts.

“Temburong’s natural environment is the district’s precious asset that promises employment opportunity for its inhabitants,” said Dato Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, permanent secretary at the Prime Minister’s Office. He made the remark at the dialogue session between state officials and people who live in Bokok area in the Temburong district.

Equatorial rainforest blankets Temburong, covering an area of 1,304 km<sup>2</sup>. It has potentials that enable locals to engage in businesses that support eco-tourism activities there. Temburong houses Brunei’s national park.

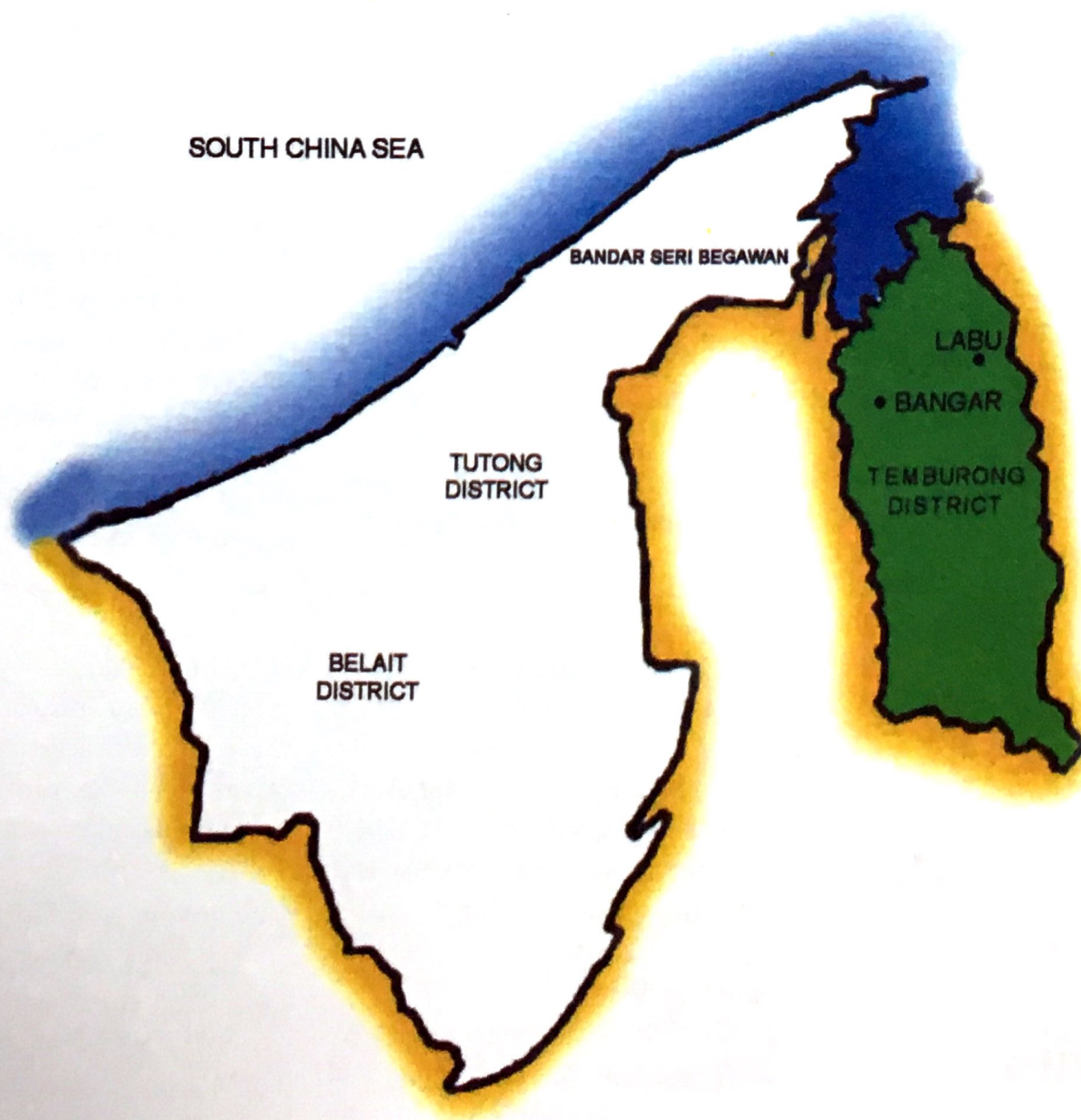
Dato Haji Hazair urged the locals to curb environmental degradation by proper disposal of litter. He also urged them to help the government stem social ills such as drug abuse, family breakdowns and moral decadence. He cited crime, drug abuse and actions that contravene the law and religion as factors that undermine peace and social tranquillity.

Temburong functions as one of Brunei’s gateways because it shares frontiers with a neighbouring state. “Locals should stay alert to threats such as illegal aliens, the trafficking

of alcohol and drugs, and the spreading of religious deviation and deceptions,” he said.

Dato Haji Hazair emphasised that peace and national stability enable the writ of government to prevail. He also said that Brunei’s future becomes brighter when everyone practises the habit of working hard.

He had listed some of the implemented projects for Temburong that had been funded by the 8<sup>th</sup> NDP. It covers the second phase of the Temburong National Park, and the building of government staff housing, recreational area for sports and retail premises. It also covers road and bridges upgrades, land conservation, the Labu checkpoint upgrade, and extension of electricity power grids.



*Map of Brunei Darussalam*

# SKY LOUNGE

Sky Lounge of Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) located at the departure hall of Brunei International Airport has been officially opened by Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria bin Datu Mahawangsa Haji Sulaiman, the Minister of Communications on February 11.

Sky Lounge provides 120 seats with various facilities such as computers with free internet access; restroom and prayer room.

The Sky Lounge is opened for Business and First Class passengers; and also Royal Brunei Airline's Royal Skies Gold and Silver members.



*Pehin Dato Haji Zakaria officiates Sky Lounge*

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## Chairman: Use strategy to ride out downturn

Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) should reduce its dependence on 'government protection' and 'traditional market segments' if it is to avoid the B\$10-15 million deficit it had experienced in 2003.

It is fulfilling six key initiatives of its five-year strategic plan in a bid to improve performance for the next two years.

RBA's chairman, Dato Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, remarked during the airline's marketing conference on February 12.

RBA competes in a business environment characterised by liberalisation of air routes, the opening of new airports, and the growth of low cost airlines that had made inroads into southeast Asia.

To stay competitive, RBA's six key initiatives require the company to invest in infrastructure upgrades and new products in addition to keeping operational cost under control. Four Airbus A319 and A320 aircraft had joined its fleet, while all of its Boeing 767 aircraft are being retrofitted with new flat bed business class seats and in-flight entertainment system.

Its Royal Skies frequent flier programme now registers 16,000 people holding either gold- or silver-card membership. RBA's Sky Lounge at the airside section of Brunei airport is now opened to the Royal Skies members and passengers flying first or business class. The Royal Skies membership soon

enables RBA's premium passengers to enjoy privileges offered by other airline networks after the company joins the Asiamiles frequent flier programme.

Investment extends to training in service delivery for all of RBA's customer contact staff. And the online Bluesky Fares had made RBA Asia's first full service airline to compete direct with low cost rivals.

But RBA's internal systems and procedures, which the chairman had described as 'too slow and cumbersome' hamper its ability to respond to competition with matching speed.

"We are working to streamline procedures and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, though I am aware that we still have some way to go in this regard," he said.

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## Immigration Order Act 2004

Immigration offenders are now facing stiffer penalties as a result of *Akta Pindaan Imigresen 2004* (amended Immigration Order Act).

The Immigration Order Act 2004 outlined heavier jail terms and compound fines. Immigration offenders also face caning penalties if found guilty.

According to the press release by the Department of Immigration and National Registration, the government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has always been

cautious and has taken precautionary measures to prevent the influx of illegal immigrants. The government has also ensured that immigrants entering and leaving this state would abide with the Immigration and Passport Act.

In 2003, 60 offenders were convicted for overstaying in this country and 31 people were convicted for entering this country illegally.

The Immigration Order Act 2004 took effect on February 14.

# ICT: Effective teaching and learning

Globalisation today entails tutors to be ICT-equipped or they would be left behind. ICT could be used as a teaching kit as multimedia could give a greater impact during teaching and as well as learning sessions.

Dato Paduka Sheikh Haji Adnan bin Sheikh Mohamad, the permanent secretary at the Ministry of Education remarked on February 7.

He said that with the right usage of ICT, a student would become an active learner. Hence, quality of teaching and studying would improve.

The permanent secretary said this at a certificate presentation for tutors who participated the 'E-Microlessons Workshop for Secondary Teachers'.



*Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education awards a tutor with a certificate at the end of 'E-Microlessons Workshop for Secondary Teachers'*

## Former public servants could contribute

Former public servants are still able to contribute to the country by participating in social; welfare; religious; entrepreneurship and business development.

Experiences gathered by retirees are useful assets that could be shared with the younger generation.

This was highlighted by Dato Paduka Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office on February 15 at the 7th Annual General Meeting of Tutong's Former Public Servants' Association (PAKATAN).

Training obtained through the control of office finance such as book-keeping, coordination of vote book, ledger finance regulations and office filing could be give a great assistance for retirees as the knowledge could be used for economic activities through association and cooperative body.

## Health promotion to curb chronic diseases

Ministry of Education in its bid to promote health awareness among students has been organising 'School Health Promotion' since 2001.

The program entailed academic institutions to have a health charter. It reflected the institutions' commitment towards student's health.

The charter stressed on the importance of serving and selling healthy food for students; increase club's activities; and prohibit smoking.

Dr. Haji Abdul Latif bin Haji Ibrahim, the acting deputy permanent secretary 1 at the Ministry of Education remarked on February 10.

The acting deputy permanent secretary stated that the program was initiated as a result of current trend of less exercising among students. Less exercising according to medical experts is a main contributing factor towards chronic diseases, especially cardio vascular.

# Snippets...

## National Day Stamps

The Postal Services Department has issued postal stamps and first day covers for commemorating the country's 20<sup>th</sup> National Day anniversary.

The postal stamps and first day covers were available on February 23 at selected post offices throughout Brunei; and temporary counters at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

## First Main Cryogenic Heat Exchangers arrives

Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas (BLNG) plant in Lumut, Seria has received its first Main Cryogenic Heat Exchangers (MCHE) on February 4.

BLNG is currently in the process of replacing 4 out of 5 of its MCHE. The project which is expected to be complete by 2005 would extend the lifespan of the plant for the next 30 years and enhance BLNG's capacity to fully utilize her existing assets.

## ICT display at BITEX 2004

Computer enthusiasts were given the chance to get a closer look at the latest info-communication technology via 'Brunei Information Technology Exhibition (BITEX) 2004'.

Attractive prices were offered by more than 20 participating companies at this 5-day exhibition.

This exhibition was held at the Bumiputera Commercial Trade Centre from February 26 to March 1.

## Foreign participation at local trade expo

Brunei International Trade Exhibition 2004 attracted huge crowd with participation from Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines.

The exhibition covered various area of trade from handicraft, medicine, oil and gas to shipping

industries.

This trade exhibition which comprised of private sectors with local small-medium-enterprises is open for the public from February 28 to March 3 at the International Convention Centre.

## Journalist working visit programme to Brunei Darussalam

A group of 11 journalists attended a work visit to Brunei from February 18 to 24. The journalists were from ASEAN countries, Japan and the Sultanate of Oman. It was conducted in conjunction with the 20<sup>th</sup> National Day of Brunei.

Among places of visits were to Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas plant in Lumut, the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and the Information Department.

The group of journalist had the opportunity to witness first hand Brunei's national day colourful celebration at the Hassanal Bolkiah Stadium.

## South East Asian Ministers Of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Council Conference

Brunei Darussalam would be hosting the 39<sup>th</sup> South East Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Council Conference (SEAMEC Conference).

The SEAMEC conference with the theme "Thoughtfulness and Technology In Education" would be held from March 1 – 4 at the Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong.

The council meets once a year to legislate policy; to approve SEAMEO and SEAMEC programs and budget; and make decisions on issues related to the organisation's operation.

## 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

**National Carrier:** Royal Brunei Airlines

**Official Language:** Malay

**Official Religion:** Islam

**Official Website:** [www.brunei.gov.bn](http://www.brunei.gov.bn)

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

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