



## National development must be prioritised



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering his *titah* during the Audience and Investiture Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty's 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration, held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah 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) expressing his gratitude as the country is able to enjoy the fruits of development despite the economic hardships occurring in the region at the Audience and Investiture Ceremony held in conjunction with His Majesty's 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration. The event took place at the Balai Singgahsana, Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated that the events, which are happening at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, have spread slightly dark outcomes; but on a brighter angle, it also plays a part in training the citizens and residents of the country to face difficult and challenging times.

His Majesty highlighted that the most effective way towards recovery begins with an unwavering trust, and unfading notions, while reminding oneself of the ever-changing world.

"All of these events are filled with greater purpose, to give us a sense of realisation so that we are more cautious. There is nothing that should be overlooked, though it may simply be a matter of eating and hygiene".

His Majesty also outlined that one of the ways to preserve the blessings in the long-term, is to set policies in administration that are honest, efficient, fair and clean, which are also open and sensitive towards the public's interest.

In this regard, the client's charter (*Tekad Pemeduliaan Orang Ramai* – TPOR) has been implemented to ensure better clarification of the rules and procedures of a ministry as well as its agencies, and to reduce delays in application processing and service to the public.

At the same time, His Majesty also called upon non-governmental parties to support the charter so that the interests of all can be addressed more effectively for the satisfaction and contentment of the people.

His Majesty also addressed the development of the country in his *titah*, affirming that development plans under various areas

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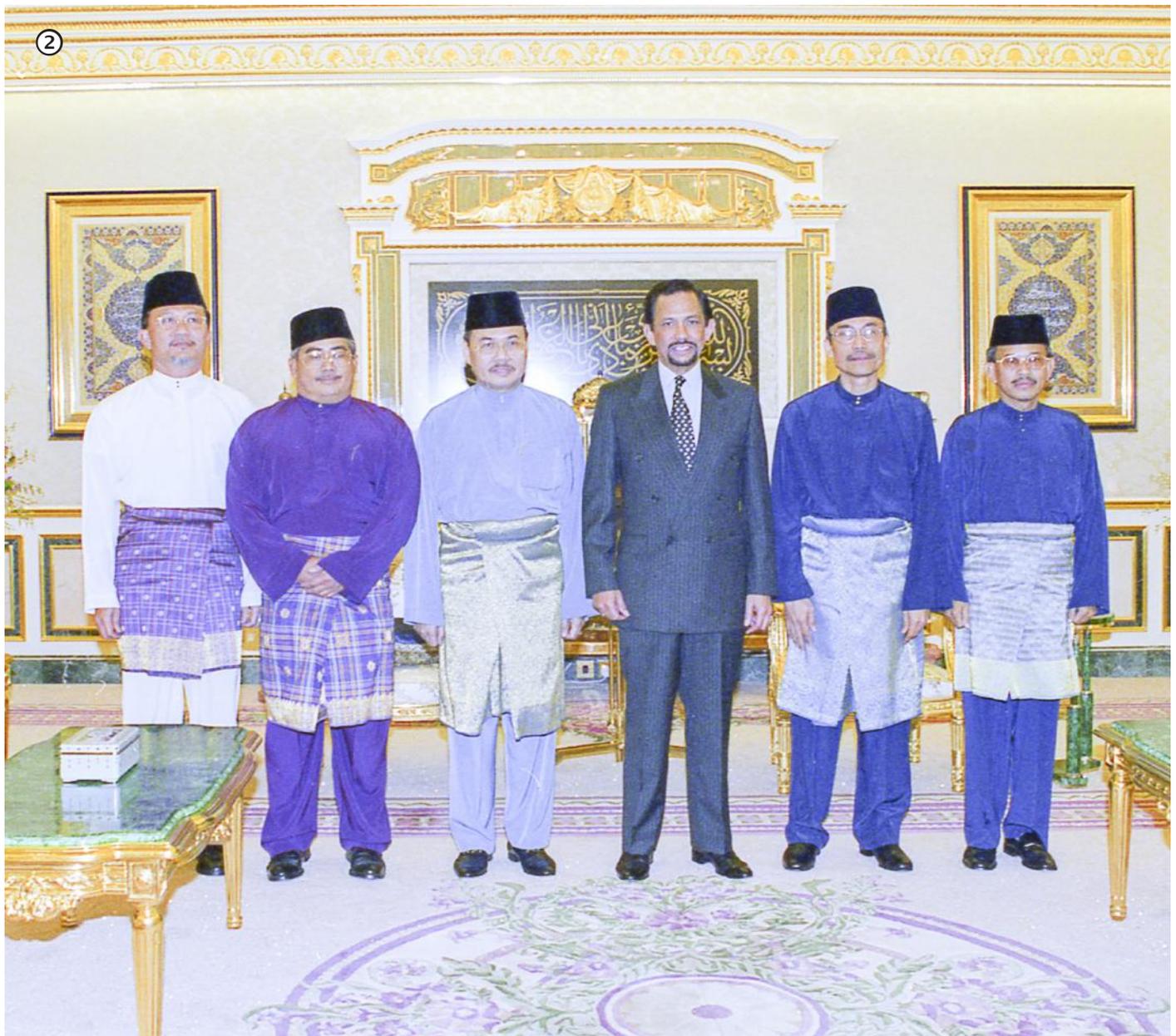


18 Women's Special Assembly commemorates Maulidur Rasul Celebration

## ✓ His Majesty grants audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman:

1. The Right Honourable Don Mckinnon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand on July 29.
2. Newly-appointed Permanent Secretaries on July 29: Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Setia Dato Paduka Haji Awang Abdul Rahman bin Kani, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence; Pengiran Dato Paduka Maidin bin Pengiran Haji Hashim, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance; Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Mohiddin, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs; Awang Haji Mohd. Yusof bin Mohd. Hassan, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs; and Pengiran Haji Yusof bin Pengiran Kula, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs.



# ✓ 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 received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

1. His Excellency Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Foreign Minister of Thailand on July 15.
2. His Excellency Mr. Matthias Yao, Minister of State without Portfolio at the Prime Minister's Office, Republic of Singapore on July 15.



# ✓ Audience with His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah

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:

1. His Excellency Mr. Klaus-Peter Brandes, Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei Darussalam on July 7.
2. The Right Honourable Mr. Don Mckinnon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand and Mrs. Clare de Lore McKinnon on July 29.



## ✓ 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:

- The Right Honourable Mr. Romeo LeBlanc, Governor General of Canada and The Right Honourable Mr. Jean Chretien, Prime Minister of Canada on the occasion of Canada Day on July 1.
- His Excellency Mr. William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America on the occasion of the United States of America's Independence Day on July 4.
- His Excellency Mr. Jacques Chirac, President of the Republic of France and His Excellency Mr. Lionel Jospin, Prime Minister of the Republic of France on the occasion of French National Day on July 14.
- His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of Egypt and His Excellency Kamal Mr. Elgansourui, Prime Minister of Egypt on the occasion of Egypt's National Day on July 23.

## ✓ His Majesty sends message of condolences

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 condolences to His Majesty Amir Al-Mouminie Sidi Mohamed Ben Al-Hassan, King of Morocco; and His Excellency Abderrahmane Youssoufi, Prime Minister of Morocco on the passing of His Majesty Hassan II, the late King of Morocco on July 24.

## ✓ National development must be prioritised

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will nevertheless be prioritised despite the economic turmoil that the nation is facing.

"Our ability to organise and execute the country's development plans is exceptional," said His Majesty, expressing his hope that it will continue without disruption, and that a calm and peaceful environment will, in turn, serve as its assurance.

His Majesty clarified that the country, among other efforts, will be more proactive in terms of education, in order for it to accommodate the current world situation which is ever-changing; where various course fields and studies are aligned according to the needs of the country and the people.

To achieve this need, private sector participation is encouraged. This is not simply restricted to the establishment of kindergarten and primary schools, but the development of secondary and vocational institutions are also needed by the nation.

His Majesty added that efforts are also being done to bring out the confidence of local and foreign entrepreneurs, so that they can be actively involved in the country's business field. Among the said initiatives include the Business Facilities Scheme.

Several other activities have also been conducted, including sale promotions, as well as enhancing the quality and competitiveness of the country's exports.

In the attempt of turning Brunei into a Business and Tourism Service Centre, His Majesty continued, one of the efforts that have been made include the establishment of forwarding and direct shipping services between the Muara Port and other main ports in the region.

His Majesty further explained that the government is drafting the Tourism Master Plan in the pursuit of achieving the industry's vision and making 2001 as the year to 'Visit Brunei'.

His Majesty also shed light on the information technology projects which have been carried out, including the launching of the Government's Official Web Page, as well as

the usage of identity cards or smart cards, which will soon be implemented.

His Majesty then touched on the formation of the Islamic Resource Centre. Expected to serve as one of the channels for Islamic information centres for countries under MABIMS, the centre will enable the exchange of information regarding activities of heresy and religious deviation.

In realising these development plans, His Majesty expressed his hope that the relevant parties and the public will be able to ensure that the country is free from any social problems, especially crime, which is nowadays increasing. The relevant parties need to be more aware and firm when it comes to addressing them, in an orderly and professional manner.

On the other hand, Brunei Darussalam will continue to adopt a foreign policy that prioritises principles of cooperation and good dialogue in regional and international relations. In this pursuit, several Joint Commissions have been established to enhance cooperation with several foreign countries.

His Majesty emphasised that the country would continue to give priority and commitment to ASEAN and APEC, as two important processes in the efforts to establish stability and prosperity in the region.

According to His Majesty, the honour that has been given to Brunei Darussalam, as the the host of the ASEAN Summit in 2001 and APEC in 2000, reflects the associations' international trust and confidence towards the country.

Touching on the 20<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian Games, which will be held in the country in August, His Majesty stated that, "Brunei Darussalam and other participating countries will certainly expect the best".

His Majesty mentioned his hope for the country to show its style and identity, emphasising on "Our status as a nation and country known as Brunei Darussalam".

## ✓ Grand Royal Birthday Parade for His Majesty

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend the Grand Royal Parade ceremony at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin, in conjunction with His Majesty's 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkih; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkih.

Upon arrival, the national anthem, alongside 21-gun shots, was resonating in the background.

His Majesty then inspected the guard of honour comprising members of the First Battalion of the Royal Brunei Land Force, the Royal Brunei Navy, the Royal Brunei Air Force, the Royal Brunei Police Force, as well as uniformed public and voluntary organisations. The event then proceeded with a march-past, which was led by Lieutenant Colonel Haji Mohd. Ali.

Three cheers of 'daulat' for the Monarch was then heard; followed by another singing of the national anthem, while a fly-past performance consisting of airplanes and helicopters from the Royal Brunei Air Force marked the end of the ceremony.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspecting the guard of honour.

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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 the royal salute at the Grand Royal Parade in conjunction with His Majesty's 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince (right) and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah (left) during the ceremony.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah during the ceremony.

## ✓ His Majesty graces Audience and Investiture Ceremony

### **BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15**

– 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 Hajjah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, along with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz, graced the Audience and Investiture Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty's 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration that took place at the Balai Singgahsana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajjah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Also attending the event were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah

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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 conferring The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei First Class (P.S.S.U.B.) to Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar.

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Sa'adatul Bolqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Muta-Wakillah Hayatul Bolqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Hafizah Sururul Bolqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bulqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Nor'ain; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Noor Ehsani, as well as other members of the royal family.

Early in the ceremony, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) before first conferring The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei First Class (P.S.S.U.B.), which carries the title Dato Paduka Seri Setia, to Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar.

Following that, five recipients were also crowned The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei First Class (S.P.M.B.), which carries the title Dato Seri Paduka to Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Selamat bin Haji Munap; Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Raja Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mohd. Ali bin Haji Mohd. Daud; Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abidin bin Orang Kaya Periwara Abdul Rashid; Yang Mulia Dato Seri Laila Jasa Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad bin Haji Jumat; and Yang Arif Hakim Kutlu Tekin Fuad.

His Majesty then consented to confer The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei Second Class (D.S.S.U.B.), which carries the title Dato Seri Setia, to Awang Haji Metussin bin Haji Baki.

Another 10 received The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei Second Class (D.P.M.B.), which carries the title Dato Paduka. They were Awang Kifrawi bin Dato Paduka Haji Kifli; Pengiran Haji Maidin bin Pengiran Haji Hashim; Colonel Awang Haji Jumat bin Haji Zakaria, Acting Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police; Awang Haji Abdul Rahim bin Haji Mohd. Jaafar; Awang Haji Dani bin Haji Ibrahim; Awang Haji Abdul Ghani bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Dewa Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Rahim; Awang Yunos bin Haji Mahmud; Datin Hajjah Jahrah binti Haji Mohammad; Dayang Magdalene Chong @ Magdalene Bong Lian Hua; and Dayang Hayati binti Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Mohd. Salleh.

On the other hand, Awang Haji Yusof bin Haji Ismail; Awang Haji Tasim bin Haji Akim; Awang Haji Abdul Kadir bin Awang; Pengiran Haji Sharifuddin bin Pengiran Haji Sulaiman; and Awang Haji Abdul Malek bin Abdullah @ Yong Kim Yang were bestowed The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei Third Class (S.S.U.B.).

His Majesty also conferred The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei Third Class (S.N.B.) to Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Mohiddin; Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim; Awang Haji Momin



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omaar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferring The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei First Class (S.P.M.B.) to Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Selamat bin Haji Munap.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferring The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei Second Class (D.P.M.B.) to Awang Kifrawi bin Dato Paduka Haji Kifli.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferring The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei Second Class (D.S.S.U.B.) to Awang Haji Metussin bin Haji Baki.

bin Shawal; Awang Haji Junaidi bin Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Setia Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hashim; Dr. Awang Haji Serudin bin Datu Setiawan Haji Tinggal; Awang Haji Abdul Salam bin Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Setia Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hashim; Awang Haji Jaidin bin Kahar; Awang Haji Rajab bin Talib; Pengiran Haji Radin Hanafi bin Pengiran Temenggong Pengiran Haji Mohammad; and Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Jawatan Bini Hajjah Dayang Siti binti Haji Mohd. Yusof Khan.

## ✓ Audience Ceremony hosted for special guests

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15** – 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 Hajjah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, along with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz received audiences from His Majesty's special guests who visited the country to attend the Monarch's 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam received audiences from:

- Her Royal Highness Princess Basma binti Talal and His Excellency Mr. As-Syed Walid Ismail Al-Kurdi from the Kingdom of Jordan;
- His Excellency Mr. Somsavath Lengsavad, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic and Madam Bounkongmany Lengsavad;
- The Honourable General Dato Paduka Seri TNI Wiranto, Minister of Defence and Security and Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces and Ibu Uga Wiranto;
- His Excellency Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand and Madam Alisa Pitsuwan;
- His Excellency Mr. Matthias Yao, Minister of State without Portfolio at the Prime Minister's Office, Republic of Singapore and Madam Yao;
- His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani and Madam Tamam Al-Anbar from Saudi Arabia; and
- The Honourable Mr. Ronaldo Zamora, Executive Secretary of the Republic of the Philippines, who was joined by Mr. Gregrio Araneta and Madam Irene Araneta.



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 Hajjah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, along with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz with Her Royal Highness Princess Basma binti Talal and His Excellency Mr. As-Syed Walid Ismail Al-Kurdi from the Kingdom of Jordan.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Mr. Somsavath Lengsavad, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic.



His Majesty with The Honourable General Dato Paduka Seri TNI Wiranto, Minister of Defence and Security and Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces.



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 Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Mr. Matthias Yao, Minister of State without Portfolio at the Prime Minister's Office, Republic of Singapore.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani from Saudi Arabia.

## Royal Banquet held in conjunction with His Majesty's birthday

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15** - 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 Hajjah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, along with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz graced a Royal Banquet, which was held at the Istana Nurul Iman in conjunction with His Majesty's 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration.

Accompanying Their Majesties at the event were Their Royal Highnesses and other members of the royal family.

Also present were State Dignitaries, Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Heads of Departments and Department Officers; as well as His Majesty's special guests from overseas.

A fireworks display, courtesy of the country's Tionghoa community, was also held in the vicinity of the palace to enliven the atmosphere of the night.

Before proceeding to the banquet, Their Majesties also received audiences in a separate venue.



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 Hajjah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, along with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz during the Royal Banquet. Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

## His Majesty attends Royal Banquet for uniformed officers

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, along with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz graced a Royal Banquet for uniformed officers, staff members and public organisations. The ceremony was held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

The ceremony was also attended by other members of the royal family.

Also attending the event were State Dignitaries, Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers as well as Permanent Secretaries.



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 *junjung ziarah* from uniformed officers attending the Royal Banquet.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; 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 at the Royal Banquet.

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Prior to leaving, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) greetings from the uniformed officers, staff and public organisation members.

The uniformed officers comprised of those from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, the Royal Brunei Police Force,

the Gurkha Reserve Unit, the Fire and Rescue Department, the Marine Department, the Department of Immigration and National Registration, as well as the Royal Customs and Excise Department.

The Royal Banquet was also enlivened with musical performances from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Band.

## ✓ *Junjung Ziarah* ceremonies with His Majesty

**TUTONG, July 22** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend the Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* Ceremony with the citizens and residents of Tutong District in conjunction with His Majesty's 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince.

At the event, His Majesty witnessed a march-past parade led by the Flute and Tambourine Band from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF). Over 500 participants took part in the march-past, which consisted of government officials of the Tutong District; residents of eight mukims; the Tutong District Youth Council; and uniformed youth organisations, including the Scouts Association, Girl Guides Association and the Red Crescent Society; as well as members of the Four Wheel Drive Association.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* Ceremony with the citizens and residents in Tutong District.

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A collaborative choir performance consisting of students from Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Secondary School and Sayyidina Othman Secondary School further enlightened the ceremony.

The same event was also held on July 20 in Temburong District; on July 18 in Brunei-Muara District; and on July 17 in Belait District.

Accompanying His Majesty to the event in Temburong District were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

Also in attendance at the event in Brunei-Muara District were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Also present alongside with His Majesty to the event in Belait District were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

Various performances were held during the series of events; reflecting the joy of the people, as well as their gratitude,



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 tours the exhibition held during the Get-Together and *Junjung Ziarah* Ceremony with the citizens and residents in Belait District.

love and loyalty towards His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

At the events, His Majesty also

consented to engage in a *junjung ziarah* session with the participants, committee, as well as the citizens and residents of all four districts.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving *junjung ziarah* from the citizens and residents in Brunei-Muara District (left) and Temburong District (right).

# ✓ 159 recipients conferred State Decorations

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 24** – 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 State Decorations to 159 recipients in conjunction with His Majesty's 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday celebration, which took place at the Balai Singgahsana Indera Kencana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present at the ceremony was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam first conferred The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei Second Class (D.P.M.B.) that carries the title 'Dato Paduka' to Chua Pheng Siong, followed with the conferment of The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei Third Class (S.N.B.) to Haji Omar bin Haji Abdul Rahman.

Following that, 38 were conferred The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei Third Class (S.M.B.); four were conferred The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei Fourth Class (S.U.B.) and 115 were conferred The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei Fourth Class (P.S.B.).

The recipients comprised of officers and staffs from government ministries and departments, as well as private sectors.



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 conferring The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei Third Class (S.N.B.) to Haji Omar bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Acting Chairman of the Bandar Seri Begawan Municipal Board.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferring The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei Third Class (S.M.B.) to Major Haji Yaakub bin Haji Mohd. Tahir.



His Majesty conferring The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei Fourth Class (P.S.B.) to Hajjah Edna binti Haji Rosli.

## ✓ Athletes reminded not to neglect their responsibilities

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 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 reminded athletes not to neglect their basic responsibilities, such as their duty to Allah, their families as well as others.

His Majesty stated the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) during the meet-and-greet session with Brunei Darussalam athletes for the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games at the Indoor Stadium. His Majesty added that this is the most challenging test that would determine the credibility and wisdom of the athletes.

With regards to this, His Majesty hoped everything that has been planned will turn out well, in complete order, and in the interest of sports for health and friendly relations between the participants.

Earlier, His Majesty also touched on the importance of discipline, which should be given close attention to during training sessions or competitions.

In relation to that, His Majesty further advised not to disregard any rules of the competition, while maintaining a high and clean spirit in sports. As the host, His Majesty explained, we should display our own methods: contend with full passion without forgetting the morals and customs of the East.

His Majesty said that it is not wrong for us to work hard to achieve success; as success, for many, is considered a victory



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 his visit to the Media Press Centre.

which can also create a good name for the nation.

"This is not something we are against. However, in my opinion, success alone is not enough, but what is more important is that the good status needs to be obtained

through clean and moral ways as well as ethics," His Majesty elaborated.

His Majesty's presence at the event demonstrated his support in the hopes of motivating the athletes to perform better in achieving success.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the meet-and-greet session with Brunei Darussalam athletes to the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games at the Indoor Stadium.

## ✓ RBAF and RBPF celebrate His Majesty's 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving *junjung ziarah* greetings from the officers and staff members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces at the banquet.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signing a commemorative parchment at the banquet hosted by the Royal Brunei Police Force.

**GADONG, July 31** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha; and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam graced a Banquet in conjunction with His Majesty's 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday

celebration. The event was hosted by the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF).

Present at the event were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkhiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Nor'ain; as well as other members of the royal family.

Shortly after the Brunei's national anthem was sung, His Majesty consented to receive *junjung ziarah* (meet-and-greet) greetings from RBPF officers and commence the cake-cutting ceremony.

On July 24, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha; and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam also graced the same event hosted by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF). Both events took place at the Assarra Hall.

Present alongside Their Majesties were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkhiah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Also in attendance were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkhiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Nor'ain; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Noor Ehsani.

At the event, His Majesty also consented to receive *junjung ziarah* greetings from RBAF officers and initiate the cake-cutting ceremony.

## Women's Special Assembly commemorates Maulidur Rasul Celebration



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam during the Women's Special Assembly in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul Celebration (above).

**BERAKAS, July 3** - 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, attended the Women's Special Assembly in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul Celebration held at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

The highlight of the event was a special talk focusing on the sacrifices made by Prophet Muhammad S.A.W. in protecting women, which was presented by Hajjah Noor binti Haji Mohadi, Head of Advisory Services Unit, Ministry of Religious Affairs.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri being greeted upon arrival by the members of the Women's Council Brunei.



One of the religious performances held during the event.



Some of the attendees during the Special Women's Assembly.

## ✓ More words of encouragement needed



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a meeting with His Excellency Mr. Hor Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Cambodia.

**SINGAPORE, July 27** - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs consented to attend two separate meetings with his counterparts at one of the leading hotels in Singapore.

His Royal Highness first attended a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Mr. Jaswant Singh, Minister for External Affairs, Republic of India and the Head of the Indian Delegation.

His Royal Highness then consented to conduct another bilateral meeting with The Honourable Mr. Alexander Downer, Foreign Minister of Australia. Both Ministers attended the ASEAN Dialogue Partners Session and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

Earlier, on July 24, a meeting took place between His Royal Highness and His Excellency Mr. Hor Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Cambodia.

Also present at the meeting was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On July 23, His Royal Highness presented a *sabda* (royal speech), stating that the ASEAN Foreign Ministers need more words of encouragement, in order for truly significant progress in all areas of their work to be seen.

His Royal Highness stated the matter at the Opening Ceremony of the 32<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM).

His Royal Highness also mentioned that what is really challenging and needs to be achieved is the competency of the ASEAN secretariats, officials and experts in the public and private sectors. For that reason, they should be required to fulfil every high standard set by the modern world, in order for any aspiring federation to become useful in today's conditions.

His Royal Highness added that self-modernisation is not a challenge. If ASEAN could implement the Hanoi Plan of Action successfully, then ASEAN would not be in its current position. However, there are many things related to the matter besides being prepared. ASEAN needs to do more than that, as His Royal Highness emphasised that it is not just about the progress of time, but it is also about being ahead of it.

It is truly difficult, His Royal Highness continued, as the gap between the north and the south in terms of research and innovation has become a gulf that is widening every year. New

ideas, processes and products are the driving force behind successful businesses and public sector initiatives.

His Royal Highness also stated that it is increasingly overflowing from the developed world, particularly from renowned multinational companies in the North.

With this, His Royal Highness urged ASEAN to show that they are just as capable of doing so, and would like to maintain their main positions as strategic leaders, as exemplified in ARF and Post Ministerial Conference (PMC).

This is important in addition to having the ability to generate excellent ideas and well-researched suggestions, which entails that they are leading the way with quality performance.

ASEAN has played an important role in enhancing its people's expectations, and in pursuing their Vision 2020, they have promised their ability to achieve those expectations.

The meeting was attended by 10 ASEAN foreign ministers, including His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

His Royal Highness arrived at the International Airport Changi on July 22, and was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah. His Royal Highness also led the delegation of Brunei Darussalam to the 32<sup>nd</sup> AMM and the PMC.

During his arrival, His Royal Highness touched on the importance of the meeting as the ASEAN Foreign Ministers would be discussing matters relating to the future of the association.

On the other hand, a meeting for the Commission for the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone would also be held to commence the implementation of the Zone Agreement, which was already signed by the ASEAN leaders in Bangkok in 1995.

His Royal Highness also looked forward to conduct meetings with his counterparts from ASEAN and its dialogue partners to exchange views on regional and international developments.

In the evening, His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna attended an informal dinner with the foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretary General hosted by His Excellency Professor S. Jayakumar, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister of Law, Republic of Singapore.

At the session, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers discussed the preparations for the 32<sup>nd</sup> AMM.

# ✓ Nation-state members urged to fulfil responsibilities



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs delivering his *sabda* (royal speech) during the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (OIC).

**BURKINA FASO, July 2** - The 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (OIC), which was held for four days, ended with the approval of the Final Communiqué.

All the representatives of the 56 member states dynamically addressed important issues and have shown their concern towards the current situation of the Muslim community.

The 30-year-old organisation is also keen to voice out the need for reformation. Brunei Darussalam is supporting their effort to renew and update the effectiveness of the organisation. So far, the OIC has been working to improve their administration and financial management, which have shown positive signs.

In the general debate session, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs presented a *sabda* (royal speech), welcoming the OIC's reformative efforts made through reviewing its goals, structure, administration and finances.

"The discussion on the OIC status report provides a highly anticipated opportunity in allowing us to examine the procedures and shape the future," said His Royal Highness.

As with the previous conferences, this year's conference has also formed four ICFM Committees: consisting of political; economic and social; cultural and Islamic affairs; as well as Administrative and Finance Committees.

The Cultural and Social Affairs Committee places a strong interest in the values of Islamic dignity and supporting the need for a collective stance against actions that deride and degrade the Islamic values. Member states are also encouraged to implement the policy, so that the Islamic values, places of worship and the rights of the Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries will not be ridiculed, destroyed or stolen.

The committee has also approved various important areas in enhancing the cultural and social aspect of the Islamic world, which includes addressing the welfare of the women, children and

Islamic youths. The group is also committed towards improving various fields of education, training and research in universities and educational institutes in Islamic countries.

Meanwhile, in the field of 'Organic Statutory and General', the OIC has also given support to its representatives from member countries in other international organisations such as UNESCO, FAO, the International Court of Justice, Membership of the International Commission to the Drugs Control and OAU Assistance Secretary General for East Africa Region. The conference, which ended in progress, agreement and execution, also urged the Republic of Turkey and Malaysia, who voiced out their eagerness to host the upcoming 27<sup>th</sup> conference, to take the initiative and negotiate with each other to determine who will be the next host.

The OIC's commitment towards planning and addressing majority of the conference's agendas clearly demonstrated the fundamentality of realising their objectives and exhibiting the integrity of the international community.

Since joining the organisation, Brunei Darussalam has expressed their support for OIC's efforts in enhancing cooperation; in order to effectively achieve their objectives, as well as endorsing initiatives and providing encouragement to the OIC members.

Established in 1969 in Rabat, Morocco; the OIC needs to be ready with the advent of a new millennium, which will spur various new agendas.

The question is whether or not the OIC has an approach in facing the upcoming millennium; and whether the unity and solidarity that have been built so far will be able to dispel the doubts, fears and concerns of the community.

It is apparent that the *sabda* delivered by His Royal Highness served to analyse current and past situations in the attempt to learn from them. The new millennium, which supposedly brings hope and happiness, might turn out to be otherwise.

## ✓ Prime Celebration Quiz '99 launched

**BERAKAS, July 6** - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien consented to launch the Opening of the Prime Celebration Quiz '99, which was organised by the Radio Television Brunei (RTB) at the Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex.

The quiz runs from July 11 to August 1 and will be broadcasted via Brunei television. It is also open to local citizens and permanent residents of the country.

The participants had been required to answer six questions on the originally provided form before they were submitted to Worldwide Motor no later than August 4 at 4:00 p.m. The form was available at Worldwide Motor, Brunei-Muara District, and Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) branches in all districts.

The winner received a main prize, which was a Proton Perdana 2.0 V6.

The competition also gave out prizes for winners up to the ninth place.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien launching the Opening of the Prime Celebration Quiz '99 at the Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex.

## ✓ Show passion, sacrifice

**BERAKAS, July 9** - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council and Chairman of the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games Organising Committee in his *sabda* (royal speech), called for all national athletes to join the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games, in order to show their passion and sacrifice for the country by winning as many medals as possible.

On the other hand, His Royal Highness also reminded the athletes and officials involved to control their discipline and manners.

Speaking at the National Contingent Members' Meeting at the Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex, His Royal Highness also called for the citizens, especially the families and parents of the athletes and employers, to give their encouragement and support so that the athletes will be able to give their full attention or concentration towards achieving their desired goals.

At the meeting, His Royal Highness announced the appointment of Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali Hashim bin Haji Mohd. Daud as the Chief De Mission; and Dato Paduka Awang Haji Metussin bin Omar as the Assistant Chief De Mission of the nation-state contingent for the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games.

With this election, His Royal Highness hopes that the Chief De Mission and his assistant will immediately play their part to ensure the successful management of the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games contingent.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council and Chairman of the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games during the National Contingent Members' Meeting at the Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex.

His Royal Highness further reminded the selected athletes to compete with strong and confident spirits, stressing them to keep the advice in mind during matches, as one would not be able to achieve aspired success without self-confidence.

According to His Royal Highness, the coaches, team managers and athletic supporters will only be able to provide moral support outside of the rink. It is, therefore, up to the athletes to prove the extent of their mental endurance and competitive spirit, as represented

in the word 'YAKIN', which stands for:  
 Y - *Yakin* (confident);  
 A - *Akan* (on);  
 K - *Kebolehan* (the ability), *kekuatan* (strength), *ketangkasan* (agility) and *keberanian* (and courage);  
 I - *Impian* (as well as the dreams) and *Idaman* (and aspirations); and  
 N - *Negara* (of the country).

The national contingent of the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games consists of 360 athletes: which comprises 123 female athletes and 237 male athletes.

## ✓ Athletes called to build a sense of responsibility



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Chairman of the Organising Committee of the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games handing over the national flag to Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali Hashim, Chef De Mission of the Brunei contingent.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah delivering a *sabda* during the National Flag Handover Ceremony for the national contingent of the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games.

**BERAKAS, July 25** - Action will be taken against officials of the contingent, including team managers and coaches, if they are found to have committed acts or made offensive comments on the news or the media that would offend any party; as being the host country requires a clean record on all operational aspects, which also involves our participation.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Chairman of the Organising Committee of the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games, highlighted the matter in his *sabda* (royal speech) during the Sports Village Opening Ceremony and National Flag Handover Ceremony for the national contingent of the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games at the Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex.

His Royal Highness emphasised that action will also be taken on all athletes or players who conduct acts that could potentially jeopardise the name of the country and contingent, be it inside or outside of the competition.

"The Chef De Mission and Assistant Chef De Mission, who have been entrusted with the responsibility of being the contingent's leader in managing the welfare, participation in the competitions, as well as discipline, should be strict and equitable in carrying out their duties and responsibilities while providing rules and guidelines for all officers and athletes," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness also encouraged that the philosophy of 'not retreating and admitting loss before fighting' should be borne in the minds of all athletes, so that the determination to achieve victory will always be within them, especially since the competition will be held in the country.

His Royal Highness also believes that the local audience will continue to provide moral support, and are always looking forward to see Brunei Darussalam's national flag being raised at the competition venues.



Athletes and officials participating in the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games marching in at the Sports Village Opening Ceremony and National Flag Handover Ceremony.



Brunei Darussalam's Chef De Mission, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali Hashim handing over the national flag to be hoisted.

## ✓ Government grants incentives to gold medalists



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council in his capacity as the Chairman of the Organising Committee of the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games, delivering a *sabda* during the Opening Ceremony of the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games Village at Jalan Ong Sum Ping.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 27** - The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam will be granting cash incentives to nation-state medalists for the upcoming 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games.

Under this incentive, gold medalists will receive \$40,000; silver medalists will be rewarded \$20,000; whereas \$5,000 will be given to athletes who manage to attain bronze medals at the games.

This was mentioned in a *sabda* (royal speech) delivered by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council in his capacity as the Chairman of the Organising Committee of the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games, during the Opening Ceremony of the 20<sup>th</sup>

SEA Games Village at Jalan Ong Sum Ping.

His Royal Highness stated his hope and belief for the incentive to be a catalyst for athletes to work harder and improve their performance to win the medals.

Prior to that, His Royal Highness also highlighted that the handling of the SEA Games Village should be carried out in the best possible manner: by adhering to the right regulations, without adding any difficulties or inconvenience to any officers and athletes who are staying at the place.

"Give them all the care and assistance we can provide while they are in this Sports Village so that they will bring sweet memories and good remembrances to the community and to Brunei Darussalam," said His Royal Highness.

It is assured that the Sports Village will be able to accommodate all officials and athletes from all member countries of the Southeast Asian Games Federation, with the provision of all the necessary equipment in ensuring the residents' comfort as required by any host country.

The event was convened with the Flag Raising Ceremony for the Brunei Darussalam contingent, which was witnessed by His Royal Highness.

The 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games Village will be welcoming a total of more than four thousand athletes and officials from participating countries; who will be making history at the prestigious Southeast Asian Games.

## ✓ His Royal Highness launches 'Brunei Darussalam in SEA Games' Exhibition



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council taking a closer look at the 'Brunei Darussalam in SEA Games' Exhibition, held at the Brunei Museum in Kota Batu. Presenting the exhibition to His Royal Highness was Pengiran Haji Hashim bin Pengiran Haji Mohd. Jadid, Director of Brunei Museums

**KOTA BATU, July 28** - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council in his capacity as the Chairman of the Organising Committee of the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games, suggested for sports-related item collections to be amassed henceforth

as a foundation for the establishment of a Sports Museum in the country.

Members of the public are also welcomed to donate their personal collections associated with the SEA Games, or other sports events attended by national athletes to the museum.

Stating the matter in his *sabda* (royal speech) during the launching of the exhibition at the Brunei Museum, His Royal Highness said that it is important for medals of historic significance to be kept safe.

His Royal Highness also expressed confidence that the museum is equipped with professional officers and staff members who can guarantee the safety of the collections and display them to the public.

In conjunction with Brunei's chairmanship of the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games, the 'Brunei Darussalam in SEA Games' exhibition is open for public viewing; a huge part of the exhibition alluded to the country's participation in the SEA Games since 1977, as well as highlighted the inclusion of Borneo and Veteran Sports.

The event's exhibited materials mostly came from various newspaper excerpts; including Pelita Brunei, Borneo Bulletin, National Archives and individuals.

The exhibition also included several medals won by national athletes, the SEA Games Website, as well as videos related to the SEA Games recordings.

Also present at the event were members of the Organising Committee of the 20<sup>th</sup> SEA Games and athletes who won medals at several regional and international sports events.