



HM: Concerted efforts needed to achieve Brunei Vision 2035

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, December 31 – In a *titah* on the New Year's Eve, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam urged the people to have a more progressive attitude and mindset as there is little time in realising the Brunei Vision 2035.

His Majesty also expressed his gratefulness to Allah SWT for the peace and prosperity enjoyed by the people throughout 2014 and added that the country will continue to strengthen the efforts to sustain this peace throughout 2015.

His Majesty, in the *titah*, consented for the Vision 2035 Executive Council to elect leaders to identify strategies in achieving the vision.

In the field of education, His Majesty welcomed the Ministry of Education's plan to implement medium and long-term strategies to ensure full student attendance in the classroom, and in return deriving the effectiveness of teaching and learning

* Continue on page 8



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* (royal speech) on the eve of the New Year 2015.

Graduates need to be marketable, says Minister of Education



The Minister of Education delivers his speech at the Politeknik Brunei's first convocation ceremony.

RIMBA, January 15 – Every higher education institution in Brunei Darussalam is hoped to create more innovative methods in preparing courses such as through online methods, part-time mode or blended mode.

These aspects will be taken into account during the curriculum updating process of Politeknik Brunei and the other higher education institutions in the country.

The Minister of Education, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong spoke of this matter at the Politeknik Brunei's first convocation ceremony at Universiti Brunei Darussalam's Chancellor Hall.

The minister also announced that Politeknik Brunei will introduce several Higher National Diploma engineering courses, which were initially offered by the Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB), following ITB's status as a university.

The establishment of Politeknik Brunei in the year 2012, according to the minister, serves as one of the the nation's milestones in education as

* Continue on backpage



1 HM: Concerted efforts needed to achieve Brunei Vision 2035



7 HM urges Muslims to gather rewards for the hereafter



7 HM leads Maulidur Rasul procession



9 HM awards house keys and visits local schools



11 His Majesty graces 11th BISAM closing ceremony



13 HRH General RBAF opens BISAM



13 Her Majesty attends Women's Special Assembly



15 HRH visits YSHHB School



16 HRH graces Katok Arabic School's foundation laying ceremony



16 HRH departs for AMM Retreat



18 Minister of Communication launches safe driving guide



19 Architectural Design Award aims to inspire local architects, says Minister of Development

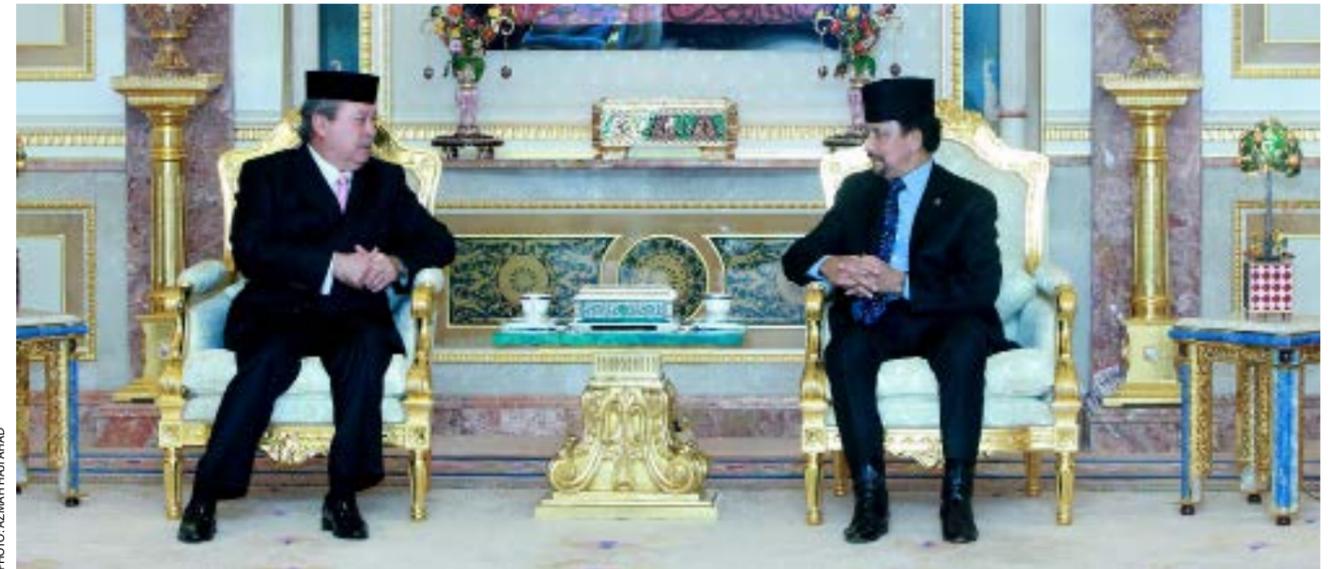


PHOTO: AZMAH HAJI AHAD

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives in audience His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Iskandar at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty grants audience to Sultan of Johor

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 21 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Iskandar, the Sultan of Johor Darul Ta'zim, at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office was also present.

During the ceremony, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-

Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also consented to receive an invitation from His Royal Highness the Sultan of Johor Darul Ta'zim to attend the coronation ceremony of the 5th Sultan of Johor, which will be held at the Istana Besar Johor on March 23, 2015.

His Royal Highness the Sultan of Johor was accompanied by his delegation, comprising of Yang Di-Pertua of the Privy Council of the State of Johor, The Honourable Dato' Haji Abd. Rahim bin Ramli; the Secretary of the State of Johor, The Honourable Dato Haji Ismail bin Karim; a member of the Privy Council of the State of Johor, The Honourable Dato Haji Nooh bin Gadot; and the Confidential Secretary, Haji Jaba bin Mohd. Noah.

Yang Di-Pertua of the Adat Istiadat Negara (Head of Royal Customs and Protocols), Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar; the State Mufti, The Honourable Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Dr. Ustaz Awg Haji Abdul Aziz bin Juned; Grand Chamberlain, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Penggawa Laila Bentera Istiadat Di-Raja Dalam Istana Pengiran Haji Alauddin bin Pengiran Paduka Tuan Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar; and the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Mulia Awang Haji Mohamad Rozan bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yunos also attended the ceremony.

To bless the ceremony, a *Doa Selamat* was read by the State Mufti.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to receive an invitation to the coronation ceremony of the 5th Sultan of Johor.



PHOTO: MASRUCOMAN



PHOTO: FGHAIJIBAHAR FGHAIJOMAR

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to receive audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman.



JANUARY 2015 - VOLUME 20 ISSUE 1

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

is published monthly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated. For free subscription (excluding postage) please write to the Distribution Unit, Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office, Old Airport, Berakas BB 3510, Brunei Darussalam.

EDITORIAL Advisory Board:

Mawardi Haji Mohammad
(mawardi.mohammad@information.gov.bn)

Editor:

Azman Haji Abdul Rahim
(azman.rahim@information.gov.bn)
Ameiliatun Assyakinah Haji Abdullah

Sub Editor:

Wahid Haji Halim
(wahid.halim@information.gov.bn)
Ishak Haji Othman
(ishak.othman@information.gov.bn)
Hajah Zaijanit Haji Noorkhan
(zaijanit.noorkhan@information.gov.bn)

USD attachment student:

Asnzaitul Nadia Abdullah
Siti Noor Aqeelah Ahmad Sanisi

Layouter:

Hajah Zaijanit Haji Noorkhan
(zaijanit.noorkhan@information.gov.bn)

Translator:

Hajah Apsah Haji Sahdan
(apsah.sahdan@information.gov.bn)

Haji Mirazman Haji Othman
(mirazman.othman@information.gov.bn)

Photographs

Photography Unit of Department of Information

General inquiries

Tel: (673) 2383 400/ext English News
Fax: (673) 2382 012

Information Department

www.information.gov.bn

Information Gallery

www.infofoto.gov.bn

VISIT US ONLINE -> www.bdnewsletter.gov.bn

EMAIL US AT: bd.newsletter@information.gov.bn

Follow us

Instagram - @infodept.bn

Twitter - @Infodept_bn

Facebook - Jabatan Penerangan Jabatan Perdana Menteri Brunei Darussalam

>> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.

Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.

It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.

Land size is 5765 sq. km.

Population is estimated at 422,700 people (2012).

It is divided into four districts - Brunei-Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.

Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.

Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.

National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.

It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

Public Warning: The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam

His Majesty receives audience



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkihah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:

- ① His Excellency Apichart Phetcharatna, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand, on January 14.
- ② Her Excellency Dato' Sri Rohani Binti Abdul Karim, the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development of Malaysia, on January 27.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkihah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive diplomatic credentials from four newly-appointed envoys to Brunei Darussalam. The ceremony was held on January 26 at the Istana Nurul Iman. They were:



- ① His Excellency Hisham bin Abdul Wahab bin Abdullah Zaraq, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

- ② His Excellency Abdolhamid Fekri, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

- ③ Her Excellency Yang Jian, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China.

- ④ Her Excellency Marina Laker, the High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam.

Her Majesty receives audience



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to receive in audience Yamini Amrohi, the spouse of the High Commissioner of the Republic of India to Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman on January 20.

HM urges Muslims to gather rewards for the hereafter



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a *titah* in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul 1436 Hijrah celebration at the Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 2 - Although pious acts are easy to carry out, such as reciting the *selawat* (praises for the prophet), they have been marginalised due to people being caught up in everyday life.

Now, people are less interested in seeking blessings compared to the worldly enjoyment.

They prioritise whatever is shining in their eyes, and the promise of the afterlife does not touch their hearts.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated this matter in a *titah* (royal speech) on the eve of Prophet Muhammad SAW's birthday.

His Majesty also stressed that Muslims must be more robust in performing religious acts.

"This is the only way we can collect rewards for the afterlife," said His Majesty.

The monarch also expressed his gratitude to Allah SWT for giving the opportunity to celebrate the birth of Prophet Muhammad, which surely would bless both the country and the people.

According to His Majesty's *titah*, the celebration is a tradition to commemorate the birth of Prophet Muhammad as the prophet, messenger and saviour of the world and mankind.

"Allah SWT has given the whole universe a blessing with the birth of the prophet," said His Majesty.

Thus, as gratitude to Allah SWT, His Majesty stressed that we respect and love the prophet with all our hearts.

"The way to show gratitude is neither by worshiping him nor building statues to remember him by, but by following his sunnah," His Majesty said.

"We also have been taught to love him, and reciting the *selawat* is one of the proofs or signs of our love for Rasulullah SAW. We must therefore amplify our efforts to recite it," His Majesty added.

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

- His Excellency President U Thein Sein as well as the Government and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the Republic's Independence Day on January 4.
- His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud for being appointed as the new Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the King of Saudi Arabia on January 23.
- His Excellency President Shri Pranab Mukherjee of the Republic of India as well as the Government and the people of the Republic of India on the occasion of the Republic Day on January 26.
- His Excellency Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, for being appointed as the Co-Chairman of the ASEAN-India Summit Meeting at Nay Pyi Taw last November on January 26.
- His Excellency General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), the Governor General, and His Excellency Tony Abbott, the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia as well as the Government and the people of Australia on the occasion of the commonwealth's Australia Day on January 26.

HRH delivers HM's messages to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA, January 24 - His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, as the personal representative of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, consented to attend an audience ceremony before the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud at the Al-Yamamah palace, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

During the event, His Royal Highness conveyed the deep condolences from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to His Majesty King Salman on the passing of His Majesty's brother, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

His Royal Highness also relayed the congratulatory message from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to His Majesty King Salman for His Majesty's succession as the new Custodian of Two Holy Mosques and the new king of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen attending the audience ceremony before the Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud at the Al-Yamamah, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to lead the Maulidur Rasul procession to commemorate the birth of Prophet Muhammad at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

His Majesty leads Maulidur Rasul procession

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 3 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to attend and participate in the national *Maulidur Rasul*, the birth of Prophet Muhammad SAW, celebration at the capital.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was

accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and other members of the royal family.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was greeted

by the Minister of Religious Affairs, The Honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman, as the Chairman of the Executive Committee for Islamic Events for the 1436 Hijrah, along with the other high committees for the event.

In his welcoming speech, the minister said that His Majesty's participation in the event strengthens not only the affection but also the loyalty between His Majesty

* Continue on page 8

* From page 7
(His Majesty leads Maulidur Rasul procession).

and the citizens.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also consented to lead the 3.7 kilometre-procession around Bandar Seri Begawan along with the royal family members and government ministers.

His Majesty's willingness to lead the parade showed that His Majesty's leadership is highly respected because of His Majesty's serious attention to religion as well as the commemoration of and love for Prophet Muhammad SAW, said the minister.

This year, 132 groups, which totalled to 14,000 people, participated in the gathering and the procession.

The participants composed of representatives from the government ministries and departments, uniformed organisations, education institutions, associations, mukims, Village Consultative Councils, the private sector and the public.

The minister added that the continuation of the procession as tradition also acted as a symbol of affection for our prophet, thus providing a good example to the nation's younger generation.

Prior to the procession, the event commenced with the open recitation



His Majesty receives greetings from the participants in the Maulidur Rasul celebration.

of *Surah Al-Fatihah* led by the State Mufti, The Honourable Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned.

Afterward, His Majesty consented to meet and greet with the public, which was then followed by a Dikir Marhaban done by the Dikir Team of the Ministry of Defence and as soon as 'Ya Habibi' was performed, 21 canon shots were then released.

In order to bless the event, the State Mufti then recited a *doa selamat*.

Subsequently, The Honourable Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Abdul Hamid bin Bakal then led the *selawat* recitation that marked the beginning of the parade.

The theme for the *Maulidur Rasul* National Celebration for the 1436 Hijrah was 'Love Prophet Muhammad SAW'.

* From frontpage
(HM: Concerted efforts needed to achieve Brunei Vision 2035)

from lower to subsequent levels.

It is targeted that at least 90 per cent of students will achieve grades A to C in the Primary School Assessment for 2017.

His Majesty hopes that the target will help all primary school students to become more successful in their studies.

In addition, His Majesty stressed that the enforcement of the Compulsory Education Act needs to be further enhanced in a bid to produce a more disciplined and dynamic generation.

Regarding the nation's economy, His Majesty said the Prime Minister's Office is currently setting up key performance indicators (KPIs) that must be achieved by all economic sectors on basis of a realistic trajectory to achieve the Brunei Vision 2035's economic goal.

The main objective is to focus on the efforts to diversify the economy from the country's heavy reliance on the oil and gas sector.

The second focus is to increase productivity, and in this case, there is still room for improvement in both the private and public sectors.

Productivity, His Majesty said, depends on the attitude and discipline

of all levels in the organisations besides being related to capacity building and the utilisation of technology.

Concerning the efforts made in diversifying economy, the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources is planning to establish a special body to help the country's local Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (PMKS).

The role of the body is to build the PMKS's capacity so that the local entrepreneurs can develop and compete in the market, in and outside the country.

Touching on the quality of life in Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty urged the relevant authorities to be swift and efficient in tackling the increasing number of crimes occurring over the past few years, which include murders and thefts.

His Majesty stressed that crimes need to be intently and firmly handled and also prevented from occurring.

If they do occur, the perpetrators need to be sought out until they are caught and brought to justice.

Other than that, His Majesty also expressed his concern over the health of the people.

Citing the results of a study, His Majesty stated many children below the age of five are suffering from obesity.

This may be caused by the lack of healthy food consumption, which is

a problem that should be fixed by all responsible parties.

A study has also shown that more than 50 per cent of parents are smokers, breathing in cigarette smokes at home and inside vehicles.

Aside from harming their own health, they are also exposing their families to the dangers of cigarette smoke.

As shown by the statistic, the society has not yet reached the satisfactory level in practicing a healthy lifestyle, thus, as said by His Majesty, the people must be constantly educated and guided.

However, His Majesty also reminded the relevant authorities to not only talk, but to take firm and consistent action until the problem is eradicated.

In ending the titah, His Majesty expressed his appreciation to all levels of the government and security agencies, including those on duty overseas as well as those working in the private sector, for carrying out their respective duties for the good of the country.

His Majesty and the other members of the royal family wished everyone a Happy New Year and prayed that Allah SWT will give everyone His blessings and protection.

His Majesty awards house keys and visits local schools



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to present a house key to one of the recipients at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.



His Majesty consents to receive a briefing during a visit for the RPN Kampung Panchor project event.



His Majesty at the Mangrove Paradise Resort.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 12 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present house keys to 1,738 citizens in the Brunei-Muara District (BMD) at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

Of the total, 1,116 recipients are under the National Housing Plan (RPN) and 622 are under the Landless Indigenous Citizens Award Scheme (STKRJ).

Under the RPN, 351 people received keys to Karamunting Kodok houses and 31 received terrace houses at the RPN Meragang area.

Two other recipients were awarded the keys to semi-detached houses while 14 received terrace houses at the RPN Tanah Jambu.

In addition, 546 people were given semi-detached houses while the remaining 172 received terrace houses at the RPN Kampung Panchor.

On the other hand, under the STKRJ, eight people were awarded semi-detached houses and 559 received terraced houses in the STKRJ Kampung Mata-Mata (Katok B) while 55 others were given terraced houses at the STKRJ Kampung Lugu.

The presence of His Majesty and His Majesty's consent to the presentation

of the house keys to the recipients demonstrated the monarch's concern and attention toward fulfilling and safeguarding the needs of the citizens and residents in the country.

Upon arrival at the ICC, His Majesty was welcomed by the Minister of Development, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman; the Minister of Home Affairs, The Honourable Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang

* Continue on page 10

* From page 9
(His Majesty awards house keys and visits local schools)

Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman; and the Deputy BMD Officer, Awang Misle bin Haji Abdul Karim.

In his welcoming speech, the Deputy BMD Officer, as a representative of the recipients, expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the presence of His Majesty.

He further stated that the award itself was an honour and extremely meaningful to the recipients.

"It is hoped that the recipients of these RPN will ensure and nurture the national harmony, cultivate unification and encourage them as a community of peaceful and prosperous environment and welfare," he said.

At the ceremony, His Majesty also consented to sign a plaque for the RPN Kampung Panchor project.

The 4,000-unit RPN project, which cost at least BND 388 million, comprised of 2,400 terrace houses and 1,600 semi-detached houses.

The 309-hectare area has been fully equipped with certain utilities such as roads, proper drainage systems, fibre optic telecommunication systems and also recreational parks.

Apart from that, His Majesty consented to visit to the head village of Kampung Pancha Delima/Kampung Anggerek Desa, who is also the vice-head village of Kampung Orang Kaya Besar Imas/Pulaie, Awang Haji Zulkifli bin Haji Awang Ya'akub, and also several houses at the RPN Kampung Panchor.

During the visit, His Majesty consented to tour an exhibition showcasing the products of the Mukim Consultative Council (MPM) of Mukim Berakas 'A' such as traditional medicine, local delicacies and 'kain songket', which was then followed by the presentation from the MPM of Pancha Delmia/Anggerek Desa.

Afterward, His Majesty then consented to visit the Pulaie Primary School and the Raja Isteri Girls' High School (STPRI), where His Majesty was greeted by the Permanent Secretary (Education Core) of the Ministry of Education, Yang Mulia Dr. Haji Junaidi bin Haji Abdul Rahman; Permanent Secretary (Higher Education), Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi; Deputy Permanent Secretary, Yang Mulia Dr. Hajah Anita Binurul Zahrina binti Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Abdul Aziz and the school principals.

Subsequently, His Majesty consented to visit the Serubing Lake Recreational Park at Kampung Belimbing, Kota Batu where His Majesty consented to plant a Belimbing Madu tree and release a fish into the lake.

Later on, His Majesty consented to tour an exhibition portraying the products of MPM of the Subok area, and then proceeded to sign a plaque to mark His Majesty's visit.

To conclude the day, His Majesty consented to attend a luncheon at the Mangrove Paradise Resort at the Kampung



His Majesty talks to a student of the Pulaie Primary School.



His Majesty consents to visits several houses of the recipients of the RPN Kampung Panchor area.

Sungai Belukut where His Majesty was welcomed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati and the manager of the Mangrove Paradise Resort, Awang Haji Mahadi bin Haji Taib.



His Majesty with the committee members of Kampung Belimbing, Kota Batu.

His Majesty graces 11th BISAM's closing ceremony

TUTONG, January 31 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien consented to officially close the 11th International Skill-at-Arms Meet (BISAM) at the Binturan Shooting Range Complex in Penanjong Garrison.

His Majesty, who is also the Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince General Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and General of RBAF.

All 16 of the national flags of the participating countries were lowered to mark the official closing of 11th BISAM.

Apart from witnessing the final round of the Rifle Falling Plate competition, His Majesty and His Royal Highness also consented to participate in the VVIP Novelty Shooting competition at the 350-metre point gallery Range 1.

At the start of the ceremony, His Majesty and His Royal Highness were greeted upon arrival by Deputy Minister of Defence, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat and Commander of RBAF, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Awang Mohd Tawih bin Abdullah.

Following a group photo session, His Majesty and His Royal Highness were introduced to the Chiefs of the Defence Forces, Chiefs of the Defence Staffs, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, representatives of participating countries



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to present a prize to the overall champion, the Republic of Indonesia.

as well as members of the 11th BISAM 2015 committee.

After listening to the welcoming remarks from the Commander of RBAF and a briefing by the chairman of the 11th BISAM, Lieutenant Colonel Hasmee bin Haji Abdul Wahab, His Majesty and His Royal Highness then consented to visit the Chief Executive Officer's Office, Medical Centre and Statistic Centre.

During the event, His Majesty and His Royal Highness consented to observe the array of the state-of-the-art weaponry on display featured by the Omani, Malaysian and Indonesian military personnel and

receive a royal salute.

In addition, His Majesty and His Royal Highness also consented to present prizes to the winner of each category as well as the 11th BISAM's overall champion, the Republic of Indonesia

To conclude the competition, a *doa selamat* was read, then followed by a royal salute.

Before leaving, His Majesty and His Royal Highness consented to receive a *pesambah* (gift) and sign a Royal Parchment to mark the royal visit.

* Continue on page 12



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, and His Royal Highness Prince General Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and General of the RBAF, in a group photo with officials and participants.

* From page 11
(11th BISAM)



His Royal Highness Prince General Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, officially launches the 11th BISAM at the Binturan Shooting Range Complex.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince being introduced to one of the contingent commanders (bottom right).



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince signing a target board from the championship.



The 11th Brunei International Skill-at-Arms Meet

Sixteen countries compete in BISAM

TUTONG, January 7- The 11th Brunei International Skill-at-Arms Meet (BISAM) will be held at the Binturan Shooting Range Complex at the Penanjong Garrison in the Tutong District from January 20 to 31.

Sixteen countries, including Brunei Darussalam, will participate in this year's international shooting competition, which is hosted by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

This will be the largest participation since the competition was first held in 1985.

In connection with BISAM, a flag handover ceremony was held at the Binturan Shooting Range to commemorate the participation of the RBAF Shooting Team and the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) Shooting Team in the 11th BISAM.

The handover of the Brunei Darussalam flag was presided by the Commander of RBAF, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Paduka Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Awang Mohd. Tawih bin Abdullah.

The flag was handed to the Contingent Commander of the Brunei Darussalam Shooting Team, Lieutenant Colonel Abidin bin Haji Timbang.

The RBAF Commander, in his speech, emphasised the significance of the event especially since Brunei, as the hosting country, would welcome the largest participation of shooting contingents, including the United States and China.

He also highlighted the importance of maintaining high standards of discipline,

professionalism and continuous training as it held the key to success.

A total of 82 personnel from the RBAF will constitute as Brunei Darussalam "A" and Brunei Darussalam "B" while 32 personnel from the RBPF will constitute as Brunei Darussalam "C".

This year's BISAM will see an inclusion of marksmen and shooters from China, the Philippines, Thailand and United States along with the usual competitors from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and United Kingdom, as well as comebacks from Laos, New Zealand, Oman, Vietnam

The 11th BISAM begins

TUTONG, January 20 - The 11th Brunei International Skills-of-Arms Meet (BISAM) commenced with a total of 478 participants from 16 different countries.

The championship, held at the Binturan Shooting Range, was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Prince General Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and General of the RBAF.

The 11-day competition aims to find the best shooter in critical situations, which is an important trait in modern defence.

and Pakistan.

The Commander of the Royal Brunei Air Force, Brigadier General (U) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Wardi bin Abdul Latip; the Chairman of 11th BISAM, Lieutenant Colonel Hasmee bin Haji Abdul Wahab; senior officers; representatives from the RBPF; officers from the RBAF and 11th BISAM's organising committee were also present at the ceremony.

Other than reinforcing the shooting skills of the marksmen, BISAM hopes to forge the friendly relations between the local contingents and their counterparts.

In addition, the competition also acts as a platform to strengthen the collaboration between the marksmen.

Established in 1985, BISAM is an excellent world-class skill-at-arms championship, which is open to personnel of the Land, Navy and Air Forces.

According to a representative from Indonesia, Colonel Budi Suwanto, he expected this year's championship to be more intense and challenging as there are new participants from several countries.

* Continue on page 11

His Royal Highness General RBAF opens BISAM

TUTONG, January 20 - His Royal Highness Prince General Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, consented to inaugurate the 11th BISAM at the Binturan Shooting Range Complex.

In addition, His Royal Highness also consented to participate in the VVIP Pistol Novelty Shooting Competition, which was won by Brunei Darussalam "A" led by His Royal Highness himself.

Prior to presenting prizes to the winning teams, His Royal Highness consented to receive a royal salute led by the Parade Commander for the opening ceremony, Lieutenant Colonel Azman bin Haji Bangkol.

Afterward, the Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) Contingent handed the BISAM's Sultan Trophy, which was won by TNI in the 10th BISAM, to the head of this year's BISAM Chief Jury, Lieutenant Colonel Haji Mohd Norfahsin bin Haji Abdul Karim.

At the 11th BISAM's opening ceremony, His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the Deputy Minister of Defence, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat and the Commander of RBAF, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Major General Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Tawih bin Abdullah.

The ceremony commenced with the recitation of *Al-Fatihah* led by the RBAF's Religious Officer, Captain Ariffin bin Amit, followed by welcoming remarks from the Commander of RBAF and the chairman of this year's BISAM, Lieutenant Colonel

Hasmee bin Haji Abdul Wahab at the briefing room.

His Royal Highness then consented to declare the official opening of 11th BISAM, which was followed by the hoisting of flags of the 16 participating countries.

Subsequently, His Royal Highness also consented to visit the Chief Executive Officer's Office, Medical Centre and the Statistic Centre.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness consented to a group photo session with the RBAF's high-ranking officers and leaders of each contingent from the different countries.

His Royal Highness also consented to sign a target board from the competition, and before leaving the shooting range, His Royal Highness consented to receive a *pesambah* and sign a Royal Parchment.



Her Majesty at the Women's Special Assembly held in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul 1436 Hijrah celebration.

Her Majesty attends Women's Special Assembly

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 14 - Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to attend the Women's Special Assembly in conjunction with the *Maulidur Rasul*, the birth of Prophet Muhammad SAW, 1436 Hijrah celebration.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatol Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.

In her welcoming address, the Co-Chairperson of the Women's Special Assembly, Dr. Hajah Masnon binti Haji Ibrahim said the theme of the event was

'Pious Women, the Ummah's Light'.

She explained that the theme depicted the vital role of women in shaping a generation of leaders as women are like sources of light shining the way, providing tranquility and safety to all starting from the home and going further into a large community.

Furthermore, she also expressed her appreciation for Her Majesty's attendance in the event.

The event was highlighted by a special lecture presented by the Director of Postgraduate Education and Research at Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), Dr. Hajah Rasinah binti Haji Ahim.

In her talk, the director reminded women to equip themselves with religious knowledge and to carry out responsibilities earnestly as supported by Prophet Muhammad SAW.

In addition, a pantomime performance, performed by a group from the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB), and a dikir performance by a group of female officers and workers of the Ministry of Finance and Women's Council of Brunei Darussalam (MWNBD) were also held during the

event.

Prior to the start of the ceremony, Her Majesty was greeted upon arrival by the Ra'ees of the Seri Begawan Religious College University, Dr. Hajah Masnon binti Haji Ibrahim, as the chairperson of the event; Deputy General Accountant, Treasury Department of the Ministry of Finance, Dayang Rokiah binti Haji Badar and the MWNBD President, Pengiran Datin Paduka Hajah Mariam binti Pengiran Haji Matarsat.

The event commenced with the recitation of verses from the Al-Quran and their meaning led by Amal Nazirah binti Haji Asmat and Norainah binti Haji Jakir.

To bless the ceremony, a *doa selamat* was recited by a KUPU SB senior lecturer, Pengiran Dr. Hajah Salmiah binti Pengiran Haji Shahbuddin.

This year marked the 21st Women's Special Assembly that was organised by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and MWNBD.

The wives of Pengiran-Pengiran Cheteria, cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries and deputy permanent secretaries were also present at the ceremony.

HRH attends foundation stone laying ceremony of Rimba Arabic School

RIMBA, January 15 – His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to attend the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Rimba Arabic School (SAR) at the National Housing Plan area in Kampung Rimba.

According to the Minister of Religious Affairs, The Honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman, the building of the school would highlight the concerns of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam toward the success and development of Islamic religion in Brunei Darussalam especially in Arabic schools.

The minister said that there had been a steady increase of 29 per cent in the number of students enrolled in Arabic schools whereas there were only a 46 students in the early establishment in 1996.

As the enrollment rate is projected to further rise, the original infrastructure could no longer accommodate the ever-growing student population.

Thus, the SAR, estimated to be completed by June 2016, will act as a landmark for the progress of Arabic schools in the country as it will create future scholars and knowledgeable intellectuals, in line with the Brunei Vision 2035.

It will also help strengthen the national philosophy of Malay Islam Monarchy and the nation's idea of becoming a *zikir* country.

Upon arrival at the SAR, His Royal Highness was greeted by the Minister of Religious Affairs.

The minister said that His Royal



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik laying the foundation stone of SAR.

Highness's attendance would become a historical point and greatly valued by the people of Brunei Darussalam as it manifested His Royal Highness's pure concern over the development of religious teachings in the country.

His Royal Highness's presence proves to be the continuation of the legacy of His Royal Highness's grandfather, as the late Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien had also attended the foundation stone laying ceremony of the first Arabic school,

Hassanal Bolkiah Boys Arabic Secondary School on September 26, 1964, added the minister.

The event commenced with the recitation of *Al-Fatihah* led by the Deputy State Mufti, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Setia Raja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Awang Haji Suhaili bin Haji Mohiddin.

During the event, His Royal Highness consented to lay the foundation stone and then tour an exhibition.

His Royal Highness also consented to watch a video presentation concerning the school's structure designed to fit the Islamic theme and infrastructure.

It is hoped that SAR will provide more opportunities for the qualified students to further their studies at the school, and in turn the scholars will aid the progress of religious teachings and national development in the future.

SAR is one of the biggest projects done under the 10th National Development Plan by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, and is estimated to cost BND 48,145,113.

The school is able to accommodate 2,000 male students, and is equipped with staff rooms, classrooms, science, computer and language labs, mini studios, main hall, cafeterias, sport facilities, library, hostel and other facilities.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik touring an exhibition.

HRH visits Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah School

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 27- His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Chairman of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) Committee of Governors, consented to pay a working visit to the YSHHB School.

During the visit, His Royal Highness was briefed on the school's progress by the Managing Director of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation.

His Royal Highness then consented to visit the YSHHB's kindergarten, primary and secondary school where His Royal Highness was welcomed with performances by students from the respective schools.

His Majesty's grandchildren, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Raqeeqah Raayatul Bolqiah binti Pengiran Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Abdul Hafeez bin Pengiran Anak Khairul Khalil and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Raihaanah Hanna-Ul Bolqiah binti Pengiran Anak Khairul Khalil were among the participants.

His Royal Highness's visit demonstrated His Royal Highness's care toward the efforts and programmes taken by the YSHHB School in education, said the Minister of Development, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji

Suyoi bin Haji Osman in his welcoming remark.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was greeted by the Minister of Development as the chairman of YSHHB's Board of Directors; The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, the Vice Chairman I of the YSHHB's Board of Directors; The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awg. Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Vice Chairman II of the Yayasan Board of Directors; Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar, the Chairman of the YSHHB School Administrative Board and other administrative board members.

In his speech, the minister said that His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has always placed a high priority on education since the establishment of the foundation where education was made as one of its five main objectives.

Thus, the school hopes that it would succeed in all of its educational efforts, jointly reflecting the concerns of His Majesty.

The YSHHB School is established as the foundation's contribution to the development of education and human capital, which is in line with Brunei Darussalam's education philosophy.

The school, which consisted of kindergarten, primary, secondary school as well as religious classes, has a total of 1,855 students and 162 teachers as of now.

The kindergarten, which aims to educate the children to become confident and capable individuals, was first opened on February 4, 1998.

Meanwhile, the primary school was established on January 17, 2000 and the secondary school on January 3, 2005.

The YSHHB School practises a learning and teaching system that embraces the Malay Muslim Monarchy (MIB) ideology and a national curriculum provided by the Ministry of Education's Curriculum Development Department

Touching on registration fees, the school charges BND190 for the kindergarten, BND220 for the primary school and BND300 for the secondary school monthly.

Until now, the school still stands as a well-known parents' choice private school as reflected by the increase in the number of student admissions each year.

The school offers a unique teaching and learning system, active teacher-student participation in extra curriculum activities and a conducive school environment, and has an excellent academic record.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik with the students of YSHHB School.

HRH graces Katok Arabic School's laying of the foundation stone ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 22 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to attend the laying of the foundation stone ceremony of the Katok Arabic School (SAK).

Her Royal Highness also consented to sign a commemorative plaque and tour a mini exhibition at the event.

Upon arrival at the ceremony, Her Royal Highness was welcomed by the Minister of Religious Affairs, The Honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman.

The ceremony began with the recitation of *Al-fatihah* that was led by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Awang Haji Salim bin Haji Besar, then followed by the minister's opening remarks.

To bless the event, a *doa selamat* was recited by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim.

Prior to witnessing the laying of the foundation, Her Royal Highness also consented to watch a brief video presentation concerning the construction project of SAK.

The BND46.8 million new school will be able to accommodate 1,800 female students.

The building, which mainly consists of the administrative room, staff room and teaching rooms, is seven stories high, structured in a



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah signing a plaque at the ceremony.

circular shape and designed in Islamic architecture.

In accordance with the national philosophy of Malay Islamic Monarchy, the school is situated to facing toward the Qiblat, like all the buildings in the country, and designed with geometric Islamic pattern.

SAK is one of the biggest projects done under the 10th National Development Plan by the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

* From page 16
(AMM Retreat)



The AMM Retreat held on January 27 and 28 at the Magellan Sutera Harbour Resort.



Her Royal Highness during the AMM Retreat discussion.



Her Royal Highness consents to attend a welcome dinner at the Magellan Sutera Harbour Resort.



ASEAN's Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) Retreat



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in a group photo with her ASEAN counterparts during the Asean Foreign Ministers' Meeting Retreat.

HRH departs for AMM Retreat

KOTA KINABALU, SABAH, January 16 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade consented to depart for Kota Kinabalu in Sabah to attend ASEAN's Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) Retreat.

Her Royal Highness was accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

Upon arrival, Her Royal Highness was greeted by the Deputy Minister of Resources and Technology Development of Sabah, The Honourable Datuk Hamisah Samad.

The AMM Retreat, held on January 27 and 28 at the Magellan Sutera Harbour Resort, is the first in a series of ASEAN meetings under Malaysia's chairmanship of ASEAN this year.

Delegates from 10 ASEAN countries will participate in the meeting to discuss various regional issues including ASEAN's priorities for 2015 and the ASEAN Community Vision 2015.

AMM Retreat discusses regional issues

KOTA KINABALU, SABAH, January 27 - The AMM Retreat will discuss various regional issues that focus on the efforts to strengthen the development of the ASEAN Community 2015.

Apart from that, the meeting will also discuss matters on strengthening relations with countries outside ASEAN and ASEAN's future, alongside promoting the cohesiveness in developing the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade consented to attend a 'Welcome Dinner' at Magellan Sutera Harbour Resort, hosted by the Malaysia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, to greet the ASEAN ministers who attended the AMM Retreat.

Her Royal Highness was accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

The Chief Minister of Sabah, The Right Honourable Datuk Seri Panglima Musa Haji Aman was also present at the welcoming dinner.

AMM Retreat discusses implementation of decisions

KOTA KINABALU, SABAH, January 28 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade consented to attend the AMM Retreat, chaired by Malaysia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, which was held at the Magellan Sutera Harbour Resort.

The AMM Retreat discussed the steps to implement the decisions taken by the ASEAN leaders at the 25th ASEAN Summit and the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision.

Apart from that, the meeting also explored several matters including the development of the ASEAN Community, ASEAN's relations with dialogue partners, regional and international issues, and a uniformed time zone for ASEAN countries.

Prior to the AMM Retreat, several meetings were held including the ASEAN Senior Official's Meeting (SOM) and the 4th ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group (ACCWG).

Guided by the theme 'Our Citizens, Our Community, Our Vision', Malaysia, throughout its chairmanship, aims to make ASEAN 'people-centred'.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna during a tour around the Gayana Eco Resort.

Her Royal Highness tours Bunga Raya Island Resort

KOTA KINABALU, SABAH, January 28 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade consented to tour the Bunga Raya Island Resort and Spa at Polish Bay, Gaya Island with ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the ASEAN Secretary General.

Her Royal Highness then consented to visit the Gayana Eco Resort, Malohon Bay at the Gaya Island and the Marine Ecology Research Centre.

Her Royal Highness was also joined by the representatives from the ASEAN Senior Official's Meeting (SOM).

The tour concluded with a luncheon hosted by Malaysia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Honourable Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, at the Alu-Alu Restaurant of the Gayana Eco Resort.

Minister of Communications launches safe driving guide

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 7 - The Land Transport Department (JPD) is urged to always increase their efforts in disseminating the latest information and developments to road users.

The Minister of Communications, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar stressed this matter at the launch of the book 'Safe and Smart Driving in Brunei Darussalam' held at the Amar Pahlawan Hall, Ministry of Communication.

In his speech, the minister hoped that the book will help create road users who are well informed and able to make smart decisions.

"Road users like these will shape a smart community. They can put the information to good use, make smart decisions, prioritise safety, practice caution and comply with the road safety rules and regulations," said the minister.

He further said that the launch was a promising start for 2015 as last year saw the launch of the Land Transport Master Plan, which acknowledged the four main strategies to the development of land transport and the Land Transport White Paper as a base to the national land transport's strategies and plans.

The production of the book is an initiative of the Ministry of Communications in ensuring that the land transport system in Brunei Darussalam is managed and administered systematically and effectively.

The book contains information on operations carried out at the department such as vehicle licensing, registration and maintenance.

The minister said that with the book as guidance, he anticipated that affairs could be carried out easier and simpler.

This education-based approach and effective dissemination of information will be enhanced from time to time, which is also in line with the National Action Plan - "Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020".

Thus, the minister urged the 'reaching out to the public' action, especially relating to matters concerning direct contact with the public, to be carried out now and then.

The Land Transport Department managed to pinpoint the solutions by working together with various agencies including the suppliers, which then could help contribute to the services rendered to the public.



The Minister of Communications, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan launched the book on 'Safe and Smart Driving in Brunei Darussalam'.



The minister receives a briefing during a tour.

Architectural Design Award aims to inspire architects, says Minister of Development

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 21 - The Architectural Design Award 2014 / 2015 - 'Brunei Darussalam Citation of Excellent Architectural Design Reflecting East Asian' was aimed to acknowledge exemplary works and encourage continuous collaborations, development and improvements of the vicinities in Brunei Darussalam.

In addition, it also acted as a platform to increase the awareness of the roles of architecture and architects in the socioeconomic and cultures of East Asian countries.

Furthermore, the award also intended to highlight that good architecture is a major component of the positive influence on the human environment.

The Minister of Development, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman stated these matters at the awarding ceremony of the Architectural Design Award 2014 / 2015.

"By 2035, in line with Brunei Darussalam's vision, we hope that Brunei Darussalam will be globally known for the accomplishment of its well-educated and highly skilled society who has produced a dynamic and sustainable economy," said the minister.

The minister also hoped that the award would encourage and attract architects and designers to use the platform for their benefit.

All architects, he then urged, should collaborate with their local counterparts as well as international architectural bodies.

"Through this, you can acknowledge design excellence and share thoughts and inputs to improve architectural design quality and services," he added.

The minister stated further that the award was also in compliance with the creation of ASEAN Architect through a recognition agreement signed by all ASEAN members to encourage the exposure of local architects in the ASEAN regions and also through the ASEAN Architect Council (AAC).

In addition, a body has been formed to monitor, review requests and register local architects as ASEAN Architects.

This monitoring committee falls under the Board of Architects, Professional Engineers and Quantity Surveyors (BAPEQS), which represents Brunei Darussalam in AAC.



The Minister of Development, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman delivering a speech at the awarding ceremony.



The Minister of Development and the Acting Director General of Public Works Department with the winner of the Architectural Design Award 2014/2015, Haslinawati binti Haji Abdul Halim.

* From frontpage
(Graduates need to be marketable, says Minister of Education)

it provides another educational pathway for students in the country.

Furthermore, the institution aims to promote the development of human resources relating to the technical and vocational education, which is one of the objectives of both the National Development Plan and Brunei Vision 2035.

Therefore, the minister reminded that the courses offered by the Politeknik Brunei need to be internationally benchmarked and consistent with the ever-changing employment market needs.

Additionally, Politeknik Brunei, as well as other institutions, needs to involve stakeholders in creating and reviewing the suitability of courses and apprenticeship.

“It is important to ensure every graduate is marketable and job-ready like the collaboration between the Ministry of Education and Department of Energy at the Prime Minister’s Office in the planning of the Energy Industry Competency Framework,” the minister explained.

Through the collaboration, the offered courses are demand driven, hands-on and include an apprenticeship aspect that will equip the students with the necessary skills.

The minister further said that these efforts need to be implemented to avoid a mismatch between the graduates’ qualifications and the job market.

Furthermore, the minister called on Politeknik Brunei to continue producing innovative, skilled and highly employable graduates.

He pointed out that graduates from Politeknik Brunei and other institutions need to be more ambitious.

They must not have the perception that the opportunity to upgrade their qualifications and skills would end once they enter the career world, he said.

He added that they need to further explore the opportunities required in the current employment market.

It is hoped that every institution of higher education including Politeknik Brunei will offer life-long learning opportunities that enable individuals to continuously increase their knowledge, value and skills.



The Minister of Education, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong presenting certificates to graduates (above and below).



The graduates after receiving their certificates from the minister.