



برونئي دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam



Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
Prime Minister's Office

JANUARY, 2014
VOLUME 29 ISSUE 1

Generate economic growth of the country



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* in conjunction with the New Year 2014 celebration.

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, December 31 - 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 urged for all parties in the public and private sectors to further enhance their productivity levels in order to generate Brunei Darussalam's economic growth in line with the theme of the 10th National Development Plan, 'Knowledge and Innovation, Increase Productivity, Accelerate Economic Growth'.

In His Majesty's *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the New Year 2014 celebration, His Majesty hoped that productivity issues in the public and private sector will be given due attention and the policy and strategy should be formulated immediately to achieve the desired goals.

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His Majesty reminds citizens of Prophet Muhammad's blessings

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 13 - 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 said, Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam was a blessing to the universe and bearers of meaningful changes to be enjoyed together.

It changed from darkness to light; slavery to independence; *kufur* (*non-believer*) to Islam; from executing the lives of women and children to saving them; and from dispute and execution to good life, said His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Maulidur Rasul celebration for the year 1435/2014.

His Majesty stated that the blessings was conveyed by Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam and was comprehensive as a signal from Allah in Surah Al-Anbiya, verse 107: " And We have not sent you (O Muhammad!) save as a mercy for the people of the world."

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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 delivering a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Maulidur Rasul celebration for the year 1435/2014



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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.

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His Majesty, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri receives audience

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 at Istana Nurul Iman on January 27 from:



His Excellency Muhaimin Iskandar, Minister of Manpower and Transmigration, Republic of Indonesia.

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to receive in audience at Istana Nurul Iman on January 27 from:



Mrs. Rustini Murtado, the spouse of the Minister of Manpower and Transmigration, Republic of Indonesia.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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

- His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar's Independence Day on January 4.
- His Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India, and His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India on the occasion of India's Republic Day on January 26.
- Her Excellency The Honorable Quentin Bryce, Governor-General of Australia, and His Excellency Tony Abbott, Prime Minister of Australia on the occasion of Australia Day on January 26.

Generate economic growth of the country

From front page

Throughout 2013, the country has also undertaken various efforts to enhance socioeconomic activities, attract foreign investment, implement joint venture projects in several sectors, including upstream and downstream sector of the oil and gas, medicine and services, said His Majesty.

His Majesty mentioned that under the infrastructure repair, projects for water supply will also continue which include the increase of water storage capacity and maintenance of water treatment plants and projects to deepen the river and canal to prevent floods. Road safety enhancements were also underway under several projects, including expansion and upgrading of road surfaces, implementation of demerit system and road safety campaigns on an ongoing basis.

For the long term, the government is in the process of providing a transportation master plan that focuses on the efficient, safe and clean integrated network of transport services by providing a wide and lively option for all which includes the construction of roads and bridges to connect the Brunei-Muara District with the Temburong District and the construction of a bridge over the Brunei River from Kampung Sungai Kebun to Jalan Residency, Brunei-Muara District. In addition, the government is also keen to improve the public transport system to meet the needs of the public.

His Majesty stated that it is very encouraging and has been able to reduce the waiting period for requesting and providing houses to about 48 per cent of the number of applications, based on the number of housing scheme houses completed in 2013. More than 6,000 houses are expected to be completed by 2014 bringing more than 26,000 housing units. The government has also started to provide high-rise residences suitable for the country in an effort to further promote the provision of adequate housing.

Whereas in the field of health, the government will further promote the provision of physical infrastructure and services as well as measures to strengthen the expertise of manpower. The government also strives to preserve healthy environment so that the development will be able to go on, which in that direction, a law on the environment is being worked out which among others aims to protect the environment and prevent pollution, said His Majesty.

His Majesty revealed that in 2014, Brunei Darussalam will start implementing the initial phase of the Syar'iah Criminal Code and emphasised that all levels of society will be able to make a resolution and commitment to equally support its implementation.

In the regional and international arena, His Majesty expressed his contentment as the people in Brunei Darussalam has shown their attention and kindness to outside parties who were overwhelmed with disaster and needed help. His Majesty was also proud on the initiative and the public's response in helping humanitarian aid to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

Ending the *titah*, His Majesty expressed appreciation to all levels of the public service and security teams including those working overseas and those in the private sector, for their sincere efforts in carrying out their respective duties and responsibilities for the welfare of the country.

His Majesty and the members of royal family wished a Happy New Year 2014 to all the citizens and the residents of Brunei Darussalam and prayed that Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala will continue to grant mercy and protection to everyone and the country.

His Majesty reminds citizens of Prophet Muhammad's blessings

From front page

His Majesty is grateful that because of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam, Muslims can acknowledge and worship Allah. His Majesty mentioned that because of the Prophet that we become good individuals who loves to worship, help each other, and know how to read Al-Qur'an. These are all derived from the blessings that the Prophet brings.

Brunei Darussalam has done its best to receive blessings, such as banning alcohol according to syara' as alcohol is the mother of evil. His Majesty also pointed out that Brunei Darussalam has established Islamic banks to avoid *riba* (usury), distributing *zakat* (alms) to those who have their rights and have banned cigarettes and smoking, as it is risky for health and even life.

"We have also established the Tahfiz Al-Qur'an Institute to fulfill *fardu kifayah* obligations. We have temporarily shut down business premises on Friday as a way of preserving the image of Islam and its people, and most recently, we have already fulfilled our resolutions by embracing the Syari'ah Criminal Code in our beloved country, as a step of our escape from being demanded by Allah in the hereafter," His Majesty said. His Majesty hoped that all the efforts taken would be accepted by Allah as a charity to Him and will be rewarded with His blessings for the sake of Muslims in this country, he said, without doubting that Allah will not break His promise.

His Majesty also expressed the belief that commemorating and celebrating the Maulud of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam is a means of empowering faith and belief, and stated that Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam was sent to call upon people to be religious and to have faith. Without him, there will not be a start of faith and belief. It is the importance and greatness of the Messenger of Allah which until now the greatness would not be dim, and will continue to light in this virtual world, especially in the soul and the heart of the Messenger of Allah.

His Majesty expressed confidence, especially of this celebration, that the people will never forget to recall moments of the Prophet's struggle. "The Prophet fought the enemies of the faith alone. He was resisted and humiliated, even hurt. Only after a long period of time being alone, then he has a friend or follower to spread Islam," His Majesty said.

Before ending the *titah*, His Majesty called on Muslims in the country to jointly recite *Selawat* to Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam.

Dikir Maulidur Rasul ends



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar attending the Closing Ceremony for Dikir Syarafil Anam at the Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 14 - Dikir Syarafil Anam Ceremony in conjunction with the Maulud of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam which was held for 12 consecutive nights in mosques, prayer halls, surau and in individual houses within the country shows the affection of Muslims to Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam.

Closing Ceremony for Dikir Syarafil Anam in conjunction with Maulidur Rasul was held at Baitur Rahmah, Istana Nurul Iman, which was attended by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

The ceremony began with the mass recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah led by the Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Khatib Awang Haji Embran bin Haji Kunchang and afterwards followed by Dikir Assalamu'alaika recited by mosque officials and imams.

Among the dikir cited included the Marhaban performance which was also recited by mosque officials and imams, and followed by the firing of 21 cannons when 'Ya Habibi' was recited.

The dikir prayer was recited by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Khatib Awang Haji Embran and the Doa Selamat was recited by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State of Mufti.

Also in attendance were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran-Pengiran Cheteria, Pengiran-Pengiran Peranakan, Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, members of the Legislative Council, Pehin-Pehin Manteri, Manteri-Manteri Pendalaman and Permanent Secretaries.



The Dikir Maulidur Rasul recital at the closing ceremony for Dikir Syarafil Anam.

Maulidur Rasul mass gathering and procession



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, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel during the procession.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 14 January – 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 attend the Maulidur Rasul Mass Gathering and Procession, National Level For the Year 1435 Hijrah at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, in the capital.

Upon arrival, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by the Minister of Religious Affairs, Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman, Chairman of the Executive Committee for Major Islamic Events of 1435 Hijrah and the Celebration's Committee members.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel along with other royal family members.

The function began with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah led by the State Mufti, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned.

The Minister of Religious Affairs, Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad in his welcoming speech, among others, expressed gratitude and delight in the arrival of His Majesty to the gathering, which strengthened the relationship and love between the Sultan and his people.

He said that His Majesty's willingness to lead the procession around Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB) reflected his consistent leadership and commitment, where everything is a reminder of our devotion to the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam.

The Minister of Religious Affairs further explained that until now, Brunei Darussalam has been holding Maulidur Rasul celebrations each year with its own traditions, where gatherings and processions were held simultaneously nationwide with *Dikir Marhaban* presentations and special religious talks held by every institution which indicates that the Muslim community in the country will not let go of their efforts to propagate the Islamic *syiar*.

This, he said, showed that our love for the Prophet remains strong, and could be made as referral and example of the past, for the current and future Brunei generations continuously throughout the years.

His Majesty then consented to receive the *junjung ziarah* and greetings from the heads of the contingents taking part in the Maulud procession.

The event continued with a *Dikir Marhaban*, presented by the Prime Minister's Office *Dikir* Group and as they sang 'Ya Habibi,' the firing of 21 rounds of cannon shells started.

A *Doa Selamat* was then read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, the State Mufti to seek blessings and *syafaat* (mediation) for the occasion.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being greeted by one of the teams who took part in the procession.

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From page 6



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being greeted by one of the teams who took part in the procession.

Before the procession started, calls of *Selawat* to signal the start of the procession was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam led the procession encircling Bandar Seri Begawan for as far as 4.7 kilometres, along with the Royal Families and state officials.

A total of 143 teams with a crowd of over 17 thousand people took part in the gathering and procession, including a competition for the five categories.

The first category was made up of primary schools, religious schools, Arabic Preparatory schools and private institutions, while the second category included secondary schools, Arabic schools, Higher Education institutions, colleges and private institutions.

The third category was open to ministries and government departments while the fourth category was for Mukim and Village members, as well as Mukim and Village Consultative Councils and the Mosque Takmir Committee, and finally, the fifth category was for associations and the private sector.

The mass gathering and procession of Maulidur Rasul was held simultaneously in all four districts, with the theme 'Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam – Conveyor of Universal Blessings'.



Uniformed personnel and primary and religious school students also took part in the procession.

His Majesty inspects flooded areas



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 dan His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office as the Chairman of National Disaster Council consented to visit the temporary placement for the flood victims at Tanjong Maya, Tutong.

TUTONG, 25 January – 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 visit some areas that were affected by floods in Tutong.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was accompanied by His Majesty's son, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, as Chairman of the National Disaster Council. His Majesty first went to the Incidence Command Post (ICP) located at Lamunin Fire Station.

Upon arrival, His Majesty and His Royal Highness were greeted by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Home Affairs and Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman, Acting Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

His Majesty consented to receive a briefing by Mohammad Shazwan bin Suhanie, Assistant Superintendent and Acting Commanding Officer of Tutong District Operation 'E' Branch of the Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) on the status of the floods and landslides in Tutong District as well as the collaborated action by all government agencies including voluntary organizations in handling the situation.

After the briefing, His Majesty and His Royal Highness also consented to take a closer look at the areas severely affected by floods, namely Kampung Layong, Kampung Panchong and Kampung Penapar. During the departure to Kampung Panchong, Kuala Ungar, His Majesty consented to visit the affected residential houses by boat before proceeding to Kampung Penapar, Ukong using hovercraft.

His Majesty and His Royal Highness then went to Serambangun Multipurpose Hall, Tutong to review the placement centre for flood victims. A total of 25 victims from three families originating from Kampung Penapar, Kampung Ukong and Kampung Tanjong Maya were placed in the centre.

Among the places that were of concern to His Majesty was the placement centre for flood victims in Balai Masjid Kampung Tanjong Maya which housed three families from Kampung Penapar.



His Majesty consented to hear a briefing from one of the officers on duty on the latest status of the flood situation.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness meeting the residents of affected houses in Kampung Panchong.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness during the visit in Kampung Panchong, Tutong using a boat.

His Majesty and His Royal Highness also consented to review the preparation and delivery of food rations that were provided by the youth and volunteers to ease the government in helping the flood victims.

Also joining His Majesty were Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Education; Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Development; Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yusoff bin Haji Ismail, Deputy Minister of Education, Permanent Secretaries and senior government officials from various agencies.

Through the visit, His Majesty and His Royal Highness were shown the effectiveness, efforts and measures undertaken by the government to tackle the problem and provide the help needed. The visit also showed His Majesty's concern for the citizens and residents in the country especially in Tutong District where it is most affected by the floods.

Her Majesty attends Women's Special Assembly



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam during the Women's Special Assembly Ceremony in conjunction with Maulidur Rasul National Celebration of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam ¹⁴³⁵.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 22 - Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam consented to attend the Women's Special Assembly Ceremony in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul National Celebration of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam 1435.

Upon arrival, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri was welcomed by Chairman of the Women's Special Assembly Council in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul Celebration of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam from Ministry of Religious Affairs (MORA), Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam Women's Council and other committee members at International Convention Centre, Berakas.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul 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.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri along with other members of the royal family during the Women's Special Assembly Ceremony in conjunction with Maulidur Rasul National Celebration of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam ¹⁴³⁵.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri along with other members of the royal family during the Women's Special Assembly Ceremony in conjunction with Maulidur Rasul National Celebration of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam ¹⁴³⁵.

The ceremony began with a recitation of verses from Al-Qur'an by Hajah Maidah binti Haji Abdul Rahman the winner of the National Al-Qur'an Reading Adult Finals 1434, while the meaning of the verses were recited by Hajah Noraini binti Haji Hamdan, Religious Education Officer, MORA.

The ceremony was then followed by a welcoming speech from Dr. Hajah Masnon binti Haji Ibrahim, the Co-Chairman of the Women's Special Assembly Ceremony.

The ceremony was also enlivened by a special talk entitled 'Mu'minah Solehah Generasi Bertaqwa' presented by Hajah Noor binti Haji Mohadi followed by the Recital of Poem.

The highlight of the event was the Anugerah Bakti Hijrah Khas Wanita 1435 announced by Hajah Azizah binti Haji Musa, the Acting Director of the Islamic Da'wah Center, MORA.

In the ceremony, Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri consented to present the Anugerah Bakti Hijrah Khas Wanita (Female Hijrah Service Special Award) to Hajah Patimah @ Zahrani binti Begawan Mudim Hj Asli @ Wasli and Hajah Nor binti Hj Ladi.

The ceremony was followed by Dikir Marhaban performance from the officials and staff of the Ministry of Education and a thanksgiving prayer recited by Hajah Zaliha binti Haji Ibrahim.

The 20th Women's Special Assembly Ceremony in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul National Celebration of the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam was conducted by Ministry of Religious Affairs and Ministry of Education.



His Royal Highness attends Ground Breaking Ceremony for Bridge Construction Project



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 Prime Minister's Office officiating the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the construction of the link bridge across Sungai Brunei from Kampung Sungai Kebun to Jalan Residency.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 16 January – 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 consented to officiate the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the construction of the link bridge across Sungai Brunei from Kampung Sungai Kebun to Jalan Residency.

The construction of the 607-metre link bridge will be completed in three years. It is a project under the 10th National Development Plan (NDP) which costs approximately BND139 million, including the construction of the two flyovers at Jalan Residency and Jalan Sungai Kebun.

Upon arrival at the construction site in Jalan Residency, His Royal Highness was greeted by the Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman and the Minister of Finance II at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim.

The event started with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal and was followed by a video about the project.

His Royal Highness, who is also the Chairman for the Executive Committee of the 10th NDP, then consented to officiate the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the construction of the link bridge across Sungai Brunei from Kampung Sungai Kebun to Jalan Residency.

A *Doa Selamat* was then read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid.

His Royal Highness then consented to view an exhibition on the project and was briefed by the Director General of Public Works, Awang Haji Marzukie bin Haji Mohsin. The event ended with a group photo session.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince viewing the exhibition regarding the project by Haji Marzukie bin Haji Mohsin, Director General of Public Works Department.

The project that was run by the Public Works Department (PWD), Ministry of Development has entrusted its construction to the joint venture companies, Syarikat Swee Sdn. Bhd., Daelim Industrial Co.Ltd and TRC.

With the construction of the bridge, it will connect two major regions of the country, namely Bandar Seri Begawan and Mukim Lumapas.

According to the PWD, more than 18 thousand vehicles per day come from Mukim Lumapas and its surroundings, commuting on Jalan Bengkurong Masin to get to the main areas to send their children to school or work.

The number of vehicles was expected to continue to increase over time, especially with the growth in Lumapas Housing Scheme and its surroundings as well as other economical activities.

With the completion of the bridge, it was estimated around 9,000 vehicles will use the route every day, thereby reducing the traffic congestion at Jalan Bengkurong Masin and Jalan Tutong.

The construction of the bridge took into account the main criteria, namely with the design concept that gives a positive impact on the circulation of traffic, iconic design that can be used as a landmark in the country in line with its location in the vicinity of the capital in addition to the reasonable cost.

This project will have a cable stayed bridge of 300 metres main span and a 157-metre high cable (pylon) tower, and when completed, it will be the first cable stayed bridge in the country.

Also present at the ceremony were Cabinet Ministers, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam, members of the Executive Committee of the 10th NDP, Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and heads of departments as well as senior government officials.

His Royal Highness attends Sovereign's Parade ceremony



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 Prime Minister's Office consented to inspect the parade consisting of Static Guard of Honor and the Sovereign's Parade.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 23 January – 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 attended the Sovereign's Parade ceremony for the tenth intake of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) Officer Cadet School at the Defence Academy RBAF, Sungai Akar Camp.

Upon arrival at the Defence Academy headquarters of the RBAF Officer Cadet School, His Royal Highness was greeted by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, the Deputy Minister of Defence and Major General Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, the Commander of RBAF.

Shortly after arrival, His Royal Highness consented to receive the Royal Salute and proceeded to inspect the parade made up of the Static Guard of Honour and the Sovereign's Parade comprising of 13 male Officer Cadets and 10 female Officer Cadets, under the command of the Parade Officer, 862 Captain Khairul Faizin bin Haji Abdul Gafar.

Also participating in the parade were Officer Cadets who are still undergoing training from the school's eleventh intake.

The ceremony that was held according to military tradition was followed by a march past.

At this ceremony, His Royal Highness also consented to deliver a *sabda* (royal speech) and presented the awards to the best cadet officer in each department for the school's tenth intake.

His Royal Highness also consented to present the Sword of Honour to the 50382 Naval Officer Cadet Mohammad Aiezuddin bin Julaini, who holds a Bachelor's Degree of 'BSc Psychological Studies' from the University of Glasgow.

The Sword of Honour is the highest award given to an Officer Cadet granted by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and it signifies the pillar of utmost brilliance for the Officer Cadet that have the highest achievements in basic military training, academic, physical and second phase training in all aspects.

The award recipients are also characterised by their overall performance and act as an example of Best Officer in a variety of aspects such as leadership, commitment and demonstrate positive personality from the beginning of the Officer Cadet training to the end.

After being commissioned as a military officer, he will be assigned as the Officer in Training onboard 'Kapal Diraja Brunei Darussalam', Royal Brunei Navy (RBN).

His Royal Highness also consented to present the Best Academic Award to 21730 Air Officer Cadet Dayang Umi Kalthsum binti Haji Awang Ramli who holds a Bachelor's Degree of 'BSc Education (Major in Chemistry)' from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

This award is granted based on the officers' success in achieving the best results for the overall academic subjects, while the evaluation of the award is based on the overall results of their academic excellence in the training courses held.

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His Royal Highness attends Sovereign's Parade ceremony



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to present the 'Anugerah Terbaik Ketahanan Latihan Jasmani' (Best Physical Training Endurance Award) to ⁵⁰³⁷⁸ Cadet Officer Iqbal Arqam bin Haji Abdul Rahman.

Best Military Skills Award was awarded to 21723 Officer Cadet Dayang Afifah Hasanah Binti Haji Ali Hassan who holds a Bachelor's Degree of 'BSc Pharmaceutical Studies' from the University of Bath.

This award is granted based on the officer's success in achieving excellent results in all Military Skills subjects, while the award evaluation is based on the highest cumulative percentage of all Military Skills subjects.

The Best Physical Training Endurance Award was awarded to 50378 Officer Cadet Awang Iqbal Arqam bin Haji Abdul Rahman, who holds a Bachelor's Degree in Syariah and Law from Universiti Islam Sultan Shari Ali (UNISSA).

The award is seen as recognition based on the Officer Cadet's achievements in physical training throughout the training period. The criteria for receiving this award is that one must have a strong physical endurance, consistent and can show positive improvement from time to time in all physical training.

The ceremony continued with a *Doa Selamat* recited by the Assistant Chief of RBAF's Religious Department, 761 Captain Ariffin bin Amit.

His Royal Highness then proceeded to the Officers' Mess of Sungai Akar Camp and was introduced to the newly commissioned officer cadets with their families, which comprised of 14 Royal Brunei Land Force officers, 4 Royal Brunei Air Force officers and 5 Royal Brunei Navy officers. One of the officers that were commissioned was also a recipient of the RBAF Supreme Commander Scholarship in 2006 and will be one of the Medical Officers in the RBAF.

At the function, His Royal Highness consented to receive a 'Rai'sul Amin' *Pesambah* from the officer cadets of the 10th Intake.

The *Pesambah* is a Topi Perang (Warrior Helmet) which means an honest and trustworthy leader. It is also thought of as the pillar of strength and courage of the leaders of the Muslims and also symbolizes the fundamental values of the OCS "Loyal, Piety, Bold" which is applied to each potential young leader of RBAF to create a generation of military officers who are well-disciplined, knowledgeable, virtuous and fair.

The Warrior Helmet is one of the most important weapons for the military because it is the seal of safety and courage while fighting on the battlefield to defend the sovereignty of religion, the King, the Nation, and the country.

After, His Royal Highness consented to sign a parchment and the chronology of the 10th Intake of the Officer Cadet Book and His Royal Highness consented to receive greetings from the officers and trainers of the Officer Cadet School and joined a photo session with the officers.

His Royal Highness attends AMM Retreat



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade departing for Bagan, Myanmar on January 16.

BAGAN, MYANMAR, 17 January – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade consented to attend the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, also known as the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat (AMM).

The AMM Retreat was the first in a series of meetings under Myanmar as the Chairman of ASEAN 2014 held at Aureum Palace Hotel and chaired by Foreign Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Wunna Maung Lwin under the theme of 'ASEAN Foreign Ministers Moving Forward In Unity to the Peaceful and Prosperous Community'.

During Retreat, ASEAN Foreign Ministers discussed priorities in ASEAN years and issues raised including ASEAN's efforts to accelerate community building and ASEAN integration and to move forward to realise the ASEAN Community Master Plan.

ASEAN Foreign Ministers also discussed developing ASEAN Insights for 2015 ASEAN Community Post guided by the ASEAN Leaders' Statement at the 23rd ASEAN Summit and exploring ways to strengthen ASEAN external relations.

On regional and international issues, ASEAN foreign ministers emphasise the importance of upholding the ASEAN Center in addressing issues of regional importance and the ASEAN architecture that is constantly changing.

ASEAN Foreign Ministers also discussed ways to continue to contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the region and beyond.

At this meeting, ministers expressed their concern about recent developments in the South China Sea. They further stressed the ASEAN Six Point Principle in the South China Sea and the importance of maintenance in and overflight above the South China Sea.

The ministers called, all parties concerned to resolve their disputes safely in accordance with the principles recognised by international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982 and urged to making control in carrying out activities. The ministers also urged all parties to make a declaration on Multilateral Procedures in the South China Sea (DOC) to undertake the full implementation and effectiveness of the DOC to build an environment that requires trust and confidence.

Prior to the meeting, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar consented to bid farewell to His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at Brunei International Airport on January 16. His Royal Highness was then welcomed upon arrival by His Excellency Dr. U Win Hlaing, Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs at the Nyaung U Airport. Also present was His Royal Highness's daughter, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Mansurah Izzul Bolkiah.

Also welcoming His Royal Highness's arrival were the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan Colonel (Rtd) Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdu'r Rahmani bin Dato Paduka Haji Basir as well as officials of the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam to Republic of the Union of Myanmar.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade during the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Retreat (AMM) chaired by His Excellency Wunna Maung Lwin, Foreign Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Brunei-Viet Nam friendship remains strong

BAGAN, MYANMAR, 17 January – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade consented to attend the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) Retreat.

The Retreat stated was the first ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting for the year 2014, which was chaired by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

His Royal Highness also held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Friendly relations and cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam remain strong and progresses in various fields, particularly in politics, since the signing of diplomatic relations between the two countries on 29 February 1992, in addition to the field of fisheries and agriculture.

Brunei Darussalam and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam have also signed an agreement in the oil and gas sector to further strengthen economic relations between the two countries.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien (right), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade during a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Pham Binh Minh (left), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

His Royal Highness also consented to attend the Luncheon Ceremony along with the other Foreign Ministers of ASEAN.

His Royal Highness attends National Athletes Assessment and Selection Executive Committee Meeting



His Royal Highness Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) during the National Athletes Assessment and Selection Executive Committee Meeting.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Saturday, 11 January – 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 (BDNOC) consented to attend the National Athletes Assessment and Selection Executive Committee Meeting, held in the Conference Room of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium, Berakas.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah in his welcoming speech explained that the Meeting discussed the country's participation in the 2nd Summer Youth

Olympic Games at Nanjing, China, the 17th ASIAN Games at Incheon, Republic of Korea, and the 20th Commonwealth Games (XX), Glasgow, Scotland.

According to the Minister, during the 27th SEA Games at Myanmar, Brunei managed to achieve and bring back one gold, one silver and six bronze medals in their participation of Wushu, Karate, Martial Arts, Taekwondo and Sepak Takraw.

It was a success event though it was small scale. It was also the result of cooperation between all parties and the early preparation carried out particularly by the national sports associations.

The Minister said that the ministry will ensure that the quality of the appointed coach on contracts is at a high level and is able to achieve the 'Key Performance Indicators'.

He also said that the meeting was a continuation of the previous meeting to discuss and determine the eligibility of athletes who are still in consideration for joining the 2nd Summer Youth Olympic Games at Nanjing, China, and the 17th ASIAN Games at Incheon, Republic of Korea, as well as the 20th Commonwealth Games (XX), Glasgow, Scotland.

The meeting was chaired by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Hamid bin Haji Mohd. Jaafar, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. Also present at the meeting were the other National Athletes Assessment and Selection Executive Committee members.

Her Royal Highness attends Maulidur Rasul Celebration



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah during the Maulidur Rasul Celebration by Attorney General's Chamber (PPN) held at Legal and Court Building.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 25 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to attend the Maulidur Rasul Celebration by Attorney General's Chamber (PPN) held at Legal and Court Building.

A Maulidur Rasul Special Talk delivered by Awang Haji Jufri bin Haji Hidup, a speaker from the Department of Mosque Affairs.

Blessing means a good thing, brings virtuousness, profit and happiness, especially in relation to the Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam, it is a blessing which lasts forever.

The blessing brought by the Prophet (may peace be upon him) is Islam itself, including the Islamic faith and the character of the Prophet.

Islam brought by the Prophet, is said to be a great blessing full of value and people of Brunei are lucky enough to live as Islam, as Brunei Darussalam has been labeled as a prosperous Muslim country.

He further said that people of Brunei are fortunate enough to be blessed and happy in this country and that we should be thankful as Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam was the one who brought the ever lasting blessings.

The Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam himself managed to bring the Islamic da'wah and be called a better and greater human being due to his personality who had a noble character and this is one of the keys that can be taken as a lesson for Muslims if they want to succeed in life and respected by society.

Also present was Attorney-General, Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Paduka Dayang Hajah Hayati binti Pehin Orang Kaya Shahbandar Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohd. Salleh.

Also in attendance was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Mohammed Al-Mokhtar bin Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

The ceremony was followed by the souvenir presentation to Dayang Hajah Mariah binti Haji Khamis who retired on January 1 to commemorate her contributions and her dedication throughout her service at that department. She has served in the office since 1976 and her last position is as Head of Law Library Officer.

The event organised by the PPN Religious Events Committee was among others intended to celebrate the Maulidur Rasul, as well as to take lessons and knowledge from the sirah of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam as a guide to everyday life.

Her Royal Highness awarded Master of Arts (MA) with Honours



LONDON, 20 January – Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to receive a Master of Arts (MA) at the Graduation Ceremony held at the Barbican Centre, London.

Her Royal Highness was awarded a Master of Arts (MA) with honours in Geopolitics, Territory and Security from Kings College, London, United Kingdom.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah.

Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah receiving the Master of Arts (MA) at the graduation ceremony.

Religious Affairs minister receives courtesy visits



Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Religious Affairs (right) receiving a courtesy visit from British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency David Ian Campbell (left).



The Minister of Religious Affairs (right) receiving a courtesy visit from the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Dr. Fahad Mashary Al Thafiri.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 16 January – Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Religious Affairs received separate courtesy visits from two newly elected overseas head representatives to Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony was held in the Bilik Mawar, 4th Floor, Ministry of Religious Affairs (MORA), Jalan Dewan Majlis in Berakas.

The Minister of Religious Affairs first received a courtesy visit from the British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency David Ian Campbell.

His Excellency David Ian Campbell, who previously served as Deputy High Commissioner in Australia and the Republic of Singapore presented his Letter of Credence to the council of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 2nd October 2013.

The Minister of Religious Affairs also received a courtesy visit from the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Dr. Fahad Mashary Al Thafiri who presented his Letter of Credence to the council of His Majesty on 9th December 2013.

The visit was one of the efforts to further enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries and was a platform to exchange views and share experiences in matters of common interest.

The meeting also touched briefly on the Syariah Penal Code Order 2013, which came into force six months after the Syariah Penal Code Order 2013 was gazetted, including all offenses in Part IV of Chapter IV (General Offenses).

Also present at the courtesy visit were the Permanent Secretary of MORA, Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz bin Orang Kaya Maharaja Lela Haji Yusof.

Paddy grinding machines cater domestic paddy production

TEMBURONG, December 28 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources officiated the *Menepung Tawar* (Powdering) Ceremony of the paddy grinder for the Temburong District was officiated held at the Paddy Processing Site, Kampung Lekiu.

The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) through the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood has made appropriate plans to cater for the increasing domestic paddy production since the self-sufficiency Rice Production Programme of Brunei Darussalam was introduced in 2008.

Among the efforts undertaken were the supply and installation of a set of rice grinding machines with a capacity of 1,200-1,400 kilogrammes per hour, where the supply and installation work has been completed in mid-year and was used in early November 2013. The machine is capable of processing 100 paddy per day (70 kilogrammes / sacks) and the amount of clean rice to be produced is about 420 bags per day (10 kilogrammes / bags).

In order to carry out this paddy processing work, the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood has appointed a local company on a contractual basis of six (6) months with the scope of transport services and the preparation of sacks of paddy at the Temburong District paddy store as well as rice processing work at Paddy Lekiu



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources sprinkling scented flowers during the *Menepung Tawar* ceremony.

factory. This short-term project is one of the ongoing efforts by the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood under the Programme Towards Achieving Self-Sufficiency In Rice Production in Brunei Darussalam.

It is hoped that with this new paddy grinder machine, the paddy processing works will be carried out and processed rice will be marketable especially in Temburong and will also be able to meet domestic market demand.

Sustainable forest resources



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources delivering his speech during the opening ceremony the 88 Charcoal Company.

TUTONG, January 15 - The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) through the Forestry Department is very concerned with the need for forest resources in the country to be managed and maintained sustainably.

This was stated by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources in his speech during the opening ceremony of the 88 Charcoal Company at Kilometer 13.8, Jalan Tutong-Seria, Mukim Telisai, Tutong.

The minister congratulated the management of the company for successfully embarking on one of the activities of downstream and value-adding processes because such a move is encouraged in Brunei Darussalam, in line with the image of the nation who loves and values green nature. The minister also hoped that companies in the forestry industry will be more aware of the environmental sustainability.

The minister stated that the managing and preserving forest resources is a particularly challenging task for our rapidly developing country, where at one point MIPR is committed to contributing to the economic development of the country by supporting the diversification of economic activities, whereas in another point is the commitment of ensuring that the country's forest resources will continue to be protected and preserved for the benefit of the present and future generations.

The minister added that the balance in the management of forest resources is very important, in line with the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is practiced by countries which have a controlled forest resources.

The system will ensure that the measures taken in managing forest resources will impact the balance between the needs of social development and the improvement of the economy with the care and protection of forests and the environment, explained the minister.

The minister further said that the country's forest resources are very limited due to the small size of the physical area of the country and,

therefore, initiatives leading to the development of downstream and value-adding processors are one of the most encouraging initiatives or activities of the forestry industry sector to increase the contribution of the forestry sector to economic development and improvement.

Activities of downstream and value-adding processing such as the production of raw materials and waste from the sawmill activities will not only reduce the waste of timber materials, but also will increase the value of the timber and the contribution of forestry sector to gross output.

"From the aspect of environmental preservation, the production of charcoal from sawdust is also expected to be a replacement for the traditional charcoal production using the valuable and endangered mangrove materials and besides, the charcoal product will be produced using this sawdust is of better quality and more environmentally friendly compared to existing charcoal in the market, especially in terms of pollution when it is used," said the minister.

In this regard, the minister wishes that all relevant parties will be able to provide support to this local product to encourage more local sawmill companies to actively explore the opportunities that can be achieved through activities of downstream and value-adding processings.

According to the minister, MIPR through the Forestry Department will always be willing to provide assistance and support to any parties who wish to venture into jointly improving and developing the forestry sector.

The 88 Charcoal Company was registered on May 16, 2011 and has made an investment of BND4 million to launch its activities without relying on any finance facility scheme. The minister added that the commitment and independence of any assistance and management of the company is expected to be an example and encouragement to other local companies.

The 88 Charcoal Company is the first company in the country to produce charcoal using sawdust from manufacturing activities and processing of timber as well as excess and processed wood waste into sawdust before processing them into charcoal.

Minister of Health visits Belait health facilities



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Health visiting the Dental Service Division (right) and Pharmaceutical Division (left).

SERIA, January 22 - The Ministry of Health will do its best if the disruption of electricity can affect Brunei Darussalam's Health Information and Management System (BRU-HIMS) especially in poor weather.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Health stated that the Ministry of Health at the same time had a strategy by manually adapting it until electricity was recovering as usual.

According to the Minister, the use of the Bru-HIMS system is very new and problems can be fixed. The minister said that the use of Bru-HIMS system is good for patients and the usage trend of the system needs to be adapted but it will take time and for Brunei Darussalam, Bru-HIMS systems are integrated and used in all clinics and hospitals in the country.

"This is the plan that we will do in the future so that every patient who needs emergency treatment, their records can be accessed everywhere. These are the benefits of using the system Bru-HIMS and the most important record patient history can be known and the doctor can see and provide appropriate treatment to the patient," said the minister.

In this regard, the minister hoped that patients will be able to have patience because whatever the use of a new system is introduced a little bit have problems and for patients who have not

registered in the Bru-HIMS system, the Minister recommended them to enroll in a nearby health clinic or hospital where they lived.

About 60 to 70 percent of the population in the country has enrolled in the Bru-HIMS system, which was the use of electronic records of patients introduced the previous year.

The Minister explained the matter during a working visit at three different places beginning with the visit to the Seria Health Center followed by Suri Seri Begawan Hospital and ended at the Kuala Belait Health Office.

The Minister said the Seria Health Center was in the process of renovation and upgrading in phases. In this first phase, the renovation process covers the Dental Services Division and the Children and Women Clinic Services. Whereas the second phase will be modifying, improving and upgrading the Pharmacy and Outpatient Division as well as on the whole of the waiting area and other facilities and will be added specifically to the Flu Clinic.

The Minister visit was aimed to look closer on projects at the Seria Health Center, the Kuala Belait Health Office renovation project and monitoring the development of existing infrastructure and services at Suri Seri Begawan Hospital, Kuala Belait.

Effectiveness of actions in 'Hazmat' incidents

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 20 - As part of the disaster management strategy, the Ministry of Health is proactive in carrying out mitigation programmes and undertaking various preparations, one of which is to take the First National Course on 'Hazmat' Hazardous Medical Materials for three days beginning January 20, 2014.

Present to officiate the ceremony held at International Rizqun Hotel was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Health.

The course was attended by 150 participants comprising officials from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defense, Fire and Rescue Department and Panaga Health Center. Through this course, decontamination equipment will be distributed to hospitals in the country to be preserved and maintained and providing training to additional decontamination officers or staff where every hospital should perform at least one probation training a year.

The course is aimed to ensure the effectiveness of actions in 'Hazmat' incidents, employee's safety and treatments for Hazmat's emergency management.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Health (centre) during the First National Course on Hazardous Medical 'Hazmat' Materials programme.

At the ceremony, the minister presented tokens of appreciation to the platinum sponsors, Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) and Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas Company (BLNG) as well as the Brunei Methanol Company (BMC) as the gold sponsor. The minister then handed Hazmat's equipment to Awang Haji Muhd. Jamal bin Tersad, Chief Executive Officer of RIPAS Hospital and Awang Mohamad bin Haji Abdul Hamid, Chief Executive Officer of Suri Seri Begawan Hospital, Kuala Belait.

Civics course students attend dinner with Acting Minister of Energy



Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned, Acting Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office (right) interacting with one of the participants.

JERUDONG, January 20 - The participants of the Brunei Darussalam Undergraduates Civic Overseas Course 2014 were reminded to always take care of their manners and etiquette while studying overseas.

The students are also advised to correct their 'nawaitu' or their intentions before beginning their journey to their destination and always pray to Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala to bless their journey and study.

This was emphasised in a lecture titled 'Traveler According to Islamic Perspective' (Musafir Menurut Perspektif Islam) delivered by a speaker from Islamic Da'wah Center, Awang Muskrisman Safari bin Haji Mustapha during the Civic Course Student Dinner with Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned, Acting Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office held at the Royal Polo and Riding Club.

Awang Muskrisman also pointed out that the success achieved by the students was due to their parents' prayer and blessings and therefore, students were called on to ask for their parents' forgiveness and blessings before traveling to their respective destinations.

In his talk, he also commented on nutritional issues in foreign countries where students especially Muslims should be careful and avoid eating foods which are doubted of their halalness.

In addition, he adds, students also need to know the boundaries of their involvement with their friends and not be easily influenced by Western culture.

Also present at the dinner was the Permanent Secretaries and Deputy Permanent Secretaries at Prime Minister's Office; Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) of the Ministry of Education, as Vice-Chancellor University of Brunei Darussalam; Acting Director of Information as well as senior officers in the Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office.

The four-day civics course was organised by the Department of Information in collaboration with the Scholarship Section of the Ministry of Education and attended by 28 students commencing on January 24.

Various programmes and activities have been planned for students throughout the course, including visiting and listening to briefings from government departments which aimed to motivate thinking, thus driving the spirit of devotion to the country upon completion of their studies.



Acting Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office (center) in a group photo with the participants.

Use experience to achieve success



Some of the athletes joining Brunei Darussalam Contingent the 7th Para ASEAN Sports Games 2014 to Myanmar.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, January 9 - National athletes to the ASEAN Games are encouraged to use the skills and experience of the training sessions that have been conducted and use the guides provided by the coaches to challenge and compete against athletes from competing countries.

Acting Director of Youth and Sports, Awang Haji Abdul Malik bin Haji Mohamad said this at the National Flag Handover Ceremony to the Brunei Darussalam Contingent to the 7th ASEAN Para Games, held at Dewan Digadong, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports Building (MCYS), Berakas.

Earlier, the Acting Youth and Sports Director, as the Chairman of the events explained, the selection of athletes to the sport was evaluated based on the assessment procedures for athletes' achievements in regional and international sports, in addition to having excellent performance, discipline and potential for medals.

At the ceremony, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah was present as guest of honour.

Also present were Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Hajah Adina binti Othman, Permanent Secretaries, Heads of Departments, Senior Officers and officers and staff of the MCYS.

At the event, the guest of honour handed over the national flag to Haji Rosmadee bin Haji Mohd. Daud, Chef de Mission of the Brunei Darussalam Contingent to the 7th ASEAN Para Sports Games 2014 in Myanmar.

The total of 32 athletes from the country comprised of 21 athletes in tracks and fields, six athletes joined Goalball and 5 athletes joined table tennis accompanied by 14 Brunei Darussalam contingent officers to the sporting events which starts from 11 to 21 January 2014.

The country's contingent is expected to head to Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on January 10, 2014.

On past accomplishments, Brunei Darussalam won three gold medals, four silver medals and 12 bronze medals in the ASEAN Para Games 2008 in Thailand. While in the ASEAN Para Games 2009 in Malaysia, they won nine gold, five silver and seven bronze medals.

Meanwhile in 2011 at Solo, the Republic of Indonesia, the country's contingent won three gold medals, five silver medals and eight bronze medals and in the country's participation in the Asian Para Games 2010 in Guangzhou, the country's contingent won two silver medals and two bronze medals.

Enhancing cooperation in the field of broadcasting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Thursday, 16 January – In further enhancing the cooperation in the field of broadcasting programme requirements were among the main objectives of the three-day working visit by the Secretary General of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) to Brunei Darussalam.

Dr. Javad Mottaghi paid a goodwill visit to Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) at the PMO building.

Also present were Awang Eddie bin Dato Paduka Haji Sunny, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, and Awang Haji Muhammad Suffian bin Haji Bungsu, the Acting Director of Radio Television Brunei (RTB).

RTB has been a member of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union since 1964 and is always active in the programmes and events organised by the ABU in the field of broadcasting.



Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned (right), Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) welcoming Dr. Javad Mottaghi (left), Secretary General of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU).

6th BruONZ Sports Festival launched



Datin Paduka Hajah Adina binti Othman, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports as the guest of honour during the launching.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 10 January – The 6th BruONZ Sports Festival (BruONZ Summer Games) was organised by the Brunei Student Society Melbourne, Australia (BSSMELB) in collaboration between Brunei student associations in Australia and New Zealand held at the Mega Strike Bowling Centre, Airport Mall, Berakas.

Present as the guest of honour to launch the sports festival was the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Adina binti Othman.

Also present were the Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Todd Norman Mercer; Acting Senior Special Duties Officer/Head of Scholarship Division, Ministry of Education, Awang Abdullah bin Haji Ahad; Assistant Director of Scholarship Division, Ministry of Education, Dayang Hajah Siti Jarah binti Haji Jumat and senior government officials.

BruONZ Sports Festival serves as a platform and a forum for students of this country studying in Australia and New Zealand to get to know each other, as well as to give them the opportunity to learn to operate an event by applying the experience they gained while studying abroad. The event was hoped to inject the spirit of sportsmanship among the students.

The BruONZ Sports Festival, which ran until 26 January, consisted of bowling, netball, basketball, futsal and badminton competitions.

Brunei Student associations in Melbourne, Australia and New Zealand consists of BSSMELB; Bruneians Around Sydney Society (BASS); Brunei Student Society Brisbane (BSSBne); Bruneian Student Association in Western Australia (BSAWA) and Brunei Students' Association of New Zealand (BSANZ).



The guest of honour in a group photo with guests and committee members of BruONZ.

Upgrading of Serasa Beach Recreation Park



Serasa Beach Recreation Park that will be upgraded and aimed to become a leisure destination with sustainable development.

SERASA, January 27 - The Ministry of Development through the Department of Environment, Park and Recreation (JASTRe) continues to strive to provide a more conducive and safe place for the public.

Among the projects currently implemented are upgrading and building additional facilities in Serasa Beach Recreation Park which will take approximately two months.

In this regard, Serasa Beach Recreation Park will be temporarily closed on Monday, January 27 for the implementation of the coastal area.

The aim of the coastal upgrading project is to be a leisure destination with sustainable development which will surely provide opportunities and space for proper activities, effective and sustainable preservation to ensure a clean, beautiful, safe and orderly environment.

The step was taken following the condition that some of the coastal areas currently in existence were often flooded with water which caused junk waste including wooden stranded on the edge and on the beach.

Among the scope of the project are the inclining of the sand, the construction of a safe entrance partitioned with pedestrian lane, expanding the space of recreational activities, parking lots, cycling sites, prayer hall building, toilets, place for hawkers, children playground, landscapes, park facilities and more.

Awang Haji Muhammad Lufti bin Abdullah, Permanent Secretary (Administration and Finance) of the Ministry of Development explained that the beach is expected to be re-opened to the public during the first term school holidays in March.

People are advised not to enter during the closing of the beach including for fishing and business in this coastal area for safety while work is in progress, he said.

According to the Permanent Secretary, upgrading of Serasa Beach Resort is JASTRe's first project that cost BND3.45 million and which will provide 40 stalls for those who want to sell after the place is ready.

Therefore, he calls on business owners or sellers who intend to sell on the beach to obtain licenses and permission to use the stall.

On that occasion, JASTRe also informed the public that new domestic waste disposal (private houses) especially for the residents of Mukim Serasa was placed in the area before entering the coast.

Meanwhile, the public and visitors are expected to use and appreciate all the facilities provided and comply with the rules set out once the project is completed and ready for use.

PSD launches new book



Jaini bin Haji Abdullah, Director-General of Public Service (right) during the Official Launching Ceremony for the book 'Modal Kompetensi Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam' (Public Services Department Competency Model) at the Public Service Club, Mentiri.

MENTIRI, Saturday, 28 December – To inform the members of the Public Service Department and other civil servants on the needs to set up and understand the importance of competency model in the management of human resources, the Public Service Department organised the Official Launching Ceremony for the book 'Modal Kompetensi Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam' (Public Services Department Competency Model) at the Public Service Club, Mentiri.

As the guest of honour, the Director-General of Public Service Department, Awang Jaini bin Haji Abdullah said that the publication of the book was a very important step towards the organisation's targeted management approach which is the competency based management.

According to him, the Public Service Department recently launched the book titled 'Garis panduan: Pelaksanaan Rancangan Penggantian Dalam Perkhidmatan Awam Negara Brunei Darussalam' (Guidelines: Implementing Succession Plan in Brunei Darussalam's Public Service) where it is seen as a strategic move in order to support the aspirations of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam which is to produce human resources who are professional and productive with knowledge, skills, potential and better leadership skills.

With the publication of this book, he hopes that it will help the department to improve and to ensure the achievement of the department's mission and vision with more focus and organisation within the given timeframe.

Awang Jaini further added that with the publication of the book, it does not mean that the officers and staff of the Public Service Department lacks competence or the required training, as these things are already accomplished.

He suggested that all officers and employees of the Public Service Department should own the said book and understand it and in turn monitor their own competency.

In other words he said, the book will be the main source of reference in implementing the managing functions of competency-based human resource.

These competencies will act as a reference in evaluating staff performance, and will then be used for management replacement, work process structuring, evaluation and recruitment, management performance, training and development as well as career development within the department.

The management and the Public Service Department staff will be able to identify the need for general and specific competencies in order to achieve excellent performance.

This competency-based management will reveal staff that has the talent or the potential to be placed in the appropriate position at the appropriate time.

Civics Course participants learn about danger of drugs



Civics course participants visiting the Narcotics Control Bureau Gallery.

TUNGKU, January 20 - A total of 28 participants of the Brunei Darussalam Undergraduates Civics Overseas Course 2014 organised by the Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office, visited the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

Briefing on 'Bahaya Dadah dan Sindiket Dadah Antarabangsa' (Dangers of Drugs and International Drugs Syndicates) was presented by Shahrudin bin Abu Bakar Puteh, Narcotics Control Bureau Officer.

In his briefing, he highlighted the role and responsibilities of the Narcotics Control Bureau in addressing the symptoms of drug abuse in the country, as well as describing the types of drugs that were misused in Brunei Darussalam, the punishment and the law implemented and its health effects including the tactics of the international drugs syndicates.

Among the types of drugs that are often misused in the country, he said is like Methylamphetamine (Syabu), Marijuana, Ecstasy and so on.

He explained that the near-term effect on the brain for someone who is taking Methylamphetamine drugs can be seen through some features : being hyperactive, talkative, repetitive habits, always restless and can be violent.

Methylamphetamine causes the heartbeat to rise and inconsistent, easily exposed to stroke and can cause death, he explained. He further said that anyone who owns or is found to distribute more than 50 grams of Methylamphetamine drugs will be sentenced to death.

Meanwhile, he said that the effects of taking cannabis on health includes injuring the lungs, causing dry mouth and produces excess stomach acid causing stomach ulcer. Drugs, obviously, not only damages people but also hurts and frustrates family members.

At the end of the briefing, he advised students to always remember three important things that is to believe in themselves, do not be easily influenced by everything around them and think before they act.

The briefing is expected to provide students with knowledge and awareness on the types of drugs, the effects of drug abuse on the body and the legal penalties for those involved in distributing drugs.

After the briefing, the students visited the Narcotics Control Bureau Gallery to look closely on the types of drugs that are commonly misused and the punishments that are implemented, as well as how to protect the country and the family from drugs.