



Digital technology to drive the country's economic progress



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 His Majesty's 74th Birthday Celebration 1441 Hijrah / 2020 Masihi.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 14 - 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 delivers a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with His Majesty's 74th Birthday Celebration 1441 Hijrah / 2020 Masihi. His Majesty said that everywhere, people are occupied by the coronavirus impact on the economy, especially on the global oil prices. "InsyaaAllah, my government will ensure that its effects will not give a negative impact to the nation's sustainability, in its effort to establish a conducive environment to attract foreign direct investment and to strengthen the nation's fiscal," said His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

"In my opinion, the Brunei Economic Development Board under the Ministry of Finance and Economy should not be alone, but work closely with the ministers concerned to strengthen the nation's economy," said His Majesty,

Earlier, His Majesty expressed gratitude to Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala for his blessing that has enabled us to celebrate in a safe environment.

His Majesty expressed his appreciation to all parties who have greeted him and his family in conjunction with His Majesty birthday celebration. "This year, the response had to be different, because the world is still threatened by a pandemic, but we are grateful, that our country has been able to control the spread of the epidemic."

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3.3 MWp BSP solar power plant completed in 2021

BELAIT, July 10 - Construction of solar power plant of Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn. Bhd. (BSP) will officially be held after the groundbreaking ceremony took place at Site G11, Jalan Tengah, Seria. The 3.3 MWp utility-scale solar PV plant, will house about 7,000 solar panels, another outstanding achievement, especially for BSP.

Once it operates, the low carbon electricity generated from these solar panels will offset some of the energy used in the BSP Headquarters building, Jalan Utara, Panaga. The solar energy produced is equivalent to the energy consumption of around 600 occupants of the house every year.

G11 Site Cleaning began in March 2020, where BSP is committed to planting three trees for each tree felled during the site cleaning. This tree replanting activity will be implemented with community members and BSP staff.

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COVID-19: Cases remain at 141

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 31 - Brunei Darussalam has not recorded a COVID-19 case to date, making the total number of cases remain at 141. According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Health on the Current Situation of COVID-19 in Brunei Darussalam, no active cases have been reported, and cured cases remain at 138 people. Meanwhile, the total number of individuals undergoing Mandatory Self Isolation was 436 people and the total number of individuals who have completed Mandatory Self Isolation since March 2020 was 3,717 people.

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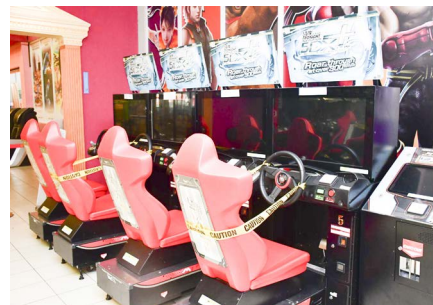
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His Majesty receives outgoing Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received audience from His Excellency Air Vice Marshal (Rtd.) Mahmud Hussain, Outgoing High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman on July 29.



His Excellency Air Vice Marshal (Rtd.) Mahmud Hussain, Outgoing High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam.



Her Majesty receives farewell audience

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received farewell audience from Abeda Islam, spouse of Outgoing High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Air Vice Marshal (Rtd.) Mahmud Hussain at the Istana Nurul Iman on July 28.

His Excellency Air Vice Marshal (Rtd.) Mahmud Hussain, Outgoing High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam.

His Royal Highness receives audience

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 received audience from His Excellency Air Vice Marshal (Rtd.) Mahmud Hussain, Outgoing High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam at Qashr Al-Meezan on July 20.



His Excellency Air Vice Marshal (Rtd.) Mahmud Hussain, Outgoing High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam.

Prince Mohamed receives audience

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah received audience from His Excellency Hok Sophea, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan on July 30.



His Excellency Hok Sophea, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam.

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:

- Her Excellency The Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor-General, Commander-in-Chief of Canada and The Right Honourable Justin P.J. Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, as well as to the Government and people of Canada on the occasion of Canada Day on July 1.
- His Excellency President Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America, the Government and the people of United States on the occasion of its Independence Day on July 4.
- Her Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister Republic of Singapore following his recent victory in Singapore General Election on July 11.
- His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, as well as to the Government and the people of the French Republic on the occasion of its Bastille Day on July 14.
- His Majesty Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuchua, the King of Thailand on the occasion of the king's 67th birth anniversary on July 28.
- His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong on his re-appointment as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore on July 29.

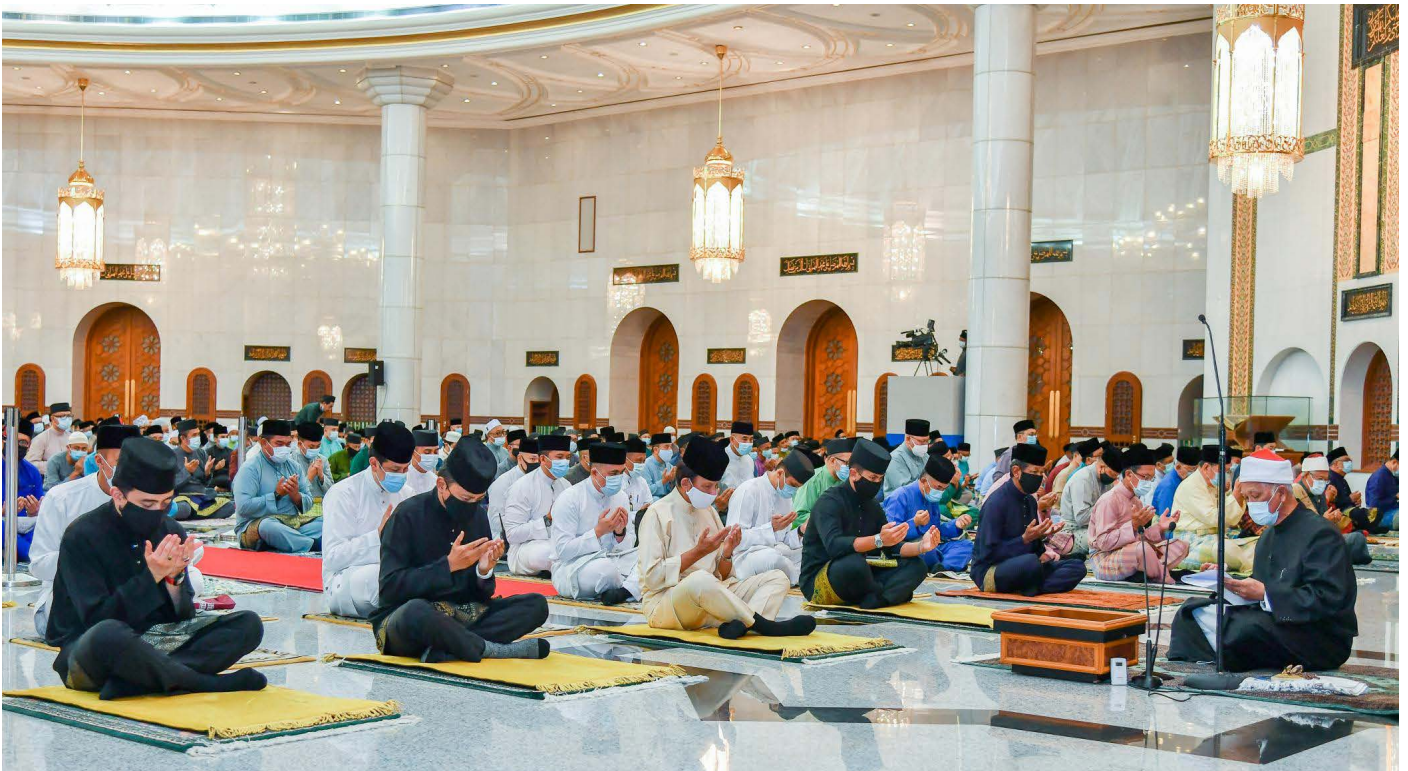
His Majesty sends condolence message

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 condolence message to His Excellency U Win Myint, President

of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Her Excellency Aung San Suu Kyi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, following the recent landslide at a jade mine in the Hpakant Township in the Kachin State on July 4.

News

His Majesty attends Thanksgiving Ceremony



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 *Majlis Kesyukuran* (Thanksgiving Ceremony), Mass Maghrib Prayer and Sunat Hajat Prayer in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 74th Birthday Celebration. Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 14 - 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 *Majlis Kesyukuran* (Thanksgiving Ceremony), Mass Maghrib

Prayer and Sunat Hajat Prayer in conjunction with 74th Birthday Celebration of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam which was held at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah, Kampung Kiarong.

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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 and members of the royal family consented to attend *Majlis Kesyukuran* (Thanksgiving Ceremony), mass Maghrib Prayer and Sunat Hajat Prayer.

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Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Upon arrival, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family were greeted by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz bin Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, Yang Di-Pertua Adat Istiadat Negara as Advisor to the National Committee of 74th Birthday Celebration of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affair; and Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of

Religious Affair as Co-Chairman to the Supreme Committee as well as other members of the Supreme Committee.

The mass Maghrib Prayer and Sunat Hajat Prayer was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar. Meanwhile, Doa Kesyukuran was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti.

The Majlis Kesyukuran was also held at several mosques in the four districts; Brunei and Muara District, Belait District, Tutong District, and Temburong District.



Congregants performing the *Maghrib* and *Sunat Hajat* Prayer.

Digital technology to drive the country's economic progress

From page 1

His Majesty also congratulated all walks of life, especially the officers at the frontliners who worked hard to face this situation.

His Majesty said, Alhamdulillah, at this time, schools, department stores, leisure places and others have already started to be opened in phases.

However, His Majesty stressed, all of us, are still required to continue to comply with or follow the rules and regulations of the authorities, especially from the Ministry of Health as a precautionary measure.

His Majesty has approved the establishment of the Brunei Darussalam Petroleum Authority as a technical body for the Ministry of Energy to monitor oil and gas operations, including regulating upstream and downstream sectors.

This is in connection with the Oil and Petrochemical Refinery in Pulau Muara Besar which has already started exporting the oil produced at the facility. His Majesty hoped that the large-scale project would be able to contribute to the increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), thus increase employment opportunities for local children.

"In the second quarter of next year, insyaaAllah, international

standard ammonia and urea plant is expected to operate. The plant is located in Sungai Liang Industrial Park which is operated by Brunei Fertilizer Industries Sendirian Berhad," said His Majesty.

In line with current trends, the use of online platforms including artificial intelligence and big data analytic applications has contributed towards enhancing innovation and productivity, such as 'BruHealth'.

His Majesty believed that digital technology has the potential to stimulate the nation's economy.

"It is timely for the nation to have its digital economy masterplan, especially when we require digital services that cover learning, business and governance these days that are capable of turning Bandar Seri Begawan into Smart City. I have consented for the Digital Economy Master Plan 2025 under the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications," said His Majesty.

The Monarch added, "Alhamdulillah, following cooperation between the government and private sector, the unemployment rate dropped last year."

Based on the Labor Force Survey in 2018, the unemployment rate was 8.7 per cent, while in 2019, the rate reduced to 6.8 per cent.

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His Majesty convinced that the Manpower Planning and Employment Council which was set up in November last year continues to assist locals in acquiring jobs jointly.

Speaking on primary sources, the Monarch said, "Alhamdulillah, my government through the relevant agencies, will continue to work to ensure food supply in the country is sufficient and guaranteed. I hope that entrepreneurs, farmers and fishermen will take the opportunity to increase production to attain food security and sufficiency," added His Majesty.

One way to meet the needs and security is to build the Mega Bridge connecting the Brunei-Muara District and the Temburong District, and now the bridge has been used as a long-awaited facility.

The Monarch in his *titah* said that the bridge has no doubt, become a 'symbol of modernity' for Brunei Darussalam, reminding him of his late father; the 'Architect of Modern Brunei'.

"This gives me the inspiration to name the bridge Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Bridge with a hope that through this, it will

bring blessings," said His Majesty.

In conjunction with this anniversary celebration, the Monarch also touched on the National Welfare System (SKN) which will be used by those who require welfare assistance, whether through the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) or the Brunei Islamic Religious Council (MUIB)."

With the implementation of this SKN System, all information on residents who require welfare assistance can be stored so that no one is exempted from receiving welfare.

His Majesty explained that stability in the ASEAN region, Asia-Pacific, even globally is the main goal. At the regional and international level, Brunei Darussalam will maintain close ties with friendly countries through bilateral relations as well as multilateral, especially in terms of diplomacy and economics.

The Monarch concluded his *titah* by expressing his sincerest gratitude and appreciation to residents of Brunei Darussalam from all walks of life, including those working in the public and private sectors as well as Bruneians who are currently working abroad for their support towards the government.

Good intentions will be rewarded

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 31 - Hari Raya Aidiladha or the Feast of Sacrifice (*Hari Raya Korban*) is performed by slaughtering sacrificial animals during the three days of Aidiladha as an act of worship. The Feast of Sacrifice is a sacrifice to Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala in which Muslim celebrates Prophet Ibrahim's devotion to Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala for sacrificing his son Ismail 'Alaihi Massalam. 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 delivered a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha 1441 Hijrah / 2020 Masihi at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said it is an event that truly tests the faith and patience between a father and son. But in the end, they overcome the test. As for us the ummah, His Majesty said, it is desirable to build determination to have the same faith and patience especially when we face difficulty and challenges.

His Majesty said that the world today, including us Muslims, are still facing the Coronavirus pandemic. Each country has its own task force.

In this regard, His Majesty said, these people no doubt have a high spirit of self-sacrifice, so they are willing to face the risk of danger regardless of time and circumstances.

The Monarch also praised the country's frontline healthcare workers in dealing with the pandemic regardless of the risks. He added that their sacrifices will not be in vain as Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala promises great rewards for their determination. Allah says in Surah Az-Zumar, verse 10, explanations: "Indeed those who are patient will be rewarded with abundance," His Majesty said.

This year with a heavy heart, the annual Haj pilgrimage to Baitullah had to be postponed. His Majesty's added that this is a test of patience because apparently, this delay is like a loss but if we accept it with patience, it is not impossible that Allah will reward us based on our good intentions.

In this regard, His Majesty said, this is a sign of Allah mercy, Allah



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 Hari Raya Aidiladha 1441 Hijrah / 2020 Masihi at Istana Nurul Iman.

rewards good intentions, although no act is done to carry out good intentions and a sign of the justice and mercy of Allah. He will not or never punish anyone with malice, as long as the malice has not created it into reality.

Therefore, His Majesty said, the postponement for those who have been listed this year, they do not need to feel disappointed or sad, Allah knows their good intentions. Allah reward according to His will. His Majesty reminded that the postponement was due to 'security' matters.

"The postponement is due to the importance of ensuring safety. Safety must not to be neglected; it must be taken care of and preserved. Anything that is unsafe must be avoided," His Majesty added. At the end of His Majesty's *titah*, he and his family would like to take the opportunity to wish 'Selamat Hari Raya Aidiladha' to all walks of life and the Muslim citizens.

Restrictions for eateries, *tamu*, cinemas lifted



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs.

BERAKAS, July 22 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs said restrictions for dine-in at restaurants, cafes and food courts are allowed to operate in full capacity starting July 27, 2020. However, buffet services are still not allowed.

For weekly *tamu* at Pasarneka and Tamu Tutong Complex are now allowed to carry out at 100 per cent capacity starting on July 30, 2020.

On level two of de-escalation plans for cinemas, the venues can be occupied up to 60 per cent of normal capacity with social distancing along with

measures issued by the government.

However, those coming from the same family are allowed to sit together. Only those aged 12 and above are allowed to enter the cinema. Cinemagoers are required to book and make seating arrangement via online platform or telephone. Moviegoers will now be allowed to eat and drink while watching movies.

The Minister also announced that on July 27, 2020, expos and bazaars are allowed to operate. Organisers are required to follow measures including using BruHealth QR code and to check body temperature of visitors, provide hand sanitizers and ensure crowd control.

Expos and bazaars are only allowed at commercial premises while conference centers and halls are not permitted. Workers will have to wear face masks and those with flu symptoms are advised not to work. The setting up of booths has to be clean and at least three metres apart.

Organisers may submit their application via Onebiz system and for further enquiries, contact the Ministry of Home Affairs at +673 2223225 extensions 331 or Darussalam Line 123.



Religious activities to enter Phase 4



Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs announcing the de-escalation to Phase 4.

BERAKAS, July 22 - Muslim in the country are allowed to perform *Sunat Hari Raya Aidiladha* prayer in mosques, *suraus* and religious halls across the country on 10 Zulhijjah 1441 corresponding to August 1, 2020.

“Congregants must book a slot through the BruHealth App and comply with the instructions and guidelines set by the Ministry of Health,” said Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs.

The Minister of Religious Affairs announced that Friday prayer to be escalated from Level 3 to Level 4, commencing on August 3, 2020. Friday prayer can be performed at normal capacity where children aged 12 and above are allowed. Booking for Friday prayer slot is no longer required.

Physical Distancing and the use of face mask when performing the prayers is still required.

The Minister added that mosques, *suraus* and religious halls are allowed to organise religious programme and events with no more than 100 people for two hours.



Physical distancing being practised while performing *Sunat Hari Raya Aidiladha* prayer.



Mosque officers ensuring body temperature and hygiene are carried out.

4th de-escalation phase for schools



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education announcing the fourth phase of its de-escalation plan.

BERAKAS, July 22 - All schools under the Ministry of Education (MoE), Arabic schools under the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA), private schools as well as Higher Education Institutions (IPTA) and Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE) will resume its normal operation

starting July 27.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education said the implementation of de-escalation measures allow students to attend learning session normally. However, all outside classrooms activities including morning assembly, sports and co-curriculum activities are not allowed until a later date.

For IPTA and IBTE, teaching and learning will be according to the programme's need as they were given the flexibility to determine the teaching procedures for students as some still use online platforms for teaching and learning lesson.

Meanwhile, work attachment and study visits in the country are allowed depending on the Risk Assessment and permission from IPTA and IBTE. Study abroad and other overseas programmes are still not allowed.

Applicants who applied for study abroad or those who have returned to the country but wanted to resume their study abroad, can follow guidelines that have been set by MoE. Students need to fill Form 'A' (COVID-19) - Permission to Return to the Country of Study; and Form 'B' - Declaration Form: Return to Country of Study.

For information, contact Scholarship Section, 5th Floor of MoE, Jalan Lapangan Terbang Lama Berakas or contact +673 2380019.

The Minister of Education said resumption of learning and teaching sessions under the fourth phase of its de-escalation plan, all hostels under MoE and MoRA are now allowed to resume its operation.

Hostel wardens are advised to monitor the health of every student by updating their health status via BruHealth App daily.

MoE will focus more on self-hygiene at school premises and higher education institutions and remind students to follow safety guidelines, cleanliness and preventive measure in ensuring the well-being of the students, teachers and staffs.

For IPTA and IBTE, daily temperature check for students, teachers, trainers, lectures and individuals must be carried out as part of the Back to School and De-escalation Plan.

The Minister of Education added tuition centers will also be allowed to operate at full capacity and preventive measures such as body temperature checks and the use of QR Code scanning for individuals coming in and out of the tuition premises must be carried out. Those with flu symptoms and red code will not be allowed to attend tuition. In addition, the use of face masks is encouraged.



Students practicing social distancing during lessons (above and below).



Social distancing de-escalation measures



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health during a press conference on the latest COVID-19 update.

BERAKAS, July 22 - With the consent of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang

Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health informed that additional reduction of the social distancing measures following the COVID-19 outbreak in the country are as follows:

On July 27, 2020, Commencing Level 1 for arcade and playground (indoor and outdoor) while advancing from Level 1 to 2 are swimming pools, cinemas activity centres for the elderly and mass gathering.

Moving up from Level 2 to Level 3 are special needs classes, child care centres, museums, galleries and libraries and internet café.

A mass gathering not exceeding 100

people are allowed. Members of the public can refer to the detailed requirements in the Guidelines for Mass Gathering (Level 2) which will be uploaded on the Ministry of Health's website.

Advancing from Level 3 to Level 4 are schools, technical, vocational and higher education, tuition schools and music schools, driving schools, gym and fitness centre, sports facilities (indoor and outdoor), golf course, restaurants, cafés and food courts, stalls and markets.

On August 3, 2020 mosques, surau and musalla (*balai ibadat*), along with other places of worship will progress from Level 3 to 4.

Other places of worship besides mosque and surau will be permitted to operate to its standard capacity.

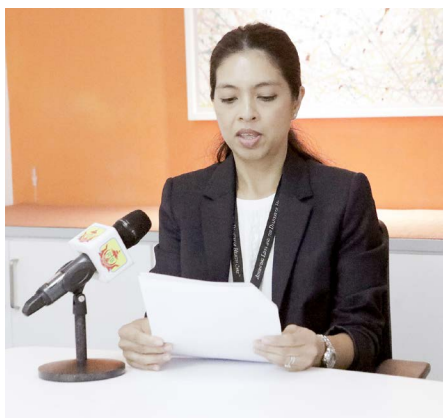
Arcade and playground (indoor and outdoor) will be permitted to operate at 30 per cent capacity of its standard capacity at any one time. The guidelines for all level will be uploaded on the Ministry of Health's website.

The Minister of Health reminded the public to comply with all regulations and directives related to the reduction of social distancing measures and warned that violating or disobeying the orders issued shall be an offense under the Infectious Diseases Act (Section 204) which carries a fine of up to \$10,000 or imprisonment up to six months or both.



Arcade will be permitted to operate at 30 per cent capacity of their standard capacity at any one time.

Infrared thermometer is not harmful



Dr. Nor Lenny binti Abdullah, Radiologist Consultant at the Radiology Department of the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 25 - Infrared thermometers have been widely used nowadays at hospitals, shops, schools to check body temperature from a distance without having to contact a person's skin.

Dr. Nor Lenny binti Abdullah, Radiologist

Consultant at the Radiology Department of the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital said, it is a quick way to detect those who may be sick and have fever or high body temperature.

Furthermore, infrared radiation is part of electromagnetic radiation similar to radio waves, visible light, X-rays, gamma and others, only that they have different properties and effect.

According to Dr. Nor Lenny, there are two types of radiation, non-ionising radiation which only causes a slight warming effect but not enough to cause long-term damage to tissues. Some examples of non-ionising radiation are radio wave, visible light, infrared and microwave.

She added that the second type of radiation is ionising radiation which means it has enough energy to produce ionisation and can cause damage to biological tissues including effects on DNA and genetics.

Examples of ionising radiation are alpha, beta, X-ray and gamma.

Dr. Nor Lenny emphasised that infrared belongs to the non-ionising radiation category, therefore the effect from the infrared is not as dangerous as X-rays. It will not cause damage to tissues cells in the brain or eyes as stated in the viral message.

The body temperature can be checked from several parts of our body such as the mouth, ears, armpits and rectum. It can also be checked from our foreheads.

There are various types of thermometers in shops but for screening purpose, the most suitable and accurate is the no contact type of thermometer (infrared thermometer). The body temperature is more accurate when checked on the forehead. The public is urged not to panic as the infrared thermometer or the thermal gun does not produce radiation as in X-ray equipment. Hence, it is safe for use.

COVID-19 Relief Fund raised \$14M



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II during a press conference.

BERAKAS, July 22 - The Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II announced that the COVID-19 Relief fund collected amounted to \$14,597,940.00.

The Minister said \$12,953,059.30 was allocated to fund the building of the new National Isolation Centre (NIC) in Tutong District, purchase the medical equipment needed by new NIC, as well as the purchase of the Infrared Thermal Imaging Device or Smart Helmet.

The remaining contribution, along with

the contributions received, will be used to fund the additional medical equipment identified by the COVID-19 Relief Fund Committee under the Ministry of Health.

On behalf of the Government of 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, the Minister expressed gratitude for the concern, sincerity and spirit of volunteerism as well as the unity of donors, in helping to curb the pandemic in Brunei Darussalam.

COVID-19: Cases remain at 141

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The total number of SARS-CoV-2 tests conducted within 24 hours was 461 samples, and the total number of SARS-CoV-2 laboratory tests since January 2020 was 40,663 tests.

The Ministry of Health would like to remind the public, especially for individuals who are seeking approval to travel abroad and to any countries that require them to conduct a swab test for SARS-CoV-2 before arriving at the country, the swab test can only be conducted at government facilities or at facilities that are approved by the government.

As soon as the results for the test is released, the Ministry of Health will issue a letter confirming the test results to be shown to the authorities in the destination country.

Individuals who need to do a swab test for certain reasons are advised to go to the Sports Complex, Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital or at specific health centres that provide such services.

Summary of Cases

New Case Today	Total Number of Cases		
0	141		
	Active Cases	Deaths	Recovered
	0	3	138

Summary of individuals undergoing Self Isolation

Total number of individuals undergoing Mandatory Self Isolation	Total number of individuals who have completed Mandatory Self Isolation (since March 2020)
497	3,797

Summary of number of Virus SARS-CoV-2 tests

Total number of tests conducted within 24 hours	Total number of tests conducted (since January 2020)
180 samples	40,843 tests

Meanwhile, any premises that offer swab test services without permission or recognition from the Ministry of Health is deemed to violate the law which may result in a compound fine of up to \$5,000 or if convicted in court, can be fined up to \$10,000 or imprisonment for up to six months or both. The Ministry will not hesitate to take legal action against anyone who does not

comply with the directives that have been issued.

For further information and latest updates, members of the public can visit the official website of the Ministry of Health at www.moh.gov.bn or by contacting the Health Advice Line 148 or through the BruHealth App or the app healthinfo.gov.bn.

Committed in achieving SDGs

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 16 - Brunei Darussalam participated in the online Voluntary National Review sessions during the United Nations (UN) on Sustainable Development on July 15, 2020.

The annual High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is the central platform for the UN to review the implementation of the UN member countries for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II emphasised the commitment and outlined the country's achievements in securing the sustainable development goals.

The preparation for the Voluntary National Review was led by the Special Committee for the Preparation of the Voluntary National Review for Brunei Darussalam, which was co-chaired by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof, Minister of Foreign Affairs II.

The preparation of the Voluntary National Review NBD Report used a Whole-of-Nation Approach, which has also involved the private sector and non-government organisations (NGOs).

The Voluntary National Review NBD Report can be downloaded via <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/brunei> website.

Exit and Entry Charges Order, 2020 to be implemented

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 30 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Ministry of Finance and Economy, (MoFE) has consented to postpone the enforcement date of the Exit and Entry Charges Order, 2020 to Thursday, October 1, 2020. It is supposed to take effect on Saturday, August 1, 2020.

In light of this, the MoFE added that the Rasau Bridge toll charge in Kuala Belait is still maintained.

The order gives the Controller of Customs and Excise, Royal Customs and Excise Department the power to charge any person who intends to leave or enter Brunei Darussalam through the land control posts (checkpoints).

The main objective for the implementation of these charges, Caj Perkhidmatan (CaP), is to standardise the imposition of payments or charges that are imposed to all citizens including Brunei citizens who intend to leave or enter Brunei through the land control posts (checkpoints), either by vehicle or as a pedestrian, with a charge rate of \$3 per person for each one-way trip. For example, a return trip to Miri, Sarawak will cost \$6 per person.

The charge will not be applicable to occupants of a vehicle belonging to the Government of His Majesty or a government of another country when used for official purposes; a vehicle belonging to the military forces of Brunei; vehicle being used for firefighting, ambulance or police purposes; a vehicle being used for funerals; public officers in the Government of His Majesty in the execution of their official duties; a child of the age of two years or below; consular officers and consular employees as defined in Article 1 in the First Schedule to the Consular Relations Act (Chapter 118) and members of their families; and a diplomatic agent as defined in the Schedule to the Diplomatic Privileges (Vienna Convention) Act (Chapter 117).

Members of the public who intend to leave or enter Brunei by land may register and submit their applications to the Royal Customs and Excise Department via the Exit and Entry System (EES) at <https://login.bdsw.gov.bn/ees>.

The steps for application are similar to the Vehicle Entry-Exit System (VES) which was previously implemented by Royal Customs and Excise Department. Payment can be made through the online system.

However, those who want to make a trip out of and into the country, shall include the information of the driver and passengers and payment can be made online.

MoFE is pleased to advise those who wish to travel through land control posts must register, apply and pay through the system in advance.

Travelling documents must be valid at least three months before the travel date, as required by the Immigration and

National Registration Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA).

Meanwhile, roadshows to disseminate information on CaP will be held for penghulus and village heads in all districts, starting on Thursday, July 9, 2020.

Enquiries on the entry and exit levy can be directed to the Royal Customs and Excise Department at +673 2382361 or +673 8323741 during office hours, or e-mail info@customs.gov.bn.



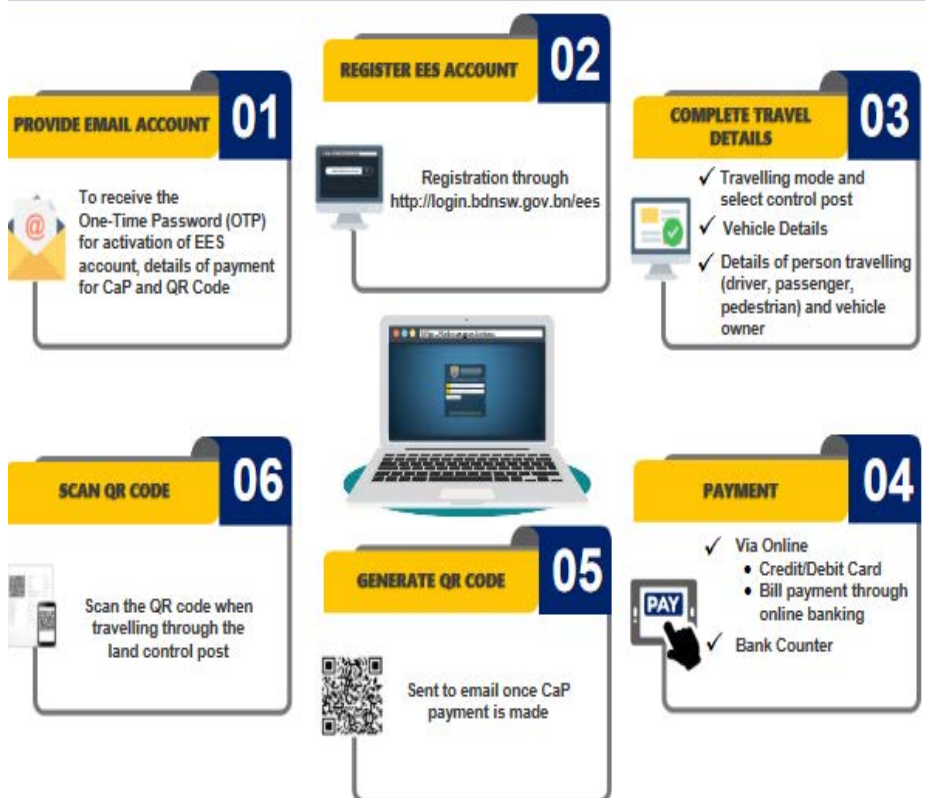
CAJ PERKHIDMATAN (CaP)

Ministry of Finance and Economy via Royal Customs and Excise Department implements the Caj Perkhidmatan (CaP) to all citizens including Brunei citizens who intend to leave or enter Brunei Darussalam through land control posts (checkpoints) via vehicle or as pedestrians. Registration, Application and Payment for Caj Perkhidmatan (CaP) can be done online via:

<https://login.bdsw.gov.bn/ees>

Implementation Date	Rate
Thursday, 1st October 2020	BND3.00 per person per one way trip at each control posts

Steps for Registration, Application and Payment



Caj Perkhidmatan (CaP) is to standardise the imposition of payments or charges that is imposed to the public upon either leaving or entering Brunei Darussalam via air and sea.

De-escalation plan for driving schools, internet cafes



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications during a Press Conference.

BERAKAS, July 22 - The Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC) announced the implementations of the fourth phase of de-escalation plan for driving schools starting July 27, 2020.

Driving schools are allowed to carry out classes as usual at its normal capacity by complying with the existing guideline as well as instructions issued by MTIC explained by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications.

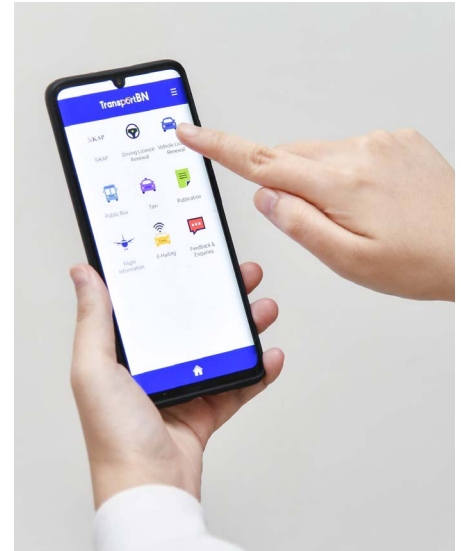
The Minister said that the Land Transport Department also issued guidelines for practical driving lessons and test. Guidelines include scanning of the Bruhealth QR Code, body temperature checks, washing hands frequently, wearing face masks, sanitation after each class or test, disinfecting vehicles and opening vehicle doors between uses for 15 minutes to allow airflow.

The Minister also announced the implementation of the third phase for internet cafes starting July 27, 2020. Internet cafes are allowed to operate at 90 per cent capacity and required to use the BruHealth QR Code.

The Minister added that visitors are required to scan BruHealth QR Code, have body temperature checks, encouraged to wear face masks and reminded to practice physical distancing of one metre.

MTIC urged the public to use online services for renewing vehicle licenses and driving licenses. MTIC has introduced the TransportBN application to bring convenience to the public by not having to go to service counters at the Land Transport Department or the post offices to renew vehicle and driving licenses.

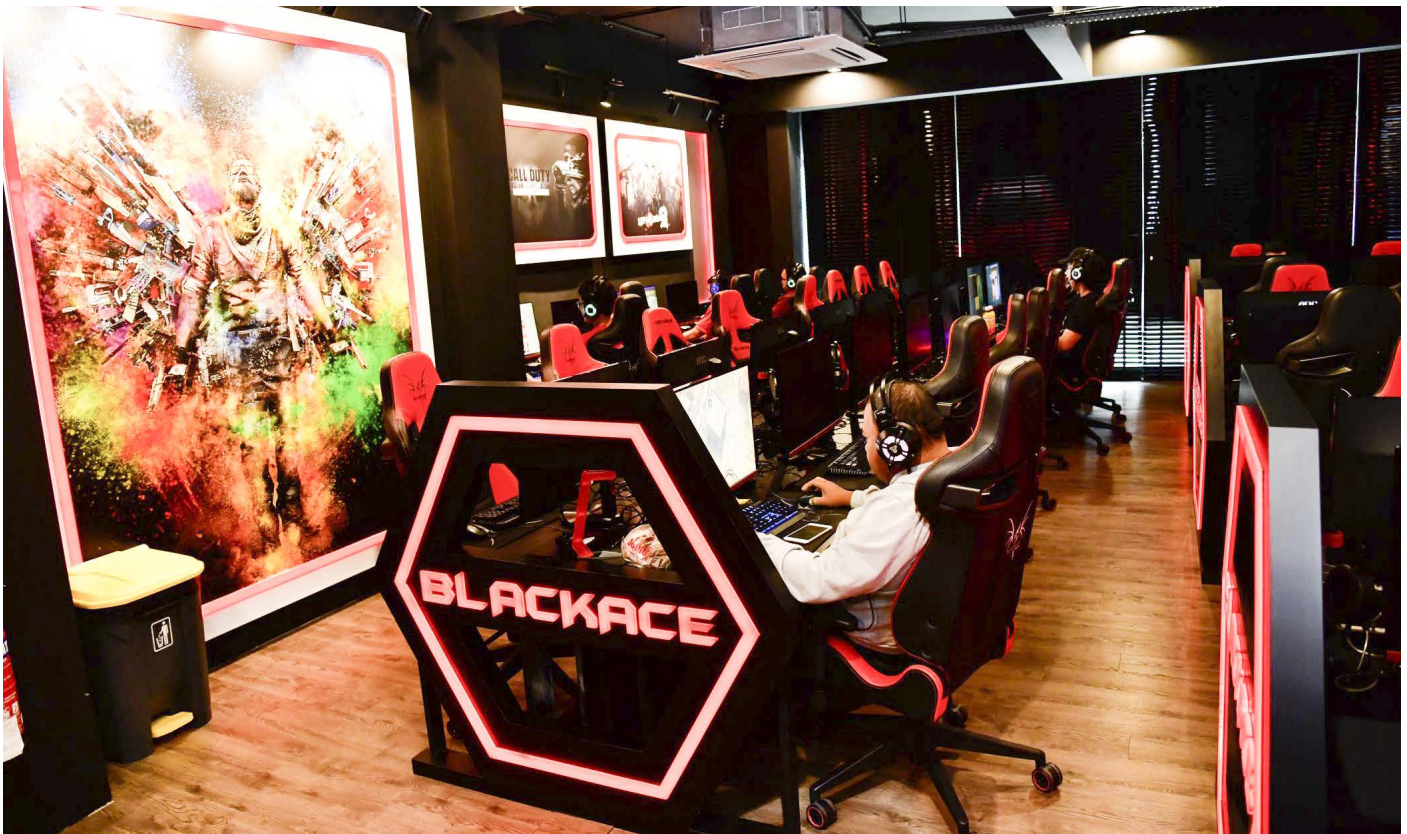
26,710 users have downloaded this application, and with this, it is hoped that the number will continue to rise, said the Minister.



TransportBN application offers convenience for renewing vehicle and driving license.

Several improvements were made including the ability for the public to renew their licenses which have expired for more than a month from the original expiration date starting from July 1, 2020. Its function allows the public to pay late penalty charges online.

The Minister explained Push SMS would be sent in stages to encourage the public to continue using TransportBN App which can be downloaded via Google Play Store for Android user and App Store for iOS users.



Internet cafes will operate at 90 per cent capacity.

Centre usage guidelines, sports facilities updated



Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd.) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports during a Press Conference.

BERAKAS, July 22 - Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports announced the de-escalation plan that involves child care centres, centres for different-abled, museums, galleries and libraries will be upgraded to Phase 3 on July 27, 2020.

For fitness centre, gymnasium, indoor and outdoor sports facilities are allowed to operate at 100 per cent capacity, without any time restrictions. Sports contested in double and pairs and non-contact artistic sports are allowed for training sessions only without sparring.

In addition, team sports are allowed with no more than 10 people to undergo training programs only, exchange or mixing of players is allowed and activities involving physical contact and equipment sharing are allowed to a minimum.

Bowling centres are allowed up to four bowlers playing in each lane with the use of personal shoes and bowling ball. There is no limit of play for 10-pin bowling activities.

Golf Courses and Club House can now operate at full capacity with each buggy vehicle accommodating two people.

The Minister announced that Childcare Centres will be upgraded from 60 per cent to 80 per cent of the standard capacity. Children aged six months and above with no fever, flu or high-risk symptoms can be sent to the centre. One-to-one and group activities are allowed.

Centres for Differently-Abled is upgraded from 60 per cent to 80 per cent of the normal capacity and it is open for those with low and medium risk. Indoor, outdoor, and team activities are allowed.

For museums and galleries will be operated daily except on Monday, Friday and public holiday. Meanwhile, libraries are open for the public daily during office hours. Only 70 people are allowed to enter at one time, depending on capacity.

Senior Citizens Activity Centre (Pusat Kegiatan Warga Emas - PKWE) are allowed to operate up to 60 per cent of its standard capacity and only those with low and medium risk with controlled chronic diseases are allowed. Indoor and outdoor activities are also allowed.

Swimming pools will increase capacity from 30 per cent to 60 per cent at one time subject to space, and only for swimmers aged 12 above.

It will only be opened on Tuesdays, Wednesday, Fridays, Saturday and Sunday, limited to 2 hours per individual. Operational days in other swimming pools will depend on the owners.



Sports Complex will operate at 100 per cent capacity without any time restrictions.

Discuss the future of the world of work post COVID-19

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 2 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs attended the Asia-Pacific Regional Event for the ILO Global Summit on COVID-19 and the World of Work through video conferencing.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Event was officiated by, Mr. Guy Ryder, the Director General of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and was introduced by the ILO Assistant Director General and Mrs. Tomoko Nishimoto, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific.

During the meeting, the Minister of Home Affairs together with other Labor Ministers in the Asia-Pacific region, senior government officials, and employees along with employers' representatives, listened to two moderated high-level three-party discussions as well as a briefing session on the future nature of employment after COVID-19 and regional case studies on policy approaches to support enterprises as well as protect workers in the region.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Event was concluded with a summary of discussions and scenarios based on the ILO Declaration for the 100th Anniversary in guiding future ILO actions for the region.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs attending the Asia-Pacific Regional Event for the ILO Global Summit on COVID-19 and the World of Work through video conferencing.

The ILO Global Summit on COVID-19 and the World of Work also includes other sessions for five regions, Regional Day, Global Leaders Day as well as ILO Constituents' Day which schedules from July 1 to 2 and July 7 to 9, 2020.

The delegation from Brunei Darussalam consisted of Mohd. Amir Hairil bin Haji

Mahmud, Permanent Secretary (Security, Welfare and Law), Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA); Haji Azmi bin Haji Hafneh, Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary of MOHA; Muhd. Saufi bin Haji Ibrahim, Acting Commissioner of Labor; Rozan Justin Teo bin Haji Azlan, Assistant Commissioner of Labor; also Officers from MOHA and the Department of Labor.

National flags hoisting held across the country

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 8 - The National Giant Flag Hoisting Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 74th Birthday Celebration took place within the vicinity of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Complex (YSHHB), in the capital.

Present as the guest of honour at the ceremony was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs, as the Chairman of National Committee of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 74th Birthday Celebration.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs, as the Chairman of National Committee of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 74th Birthday Celebration hands over the giant-sized national flag to Head of Delta Platoon of the Royal Brunei Navy Force Base Defense, Lieutenant Junior Grade Haji Ahmad Ahdaa bin Haji Ahmad.

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A natinal flag hoisting ceremony at the vicinity of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Complex (above and below).

The guest of honour accepted and handed over the giant-sized national flag, which measured 3.7 metres by 7.5 metres to Head of Delta Platoon of the Royal Brunei Navy Force Base Defense, Lieutenant Junior Grade Haji Ahmad Ahdaa bin Haji Ahmad as the Head of the Parade to be raised and hoist.

It was followed by the handing over of the National Flag measuring 2.5m x 1.2m and Posters in conjunction with His Majesty's 74th Birthday Celebration to Misse bin Haji Abdul Karim, Brunei and Muara District Officer; Ramlee bin Haji Jamudin, Belait District Officer; Shamsul Bahrin bin Haji Mohd. Hussain, Tutong District Officer; and Pengiran Muhammad Ameer Mubaarak bin Pengiran Haji Hashim, Acting District Officer of Temburong.

The hoisting of the giant-sized Brunei Darussalam flag marks the start of the nationwide national flag hoisting in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 74th birthday celebration.



National Council on Climate Change NBD launched



Among the attendees were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Ir. Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism (third left); Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications (second right); and Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw, Acting Minister of Energy (second left).



The e-book of National Policy on Climate Change Negara Brunei Darussalam that can be accessed online.

BERAKAS, July 25 - In order to preserve the state of the weather and climate resilient particularly in Brunei Darussalam (NBD), the National Council on Climate Change NBD launched the first climate change policy, known as the National Policy on Climate Change NBD.

The launching ceremony was officiated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Ir. Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development as Co-Chair of the Brunei Darussalam National Council.

Also present were members of the council, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications; and Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw, Acting Minister of Energy.

Also present at the launching ceremony were Haji Azhar bin Haji Yahya, Permanent Secretary (Energy) at the Ministry of Energy as Chair of the Executive Committee on Climate Change, who also presented a copy of the National Policy on Climate Change NBD to the co-chair and members.

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The Minister of Development said, carbon emissions in the industrial sector have also dropped 36 per cent in the first quarter of this year when the world is facing the COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, the residential sector saw a seven per cent increase in the housing sector.

The Minister added, for the land transport sector, greenhouse gas emissions declined by 11 per cent and a further reduction of eight per cent in March and April. Greenhouse gas emissions in the aviation sector tumbled 75 per cent in April 2020.

Furthermore, Brunei Darussalam is vulnerable to climate change due to its size and location even though it only contributes 0.025 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. With Brunei recording its warmest year in 2016, the Minister said Brunei's average temperature has already increased by 1.25 degree Celsius and is expected to further rise up to four degree Celsius by 2100. At the same time, the country also recorded the warmest temperature condition in 2016 and the high rainfall in September 2019 and recorded the highest cases of forest fires in the past ten years.

In addition, according to the Minister, most of the greenhouse gas emissions came from the energy sector that contribute 80 per cent of the total and therefore the government must come up with a transitional reduction of carbon emissions. Hence, the first step is to issue the National Policy on Climate Change NBD's that contains 10-key strategy based on five key principles of the

concept of Maqasid Syariah in supporting the country's efforts to build a Zikir Nation in line with the Brunei Vision 2035.

The implementation of this policy shows a potential in reducing greenhouse gas emissions to more than 50 per cent in 2035 in comparison to the Business-as-Usual level. With the National Policy on Climate Change NBD, both mitigation and adaptation strategies can be adopted to ensure that climate change issues are actively addressed in the short, medium and long-term.

The electronic version of the National Policy on Climate Change NBD can be accessed from www.climatechange.gov.bn. The National Policy on Climate Change NBD was drafted by the Climate Policy Drafting Committee (CPDC) which consists of 39 agencies involving the government, private sector, research institutions, academics, associations, NGOs and a group of 51 representatives of youth to ensure that all policies introduced by the government is comprehensive and takes into account the views of all segments of society.

The National Policy on Climate Change NBD was formally established in 2018 to address the challenges and impacts of climate change on a national level and strengthen the climate change governance.

The council was also co-chaired by the Minister of Development and Minister of Energy and the involvement of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, Minister of Transport and Information and Communications and Deputy Minister of Energy as its members.

Integrated cooperation ensures the stability of the transport system



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications as Chairman of the ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM) for 2020, co-chaired with His Excellency Mr. Li Xiaopeng, Minister of Transport, People's Republic of China for the ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Special Meeting on COVID-19 via video conference on July 16th, 2020.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 16 - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications in his capacity as Chairman of the ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting (ATM) for 2020, co-chaired with

His Excellency Mr. Li Xiaopeng, Minister of Transport, People's Republic of China for the ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Special Meeting on COVID-19 via video conference on July 16, 2020.

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The objective of the ASEAN-China Transport Ministers' Special Meeting on COVID-19 was to ensure the stability and openness of transport and logistics systems in the region amid the COVID-19.

The Special Meeting was attended by Transport Ministers from ASEAN and the People's Republic of China, as well as the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

During the Special Meeting, Transport Ministers from ASEAN and the People's Republic of China as well as ASEAN Secretary-General exchanged views and experiences within the transport sector in order to mitigate the social and economic impact of COVID-19 as well as strengthening regional cooperation in the field of transport and logistics in response to the pandemic.

In his opening remarks, the Minister of Transport and Infocommunications as Co-Chairman touched on the strong commitment of the ASEAN Leaders during the 36th ASEAN Summit to implementing targeted policies to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the region and the world.

Transport connectivity is amongst one of the sectors tremendously affected by this pandemic. According to data shared by several international bodies, there was a decrease of 48 - 61 per cent for air passengers, a loss of USD97 billion in worldwide airports revenue, a 25 per cent reduction in shipping, and a 40 per cent decrease in revenue for road freight operators. In this regard, countries have come together through closer regional and international cooperation in addressing and mitigating the COVID-19 situation.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications shared efforts and initiatives in the transport sector that have been carried out in Brunei Darussalam to combat COVID-19 pandemic. The Minister also highlighted assistances provided to transport operators, leveraging on current technologies and recovery efforts in the transport sector.

The Minister emphasised on the role of the transport sector in facing the challenges due to COVID-19. In this regard, Brunei Darussalam welcomes the implementation of programmes and initiatives under the framework of cooperation between ASEAN-China towards achieving the goals laid out under the ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan. Regional cooperation is essential to strengthen the efforts, not only in overcoming COVID-19, but also to ensure social and economic resilience.

The main outcome of the Special Meeting was the adoption of the Joint Ministerial Statement titled Ensuring Smooth Transport and Logistics to Combat COVID-19 and Reactivate the Economy by Transport Ministers from ASEAN and the People's Republic of China.

In the joint statement, the ASEAN-China Transport Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to enhance existing partnerships including facilitating logistics activities in the delivery, supply and manufacture of essential goods during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Joint Statement also encouraged initiatives to enhance cooperation and coordination with multilateral organizations under the framework of the United Nations, including the World Health Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization whilst maintaining compliance with international standards in supporting logistics and transport activities.

In addition, the ASEAN-China Transport Ministers also agreed to increase the exchanges of information, knowledge and best practices, to jointly enhance the capability of pandemic control at land border crossings, seaports and airports whilst ensuring health precautions are in place.

Also present during the Special Meeting was Mohammad Nazri bin Haji Mohammad Yusof, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC), as Chairman of the ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) and STOM Leader for Brunei Darussalam, and senior officials from MTIC and relevant departments and authority under the ministry.

Brunei achieves progress in IHR implementation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 6 - The World Health Organization (WHO) has conducted an assessment of International Health Regulation (IHR) Brunei Darussalam in detecting and responding to potential public health emergencies ranging from infectious disease outbreaks to food safety, as well as all other hazards including chemical, radiation and natural disasters.

The Joint External Evaluation (JEE) was conducted from October 28, 2019 to November 1, 2019.

The JEE is a voluntary process in which a team of external experts appointed by the WHO, together with internal country experts, jointly assess and review a country's capacity to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to major public health threats.

Brunei Darussalam's participation in the JEE provides an objective evaluation of the country's national capacity. Feedback from the international team of experts will enable Brunei Darussalam to strengthen its capabilities to manage public health emergencies.

Public health emergencies that occur in other countries, either regionally or elsewhere, potentially pose immense threats and challenges to Brunei Darussalam,

and there is, therefore, a need to be fully prepared.

Brunei Darussalam has dealt with several public health emergencies such as the Cholera outbreak in 1999, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003, the Influenza 'A' H1N1 pandemic in 2009, Zika in 2016 and the COVID-19 pandemic at present.

The country has come a long way in ensuring that it is fully prepared to respond to a public health emergency.

As stated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Md. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health, at the start of the JEE for Brunei Darussalam on October 28, 2019, the country has made significant improvement. It will need to continue enhancing its capacities and preparedness level through a whole-of-nation approach linking all relevant sectors including finance, health, agriculture, environment, emergency responders, security agencies and others in working closely together to protect the health and well-being of the people.

The WHO evaluation team assessed that Brunei had made good progress in the implementation of the IHR, with 90 per cent of

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the indicators under the JEE scoring three and above (maximum score of five).

An essential element that supported this was the establishment of the National Committee for IHR Implementation. The WHO evaluation team recommended Brunei Darussalam to leverage the National Committee for IHR Implementation to build on the momentum of the JEE process, ensuring the committee's long-term accountability for implementing the recommendations of JEE in line with the National Action Plan for Health Security.

Brunei Darussalam will review the findings and recommendations made by the WHO to strengthen further current capabilities in dealing with existing and future public health threats.

In the meantime, the progress achieved in the implementation of the International Health Regulation IHR has helped the country tremendously in facing the current pandemic.

The full report can be found on the WHO website at www.who.int/brunei.

3.3 MWp BSP solar power plant completed in 2021

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Dr. Cherry M. Powell, the BSP Managing Director, in her speech, said that it was as crucial as BSP to continue to provide oil and gas resources for BSP customers, as well as further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and play an important role in the global transition towards low carbon energy systems. BSP remains committed to increasing the intake of renewable energy, particularly in operating and non-operating assets such as BSP offices. This BSP Solar project proves that commitment and leads BSP's journey towards energy diversity and decarbonisation.

The ceremony saw Dr. Ceri M. Powell; Norhayati binti Merzuki, Onshore Construction and Project Head; and Shirley Sikun, BSP Energy Transition Head jointly split land at the project site. The special event also practised social distancing and was also attended by project team members and Eigen Energy, a contractor appointed by BSP.

The solar project, which is expected to be completed by early 2021, also provides a platform to develop the capabilities of the people of Brunei Darussalam, especially in further developing



Dr. Cherry M. Powell at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the BSP Solar Energy Project.

their capabilities, especially in renewable energy. Therefore, it is another basis for success for BSP to continue further to develop the country's potential for future generation supply.



Dr. Cherry M. Powell, Managing Director of Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn. Bhd. (BSP); Norhayati binti Merzuki, Onshore Construction and Project Head; and Shirley Sikun, BSP Energy Transition Head jointly split land at the BSP Solar Power Plant Construction Project site, where the solar power plant is expected to be completed by 2021.

Brunei achieves progress in IHR implementation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 11 - The CPI in May 2020 increased by 2.5 per cent year-on-year compared to May 2019. Prices of Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased by 3.6 per cent. Meanwhile, Non-Food prices increased by 2.3 per cent.

The CPI increase was largely attributed to increases in the prices and costs of Miscellaneous Goods and Services (11.7 per cent); Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (3.6 per cent); and Transport (2.0 per cent).

The increase in prices of Miscellaneous Goods and Services was due to a rise in the price of insurance, specifically car insurance, compared to the previous year.

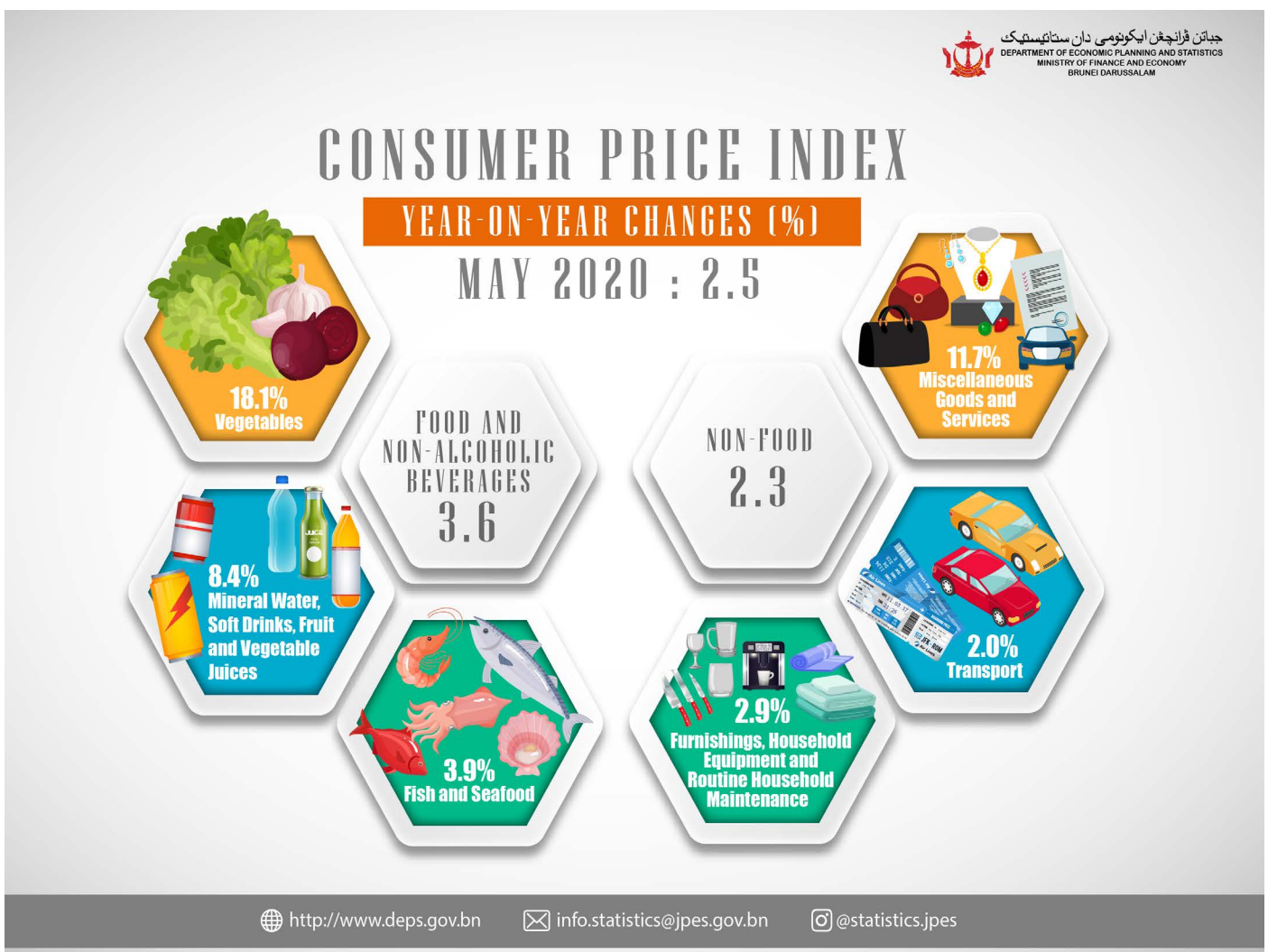
Meanwhile, limited imports due to the limited of supply and the spread of the COVID-19 disease in the country and neighboring countries have led to a hike in the price of Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages, mainly in the prices of imported vegetables, soft

drinks and fresh fish.

In addition, the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak has also resulted in increased prices of Transport, especially in the price of flight tickets to selected destinations.

On a month-on-month basis, the CPI in May2020 decreased by 0.2 per cent compared to April 2020. The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index increased by 0.2 per cent. Meanwhile, the Non-Food Index decreased by 0.2 per cent.

The CPI is a measure of price changes of goods and services paid by the consumer in a specified period and compiled on a monthly basis. The list of goods and services in the CPI is based on the average expenditure per household from the Household Expenditure Survey (HES). The CPI full report for May 2020 is available from DEPS's website: www.deps.gov.bn.



Strive to reduce unemployment, expand ASEAN economy

BERAKAS, July 16 - DARE (Darussalam Enterprise), as Brunei Darussalam's focal agency representative to the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME), launched Go Digital ASEAN.

Go Digital ASEAN is a regional initiative by the ACCMSME and The Asia Foundation, supported by Google.org in partnership with local implementing partners Big BWN Project and Young Entrepreneur Association Brunei (YEAB).

Pengiran Hajah Zety Sufina binti Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Sani, Permanent Secretary (Industry) at the Ministry of Finance and Economy officiated the launch at the Main Auditorium, Design and Technology Building in Anggerek Desa.

Also present was Yang Berhormat Dayang Nik Hafimi binti Abdul Haadi, Legislative Council member and virtually participated by representatives from The

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Asia Foundation, Google.org and ASEAN Secretariat.

According to Norlela binti Suhailee, Head of Business Advisory and Services of DARE, this also demonstrates the synergy and partnership with non-government bodies in supporting the implementation of the Action Agenda on Digitalisation of ASEAN micro-small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which also contributes to ACCMSME's goal of 'globally competitive and innovative MSMEs' under the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development (SAP SMED) 2016-2025.

Following the economic challenges posed by the epidemic COVID-19 and its impact on business operations, said Norlela, TAF and Google.org review and make changes to the implementation of the ASEAN Go Digital initiative to focus efforts in helping MSME and the people involved with the digitisation for the problems of this crisis and resilient efforts.

Meanwhile, Javed Ahmad, DARE CEO, Go Digital ASEAN programme has always been recognised to bridge the digital divide to create globally competitive, resilient and innovative MSMEs and unemployed youth, especially in remote areas.

"Go Digital ASEAN is made possible with a grant of USD3.3 million from Google.org," said Javed Ahmad.

According to Javed Ahmad, DARE recently announced online edition of Industry Business Academy (IBA), which is in partnership with Coursera to provide MSMEs with the opportunity to learn essential business skills remotely.

"With initiatives such as ASEAN and IBA Go Digital Online, coincides with the launch of the Digital Economy Council on June 4, 2020 and the Digital Economy Master Plan 2025 consistent with the wishes of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, for Brunei Darussalam to be a Smart Nation," explained Javed Ahmad.

Go Digital ASEAN will be equipped with technical skills and tools to help them expand economic opportunities across the region for



Pengiran Hajah Zety Sufina binti Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Sani, Permanent Secretary (Industry) at the Ministry of Finance and Economy officiates the launching of Go Digital ASEAN at the Main Auditorium, Design and Technology Building in Anggerek Desa.

200,000 MSMEs across ASEAN.

The programme aims to address the rising unemployment rate in Brunei and expand economic opportunity across ASEAN to minimise the negative impacts of COVID-19 by helping enterprises learn about programmes or assistance to continue operating during the pandemic.

Local implementing partners will utilise part of the funding to develop digital literacy training modules for 4,000 micro-entrepreneurs and underemployed youth, including those from ethnic minorities and with disabilities.

In Brunei, the initiative will deliver training to youth and business owners to gain the skills to open up markets for their products craft, digital marketing campaigns and provide them with tools to monitor and familiarize themselves with marketing campaigns.

The training will be held in Brunei-Muara, Belait, Tutong, and Temburong districts.

BIBD received an 'A' rating from S&P Global

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 19 - Leading international credit rating agency S&P Global affirmed its A-rating on Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD). The A-rating, which BIBD has held on to since 2015, currently puts BIBD on par with other leading banks in the Asia Pacific region.

According to S&P Global, the rating reflects BIBD's strong market share and diversified businesses in Brunei Darussalam. The report also took note of the Bank's business position as the largest bank in Brunei, coupled with very strong capitalisation.

S&P also took note of BIBD's diversified deposit base with strong liquidity, mentioning that the Bank was a beneficiary of flight to quality during the COVID-19 pandemic, reflecting its status as the largest bank in the country.

Apart from receiving these ratings from S&P, BIBD was also recently conferred as The Asian Banker's Best Managed Bank in Brunei as well as Best Retail Bank for the 8th year in a row. These milestones prove that BIBD is aligned with the nation's aspirations to advance Brunei's financial sector and reflects BIBD's ability to stand at par with some of the best banks in the region.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II and Chairman of BIBD commented, "Alhamdulillah, this affirmation highlights the Bank's strong capabilities against international benchmarks, and is a reflection of BIBD's aspirations to become the best Islamic bank in the Asia Pacific region."

According to S&P, their stable outlook on BIBD reflects their expectation that BIBD will maintain its high systemic importance in Brunei and that the Bank's financial profile will remain steady.

Also commenting on the rating, Mubashar Khokhar, BIBD Managing Director said, this rating is particularly meaningful in the prevailing COVID-19 environment, where the ratings of many financial institutions have been adversely impacted. This is truly a testament to BIBD customers and stakeholders' firm support towards BIBD as a leading Islamic financial institution.

"This would not have been possible without the strong support and guidance from our Board of Directors and Syariah Advisory Body, as well as the commitment from the Bank's management team and staff," said the BIBD Managing Director.

National flag lowering ceremony marks end of His Majesty's birthday celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 22 - The Giant-Sized Brunei Darussalam Flag Lowering Ceremony in conjunction with the 74th Birthday Celebration of 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 was held at the open area of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Complex in the capital.

Present as the guest of honour was Mohd. Amir Hairil bin Haji Mahmud, Permanent Secretary (Security, Welfare and Law) of the Ministry of Home Affairs as the Joint Deputy Chairman of the



Mohd. Amir Hairil bin Haji Mahmud, Permanent Secretary (Security, Welfare and Law) of the Ministry of Home Affairs as the Joint Deputy Chairman of the National Committee for the 74th Birthday Celebration of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the guest of honour.

National Committee for the 74th Birthday Celebration of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony began with the Giant-Sized Brunei Darussalam Flag Lowering team consisting of personnel from the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN).

The recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah was led by Ahmad Syafiq bin Haji Osman, Mosque Affairs Officer, Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah and followed by the National Anthem 'Allah Peliharakan Sultan'.

Shortly afterwards, the Giant-sized Brunei Darussalam Flag was lowered by personnel from RBN and handed over by Lieutenant Junior Grade Muhammad Adi Fakhri bin Johari, Chief Parade, Commanding Officer of KDB Darulehsan to the guest of honour. To bless the ceremony, Doa Selamat was recited.

Also present at the ceremony was Joint Secretary of the National Committee for the 74th Birthday Celebration of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The Giant-Sized Brunei Darussalam Flag Lowering Ceremony marked the end of the period of hoisting the national flag throughout the country in conjunction with the 74th Birthday Celebration of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Royal Brunei Navy personnel lowering the Giant-Sized Brunei Darussalam Flag in conjunction with the 74th Birthday Celebration of 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.



BIBD scoops two major awards

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 31 - Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) has recently been awarded with two major awards for its leadership, innovation and excellence in Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Banking and strong dedication to its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

The 'Best SME Bank Brunei 2020' and 'Best CSR Bank Brunei 2020' awards, conferred by a leading and highly-renowned publisher Global Banking and Finance Review, were in recognition of BIBD's focus on delivering comprehensive solutions that makes banking more efficient, cost-effective and readily accessible to SME clients as well as creating long-term support and sustainable change through education, community and development of local entrepreneurs.

"BIBD is committed to supporting SMEs and the communities they serve," said Wanda Rich, Editor, Global Banking and Finance Review. "Their strategic vision, continued investment in technology, deployment of innovative services and commitment to the socio-economic development in Brunei is what made them stand out as the winner this year," she added.

BIBD, through its Corporate Banking Group (CBG), aspires to be one of the main enablers to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) industry, in line with the vision of the Brunei Government to enhance opportunities for local MSMEs as well as create leaders among the business and industry players by developing greater competitive strength.

BIBD has complemented national efforts by boosting its SME-related initiatives and programmes to ensure that it contributes to the local budding entrepreneurs and empowering them with ease through the robust and comprehensive digital business solutions. Its range of innovative products such as BIBD BizNet, MSME Current Account and BIBD QuickyPay has helped to fill up gaps and certainly improve the operations of MSMEs – this in line with the objectives of the bank which is to serve the needs of all types of MSMEs.

The introduction of its all-in-one SME360 platform has also helped boost the business governance of MSMEs and the bank continues to work closely with various stakeholders such as Darussalam Enterprise (DARe) to provide these supports, advice and mentorship to its SME clients.

Educating Brunei's grassroots with entrepreneurship and finance management skills remains as one of the bank's main agenda and in doing so, it continues to cooperate with higher learning institutions to conduct talks, trainings and clinics to promote and inculcate entrepreneurship behavior to the young generations in Brunei Darussalam.

BIBD is also working closely with LiveWire Brunei through collaborations in programmes such as the Business Awards Funding Scheme and AgroBiz project. These programmes aim to support entrepreneurship and employment by administering the financial mechanism and providing the much-needed capital to new companies and startups.

"We are honoured to accept this award. This will not be possible without the full support and trust from our valued clients, stakeholders, shareholders and the management of the bank," said Koh Swam Sing, BIBD's Head of Corporate Banking.

"This award acts as a catalyst for us to work harder and surely, will improve our service to our valued clients, to the business community and to the country. We are committed to strengthen our support to the government initiatives towards the realization of Vision 2035," he added.



Hajah Nurul Akmar binti Haji Mohd. Jaafar, BIBD's Chief Marketing Officer in a group photo.

In winning the 'Best CSR Bank Brunei 2020', BIBD was recognised for its strong dedication to help communities in Brunei to grow and become financially independent through entrepreneurship and good education.

One of BIBD's notable CSR initiatives is the BIBD ALAF (Advocating Life-Long Learning for an Aspiring Future), which has become a mainstay programme since its inception in 2013 and has in total enrolled 240 students as of January 2020.

Meanwhile, the BIBD 'Special Underprivileged Mothers Empowerment Entrepreneurship Development' (BIBD SEED), is an award-winning initiative that is aimed at enhancing the livelihood of underprivileged mothers in Brunei by developing and transforming them into resilient and independent entrepreneurs who are highly capable of competing in the local and international markets.

Recently this year, as the pandemic Covid-19 broke out and stunned economic activities in Brunei and across the globe, BIBD stepped in to introduce a massive initiative known as the 'Community for Brunei' - a collaboration with local entrepreneurs and social enterprise.

This latest initiative provides a virtual marketplace, highlighting different social and charitable causes important to the heart of Brunei and enabling the public to support these causes by purchasing from the local micro and small businesses.

The Community for Brunei platform has already launched two community projects namely 'Community for COVID' and 'Community for Ramadhan' and more are in the pipeline.

Hajah Nurul Akmar binti Haji Mohd. Jaafar, BIBD's Chief Marketing Officer said "Giving back to the community and helping small businesses grow is at the heart of BIBD's CSR pillars namely Education, Entrepreneurship and Community.

BIBD is the only bank in Brunei to have a long-term sustained approach in all our CSR initiatives and all these initiatives symbolise our strong commitment towards elevating the community and aligning BIBD with international industry standards in realising the importance of ESG and adoption of the UN's 17 SDG and the Maqasid Shariah," she added.

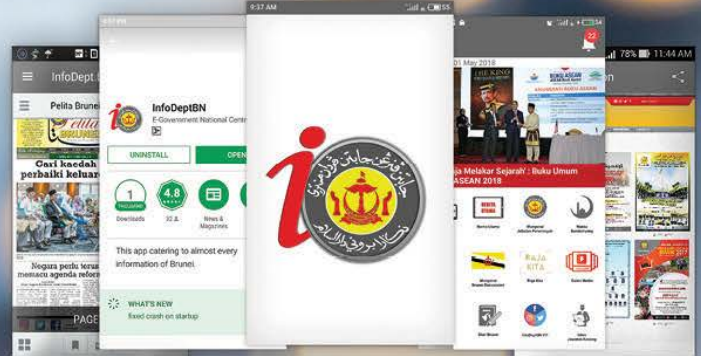
These awards honour companies that stand out in areas of expertise in the banking and finance industry. BIBD were chosen as winner of the 'Best CSR Bank Brunei 2020' and 'Best SME Bank Brunei 2020' due to its outstanding performance and achievements and by scoring well in the following categories: Investment in technology to improve user experience; dedicated relationship management team; innovative product and service development for SME customers; continued commitment to improve customer experience and access; and commitment to the development of SMEs and communities they serve.



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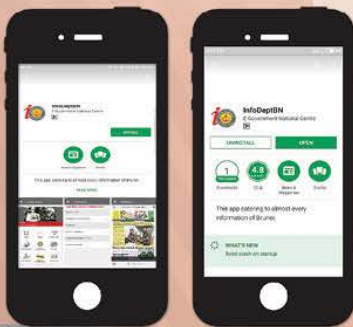
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