



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

29 FEBRUARY 2000

HM Sultan and King of Jordan visit Defence Ministry

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan, who was on a three-day personal visit to the country, had consented to visit the Ministry of Defence

on 19 February.

At the Ministry, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty King Abdullah II inspected a guard mounted by 112 personnel from the First Battalion of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

The Deputy Minister of Defence, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (R) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith gave a welcoming remarks, which touched on the brief history, background, role and

** Continued on centre page*



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan, taking the salute from an honour guard mounted by personnel of the First Battalion of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, soon after Their Majesties' arrival at the Bolkiah Garrison.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

is published fortnightly 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) write to the Distribution Division, The Department of Information, Old Airport, Berakas BB 3510, Brunei Darussalam.

Editorial Staff

Chief Editor
Mahari Haji Ismail

Editors
Aisah Haji Piee
Hajjah Zainit Haji Noorkhan
Ak Jefferi Pg Duraman

Layout/Design
Editorial Staff

Photographs
Photography Unit of
The Department of Information

YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 March 2000. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

His Majesty attends UNCTAD



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, attending the ASEAN-Japan Summit in Bangkok.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had attended the Tenth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held in Bangkok from 12 to 19 February.

Also attended the meeting was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and other ASEAN's Heads of State and Government, as well as Heads of Finance from 140 countries.

While in Bangkok, His Majesty with other ASEAN leaders and His Excellency Keizo Obuchi, the Prime Minister of Japan attended the ASEAN-Japan Summit.

The UNCTAD was presided by Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce of Thailand. In his speech as the President of the Tenth UNCTAD, His Excellency informed that globalisation presents a lot of opportunities and challenges, however, the process has not been able to integrate all countries to it.

His Excellency also said, UNCTAD

needs to create policy debate that is geared towards attaining practical and concrete approaches in meeting the development challenges to ensure that the developing countries are better prepared and become equal partners in the multilateral trading system.

UNCTAD also needs to create independent analysis and research that can forge consensus on global development-related issues, and its works should allow for consideration of appropriate roles undertaken by both the government and non-government sectors.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, in his statement at the Tenth Session of UNCTAD stressed the need for UNCTAD to cooperate with other international organisations and assist developing countries to enhance their international competitiveness, for instance, through the improvement of customs administration and industrial standards, and in promoting the capacity of developing countries in the setting of international standards.

** Continued on page 3*

UNCTAD could also contribute to the development of electronic commerce.

The Minister also informed that Brunei Darussalam would like to tap UNCTAD's expertise in the areas of trade facilitation, and share the view that analytical work on WTO issues like competition policies, government procurement and investment, discussed in the WTO Ministerial Conference in Singapore, should be continued. UNCTAD is also well placed to contribute substantively to better understanding of these issues and their implications.

He also elaborated on activities UNCTAD should focus on, so that its technical cooperation programmes would be more consolidated, well focused and streamlined, giving top priority to activities, which enhance the capacity of beneficiary countries for their effective participation in the international trading system.

The Minister also touched on the Uruguay Round, which placed onerous demands upon already hard-pressed developing countries, including smaller ones. In this regard, Yang Berhormat called on UNCTAD to continue providing technical assistance, so as to help these countries and economies to comply with the WTO obligations and take full advantage of their rights.

In a release issued earlier, the Minister informed that as the first inter-governmental conference in the new millennium, the Tenth Session of UNCTAD had chosen 'Hope and Dialogue' as their theme.

In this regard, the conference focused on a plan of action in ensuring developing countries and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) could benefit from international economic processes such as globalisation and multilateral trading system to achieve sustainable development and lessen the gap between the developed and developing countries.

The Minister said, to this end, globalisation and World Trade Organisation (WTO) issues such as integration of developing countries and LDCs

* Continued on back page



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of Brunei Darussalam Economic Council (BDEC) at a press briefing shortly after the 7th BDEC's Meeting.

B\$200 million for short-term economic recovery

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented the allocation of B\$200 million fund for a Stimulus Package to inject liquidity into the economy.

The sum is intended for funding the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), including infrastructural work, small scale tourism infrastructure, information technology and hospitality training programme.

This has been underlined by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is also the Chairman of Brunei Darussalam Economic Council (BDEC), at a press briefing held shortly after the 7th BDEC Meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 19 February.

The BDEC has now been able to come up with a report on the economic situation of the country, which has been drawn from the findings of

the five working committees established by the Council, as well as papers from individual members of the BDEC.

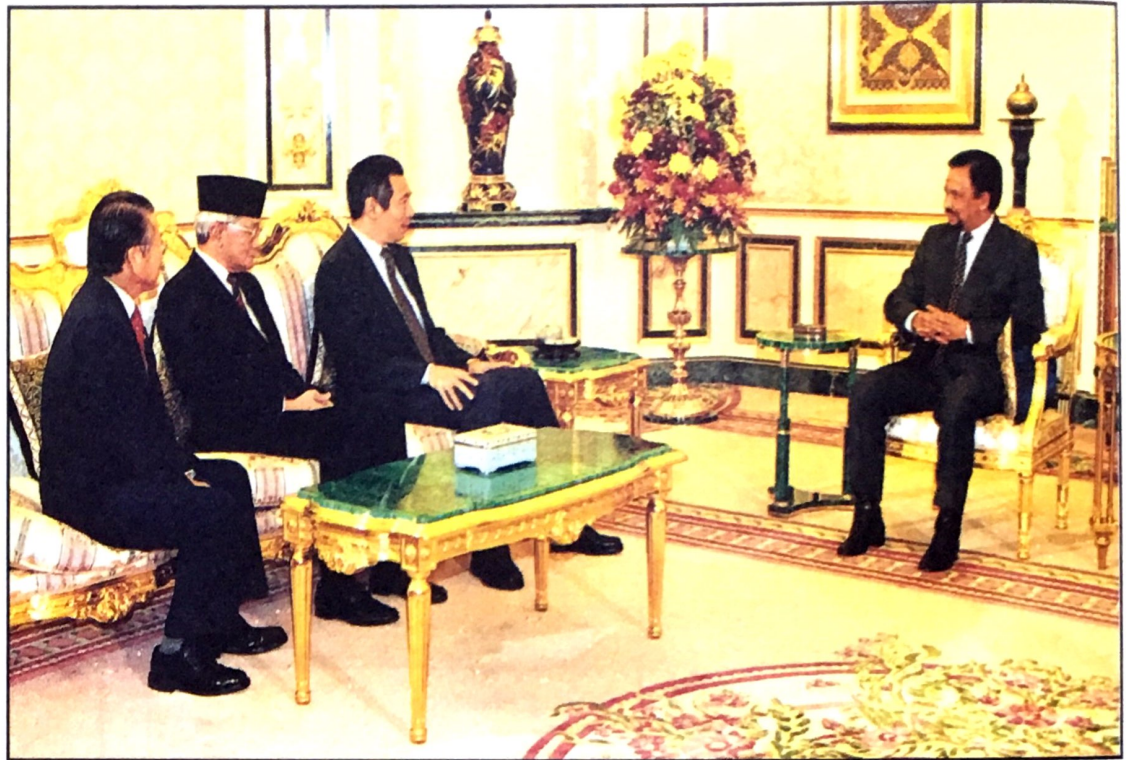
The report gives an outline of the economic situation of the country, which in the long run, appears to be unsustainable because of a number of factors, such as economic growth, which is unable to keep up with population growth, a budget deficit that has reduced the government's ability to provide direct employment, rising unemployment and a weak private sector.

On the recommendations of the Council, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah said, the BDEC recommends a two-phase strategy. Firstly, short-term measure intended as an immediate action plan for recovery. These measures include injecting liquidity into the economy, restoring private sector's confidence and

* Continued on page 5

HM Sultan grants audience to Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granting an audience to the Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister, His Excellency Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong at Istana Nurul Iman.



Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam granting an audience to wife of Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister, Madam Ho Ching at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah respectively.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to grant an audience to the visiting Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong at Istana Nurul Iman on 15 February.

During the audience, His Majesty and His Excellency exchanged views on several regional and international issues. His Excellency was in the country for a two-day visit.

Also present were the Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan and

Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Prime Minister's Office cum the Home Affairs' Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Yahya and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Paduka Awang Lim Jock Seng.

Meanwhile, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness

Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam granted a separate audience to wife of the Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister, Madam Ho Ching on the same day at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah respectively.

Madam Ho Ching was accompanied at the audience by wife of Singapore's High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, Madam Adeline Tee.

Madam Ho Ching was in Brunei Darussalam to accompany her husband, who was on a two-day visit to the country. While in the country, Madam Ho Ching visited several places

** Continued on page 5*

** From page 4
(Visit of Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister)*

of interest, such as the Royal Regalia.

His Excellency Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong was also granted an audience by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah at Istana Nurul Iman on 15 February. Accompanying His Excellency at the audience was the Singapore's High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Tee Tua Ba.

While in the country, the Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore and wife was entertained at a luncheon given in honour of His Excellency's visit by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah. The ceremony took place at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.



His Excellency Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong being granted an audience by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Excellency Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong led the seven-member delegation, and had discussed bi-

lateral and regional issues of mutual interest.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah entertaining His Excellency Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong and Madam Ho Ching at a dinner held in honour of the visiting Deputy Prime Minister of Republic of Singapore.



** From page 3
(Economic recovery)*

establishing a machinery for effective implementation.

Secondly, long-term recommendations aimed at strengthening government finances, the private sector and the foundation for growth.

His Royal Highness further said, several economic policies would also be formulated. These include formulation of short and long-term national

economic policies; coordination of planning and implementation; promoting and attracting foreign investment; promoting the process of corporatisation and improving the economic and business climate in the country.

The formulation of the economic policy is in line with the command of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for His

Royal Highness to play a role in economic policy formulation, as announced recently.

His Royal Highness further said, a small secretariat will be formed to carry out these tasks.

"I realize these are urgent matters and I need a lot of understanding, co-operation and some time in order to implement the recommendations of the Council," said His Royal Highness.



His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan and His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam performing the Friday's congregational prayer at the Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah in Kiulap. Joining Their Majesties were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Major Prince Ali and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Picture right: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty's sons consented to attend a dinner given by His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan at Golf Club in Jerudong Park.



* From page one
(Visit of King of Jordan)

responsibility of the Ministry and BAF. Their Majesties later toured the Binturan Shooting Range in the Tutong district.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan earlier performed Friday's congregational prayer at the Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah in Kiulap.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Major Prince Ali and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

His Majesty King Abdullah II, prior to the prayer visited the tombs of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's late parents, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit at the Royal Mausoleum in Jalan Tutong.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

The 'bertahlil' ceremony began with the reading of the 'Al-Faatihah' and recital of Koranic verses and prayer, led by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin

Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal.

His Majesty King Abdullah II and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah later sprinkled 'ayeng asah-asahan' (scented water) on the graves of His Majesty's late parents.

His Majesty King Abdullah II left the country in the afternoon of 19 February. Before leaving, His Majesty made a farewell call to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman.

During the call, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah in conversation with His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan at the Brunei International Airport, before His Majesty leaves the country.

presented souvenirs to His Majesty King Abdullah II.

Present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Suffri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and other members of the royal family.

Meanwhile, His Majesty King Abdullah II was accompanied at the call by His Royal Highness Major Prince Ali and His Excellency Mr. Wahid Ismail Kurdi.

His Majesty King Abdullah II was appointed as the Crown Prince on 25 January 1999 and was ascended to the throne on 2 February the same year.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives a farewell call from His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan at Istana Nurul Iman, after the Jordan's King completed a three-day personal visit to the country, above.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty King Abdullah II consented to take part in the shooting event at Binturan Shooting Range in the Tutong district, right.

HM Sultan visits UBD

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had consented to visit Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) in Rimba on 21 February.

His Majesty, the UBD's Chancellor was greeted on arrival by the Minister of Education, who is also the Temporary Acting Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz and Dato Paduka Seri Setia Professor Dr. Awang Haji Mahmud Saedon, the Vice Chancellor.

His Majesty then proceeded to the Computer Service Centre. Dato Paduka Seri Setia Professor Dr. Awang Haji Mahmud Saedon in his welcoming remarks spoke on the university's vision in the aspect of challenges and efforts towards internationalizing the university. The monarch was also briefed on the university's background and development and activities, which had been, being and will be conducted.

During the visit, His Majesty toured several sections of the university, including a library, computer centre, faculties and students' welfare building.

Also present were His Majesty's Special Adviser at the Prime Minister's Office cum the Home Affairs' Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, Deputy Minister of Education, Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad and Permanent Secretaries of the Prime Minister's Office and Education Ministry.



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to mingle with UBD's lecturers, during His Majesty's visit to the University.



His Majesty, accompanied by UBD's Vice Chancellor, taking a close look on collection of books available at the university's library, above, while picture below shows His Majesty observing one of the students conducting science practical.



The Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Prime Minister's Office cum the Home Affairs' Minister said, the legal profession supported the need for changes to certain provisions in the law with a view to giving the courts greater discretion in appropriate cases in making order or meting out punishment for certain offences, and also to confer on the courts the power to order probation instead of imprisonment, and to pass suspended sentences.

Speaking at the Opening of Legal Year 2000 on 15 February, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, representing the legal profession, also urged the concerned authorities take note of the observations regarding juvenile offenders and take action to prepare the necessary legislation.

The Minister hoped that the Attorney-General would also look into the proposal for the introduction of a system of public defender and many other important matters which required attention.

He also spoke on the question of law enforcement, which has created difficulties among practitioners with regard to the enforcement of orders issued by the courts in civil matters, such as warrants of arrest, warrants of committal and orders for the sale or repossession of land.

"It would be helpful if the courts and the Attorney-General could impress upon the police and other government agencies that their role in enforcing orders of the courts in civil matters is no less important than in criminal matters," he said.

The Minister touched on observations made by the Chief Justice on matters such as reciprocal enforcement of judgement between Brunei Darussalam and other countries, preliminary enquiries, committal proceedings, motor insurance bureau and the absence of provisions in the country's laws enabling proceedings against the Government and its servants in respect of wrongs committed in the course of government business.

In this respect, Yang Berhormat urged the authorities to give due con-

Legal profession supports the need for changes to certain provisions in law



His Majesty's Special Adviser at the Prime Minister's Office cum Home Affairs' Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, representing the legal profession, at the Opening of Legal Year 2000. Also seen is the Attorney-General, Dato Paduka Awang Kifrawi bin Dato Paduka Haji Kifli.



The Chief Justice, Dato Paduka Sir Denys Tudor Emil Roberts, stressing the importance for the public to retain confidence in the diligence and skill of some law enforcement agencies.

sideration to these proposals, which if acted upon can only enhance the image of Brunei Darussalam as a nation with a modern, developed, efficient and above all, independent judiciary.

The Minister also spoke on several issues, such as motor insurance and mounting number of fatalities on Brunei roads, which was a matter of great concern.

Meanwhile, the Chief Justice, Dato Paduka Sir Denys Tudor Emil Roberts, stressed among others the importance for members of the public to retain confidence in the diligence and skill of some

law enforcement agencies, such as the police, Narcotics Control Bureau, the Anti-Corruption Branch and the Custom and Excise Department.

He also spoke on the need for other provisions in the law. One of the matters which has aroused some anxiety in Judiciary, he said, is the limited range of punishments or orders which a court can properly make, facilities for juvenile offenders and provision for spent convictions.

The Chief Justice earlier touched on the number of cases held by the Court. In 1999, the Court of Appeal, which sat on two occasions, dealt with 26 cases, 13 criminal and 13 civil appeals, compared to 23 in 1998 and 24 in 1997.

In the same year, there were 17 criminal trials in the High Court compared to 9 in 1998 and 13 in 1997. 22 civil cases were heard compared to 25 in 1998 and 27 in 1997, while there were 51 appeals from Magistrates and 54 in 1998.

He said, the number of civil cases begun in the High Court grew still further to 360 compared to 342 in 1998 and 176 in 1977. This occurred in spite of an increase in the jurisdiction of the Intermediate Court from B\$60,000 to B\$100,000 with effect from 1 January,

** Continued on page 10*

Maritime training institution to be set up



The Communications Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Zakaria, looking on a model of vessel owned by the Brunei Shell Tankers shortly after he launched the Marine Cadet Career Campaign.

The Communications Ministry is now making effort to discuss with other relevant ministries and agencies to speed up the formation of maritime training institution at the international level in the country in the future, said the Minister of Communications.

Brunei Darussalam has been a member of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) since 1984, and being a member, it is the responsibility of the country to ensure that the qualified local officials have the knowledge on rules and laws of international maritime, he said.

To meet the requirement, the Ministry is aware of the need for crewmembers working on the ship to undergo special training at maritime institutions recognised internationally, he added.

In a speech before he launched the Marine Cadet Career Campaign at Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College in Rimba on 15 February, Yang

** Continued on page 11*

** From page 9
(Legal Year 2000)*

1999.

The Registrar of the High Court dealt with 872 matters in 1999, compared to 368 in 1998 and 443 in 1997.

As a reflection of the general economic problems of Asia, 308 bankruptcy cases were registered, and 185 receiving orders in bankruptcy were made, an increase from 63 in 1998, and 28 adjudication orders, compared to 29 in 1998.

The Intermediate Court, which now has a full time judge in addition to two part-time judges, dealt with a total of 23 matters (18 criminal and 5 civil) as opposed to 24 in 1998 and 40 in 1997. 237 civil actions were instituted in that court in 1999 compared to 193 in 1998 and 150 in 1997.

Meanwhile, the Magistrate Court dealt with 5363 matters, 2391 criminal and 2972 civil, as compared to a total of 5316 in 1998 and 4615 in 1997.

The Attorney-General, Dato Paduka Awang Kifrawi bin Dato Paduka Haji Kifli, who also spoke at the ceremony, touched among others on several important legislations, which

have been passed last year.

These included the Emergency (Defamation) Order, which was passed to codify the law of libel and slander. These laws protect a person's reputation in this country.

The passing of Emergency Orders relating to the protection of intellectual property rights, namely, the Emergency (Trade Mark) Order, the Emergency (Patent) Order, the Emergency (Copyright) Order, the Emergency (Industrial Design) Order and the Emergency (Layout Design) Order would mean that Brunei Darussalam has taken important steps to comply with its international obligations under the TRIPS Agreement.

The Emergency (Married Women) Order, the Emergency (Guardianship of Infants) Order and the Emergency (Islamic Family Law) Order were also passed to provide certain provisions relating to marriage, divorce, maintenance, guardianship and others in connection with family life. The new family law would give better protection to women and children.

Other legislations, which also have been passed include the Emergency

(Security Agencies Act) Order 1999, Emergency (Land Code [Strata]) Order 1999, Emergency (Wills) Order 1999 and Emergency (Fatal Accidents and Personal Injuries) Order Amendment to Section 4.

The official also touched on the recorded crime statistics. Statistics compiled by the Royal Brunei Police Force shows that there were 3,085 reported cases last year compared to 2,750 in the previous year. 2,484 arrests were made and 1,426 were resolved.

The number of offences against the person were 401 in 1999 compared to 338 the previous year, and number of offences against property were 1,281 cases in 1999 compared to 1,230 in 1998.

In 1999, the total number of persons arrested for offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act was 558 compared to 432 in 1998, while eight persons appeared in court to face charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The Royal Customs and Excise dealt with 116 cases compared to 150 in 1998 for offences under the Customs Act. The Immigration authority prosecuted 541 persons in 1999 compared to 441 in 1998.

Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Zakaria said, this institution would need commitment from major organizations in giving the assurance of employment opportunities to its trainers.

In this respect, the Minister was happy to note that the Brunei Shell Tankers (BST) has taken a measure to encourage locals to consider career in maritime as their choice or alternative other than a more popular profession in the country.

He further urged BST to seriously consider and plan systematically, phase by phase, the replacement of foreign crews at the Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas (BLNG) vessels at present with qualified, professional and well-trained

local crews in the future.

"The Ministry of Communications through Marine Department and other relevant government agencies will continue to give their cooperation to ensure that the vision becomes a reality," he said.

The Minister also called on parents to consider the career prospect in maritime field for their children and encourage them to engage in shipping service and sailing, as their service to the country.

The Marine Cadet Career Campaign was conducted by Bruneisation Working Group comprise of BST, Petroleum Unit of the Prime Minister's Office and Marine Department.

With the launching of the Campaign, BST does not only meet the interior requirement of the company, but

more importantly, will give a very beneficial production in developing the total growth of maritime industry in the country.

"It is the aspiration of His Majesty's Government to see that all posts could be filled by capable local Bruneians for all sectors of profession," he said.

The first step undertaken by BST to train local Bruneians to hold the post as junior officials will indirectly give a positive encouragement to manpower development in the maritime industry, which is beginning to improve in the country.

The Campaign will also give qualified and well-trained locals the opportunity to work as officers and crews on Brunei Darussalam's seven registered BLNG vessels.

The continued investment by international investors in Brunei Darussalam reflects the increased confidence that they have in the government and economic development of the country.

This was highlighted by the Special Adviser to His Majesty at the Prime Minister's Office cum the Home Affairs' Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, before he declared open the Securicor's Security Centre in Jalan Tutong on 16 February.

The Minister said, investments by companies such as Jardine Securicor in the Sultanate would bring benefits through transfer of expertise and human resources development.

"I am confident that Securicor with its wide experience in many countries is fully aware of the significance of giving locals the opportunity to gain relevant skills to enable them to involve in the company's activities at all levels," he said.

The Securicor Security Centre is the nerve for all operations on financial security service in the country. It is built and designed in the highest standard to provide a safe environment for control operation.

International investors' confidence on Brunei's economic development increased



The Special Adviser of His Majesty at the Prime Minister's Office cum the Home Affairs' Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, declaring the Securicor's Security Centre open.

As an ensured financial processing centre, the Company provides services on financial management for banking sectors and financial institution.

The Company, set up in April last

year, is a joint venture between Jardine Securicor and local shareholders. It is one of the biggest commercial security Companies in Asia, with around 13,000 manpower.



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam together with leaders of ASEAN member countries and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Kofi Annan, attending the Tenth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Bangkok.

* From page 3
(UNCTAD)

in the multilateral trading process, and the role of the developed countries in supporting UNCTAD objectives gained considerable consideration in the conference.

At the conference, Yang Berhormat also held bilateral meeting with His Excellency Dan Abodakpi, Minister of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Ghana. During the meeting, both ministers discussed the possibility of hav-

ing bilateral economic cooperation in industry and tourism between the two countries.

The Minister earlier held bilateral meeting with His Excellency Jim Sutton, Minister for Foreign Trade of New Zealand, and exchanged views on bilateral economic cooperation and on reviving the WTO progress.

Yang Berhormat also informed His Excellency that Brunei Darussalam as the host of APEC this year, will con-

tinue giving consideration to decisions made in New Zealand, and of the theme and areas to be focused for the meetings.

The Tenth Session of UNCTAD, attended by more than 150 countries and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) was held every four years to review the effectiveness of implemented programmes, and to formulate new policies to generate sustainable growth.

Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 314,400 (1997)

Official Language : Malay

Official Religion : Islam

January rainfall : 290.8 mm

**THE TRAFFICKING IN AND THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF
CONTROLLED DRUGS ARE VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES IN
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AND THE PENALTY
FOR SUCH OFFENCES IS DEATH.**