



WELCOME SPEECH

By
DATO SERI SETIA AWANG HAJI ALI BIN APONG
MINISTER OF PRIMARY RESOURCES AND TOURISM

On the occasion of

**GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF VERTICAL LAND-BASED
AQUACULTURE FARM**

BY

KR APOLLO SDN BHD

**SUNGAI JAMBU FISH FARM, GADONG
NEGARA BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

Bismilahirrahmanirrahim

- Your Excellency Dr. Koh Poh Koon, Minister of State, Ministry of Trade & Industry, and Ministry of National Development, Singapore;
- Your Excellency Mr Lim Hong Huai, High Commissioner of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam;
- Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Kerma Raja Pengiran Haji Kamarulzaman Bin Pengiran Pekerma Setia Diraja Sahibul Bandar Pengiran Haji Ali, and Mr. Eric Ng, Directors of KR Apollo Sdn Bhd;
- Yang Berhormat Penghulu Mukim Gadong;
- Yang Mulia Permanent Secretaries;
- Yang Mulia Deputy Permanent Secretaries;
- Yang Mulia Heads of Department;
- Yang Mulia Ketua Kampong Tungku, Gadong;
- Ladies and gentlemen;

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, and a very good afternoon.

Firstly, I would like to welcome His Excellency Dr. Koh Poh Koon and his entourage to Brunei Darussalam.

And thank you to KR Apollo Sendirian Berhad, for inviting us to be your guests of honor this afternoon.

Today is another historic day for Brunei Darussalam and Singapore.

The ground-breaking ceremony this afternoon marks the commencement of the construction phase for the establishment of a vertical, land-based, bio-

secured, high density aquaculture farming in Brunei Darussalam by KR Apollo Sendirian Berhad.

With a total investment of over B\$ 20 million, KR Apollo's integrated fisheries project at this site, will realize the production of aquaculture food-fish and aquarium fish from this year onwards. **It is one of the key priority projects for our fisheries sector.**

This project is set to prove that high-technology, vertical in-door farming operation is not only technically possible in Brunei Darussalam, but it is highly viable.

And, in this particular case economically and socially beneficial for both Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, because, Brunei needs increased economic output and job creation, while Singapore needs a lot of seafood supply.

The realization of this project will be the turning point for Brunei Darussalam:

- From traditional extensive pond culture with low productivity to multi-tiers, in-door, high-density system;
- From very dependent on sites and land close to the supply of sea-water, to re-circulating system with efficient re-use of water that enables the operation to be located just about anywhere;
- From conventional system to energy efficient and environmentally responsible aquaculture and processing system;
- From being dependent on local market towards established, and consistent export markets for higher quality products.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen

Today, 80% of the total production is generated by the capture fisheries. However, our data has shown that the capture fisheries have been

experiencing a downward trend. This is due to many factors such as natural environmental impacts as well as over-fishing.

Despite this, we **aim to increase the value of fisheries sector output** from over **B\$ 100 million in 2015 to more than B\$ 600 million by 2020.....and 70% of these we expect will come from aquaculture.**

Although Brunei Darussalam is slightly bigger than Singapore, land limitation is also one of our constraints, and that is why we are focusing on aquaculture industry. And yes, we need the **right technology and system** to expand our fish farming **upwards instead of sideways.**

Increasing output is also the cornerstone of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism Strategic Plan, which we launched last month.

The use of technology in aquaculture is not just a matter of normal progression. It is a necessity for Brunei Darussalam. It is consistent with our drive to improve **productivity and to increase competitiveness** which will enable our products and services to penetrate the export market.

Given the increasing importance of high technology aquaculture for the sustainable supply of quality seafood products from Brunei Darussalam, I would like to take this opportunity to convey our appreciation to Apollo Aquarium Private Limited Singapore for choosing to partner with KR Kamarulzaman & Associates and thus bringing into Brunei Darussalam the technology and the market connections.

We are allocating about 12 hectares of land at this site for the project, which, the signing of the lease agreement we will witness shortly.

By the middle of this year, we expect export shipment of both aquarium and food fish products to flow to Singapore and other major markets from this site, thus contributing to an increase in our output, GDP and exports, while supporting Singapore's food security agenda. **This is therefore a win-win partnership between us and between our companies.**

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen

Brunei Darussalam is still very much open for more business and investment especially from Singapore companies, especially those that can bring the latest vertical, environmentally responsible, super-high density farming technologies.

I was made to understand that, there will be a networking session between Brunei and Singapore businesses on Tuesday. I understand the participants consist of farmers, traders, service providers and potential investors from Brunei and Singapore. This is the second time that this session is being organized, following a similar session held in Singapore late last year.

I urge those participating business communities, to fully utilize this session to look for opportunities to create more partnership between them either in production, distribution, packaging, marketing and trading of their products and services.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen

The groundbreaking ceremony here today is the result of tremendous hard work and support notably by the governments of both Brunei Darussalam and Singapore.

Therefore, representing the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, I would like to extend our most sincere thanks to:

- The government of Singapore, particularly Dr. Koh Poh Koon, and his offices;
- A.V.A. Singapore,
- Ministry of Energy and Industry, Prime Minister's Office, Brunei;
- Ministry of Finance, Brunei
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Ministry of Development,
- And all the other government agencies who have been nothing but supportive right from the start.

And, of course, **all the best to KR Apollo Sendirian Berhad** as they move into the commissioning and operation of the first multi-tiers, indoor, recirculating aquaculture system in Brunei Darussalam.

Thank you.

Wabillahit Taufik,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.