



OPENING REMARKS

**YANG BERHORMAT
DATO SERI SETIA AWANG HAJI ALI BIN APONG
MINISTER OF PRIMARY RESOURCES AND TOURISM**

PROMOTION OF THE TUTONG TOUR PACKAGE

**TUTONG TOWN JETTY
23rd August 2017**

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
الحمد لله رب العالمين، وبه نستعين على أمور الدنيا والدين،
والصلوة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين،
سيدينا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

Yang Berhormat State Legislative Councils Members;

Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners;

Permanent Secretaries;

Brunei Tourism Board Members;

District Officers;

Penghulu and Head of Villages;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Salam Sejahtera & a Very Good Morning

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It gives me great pleasure to be here this morning to officiate the promotion of the “Tutong Destination Package”.

2. Today, we are here to continue our promotional efforts on showcasing exciting tour packages of Tutong to further attract more tourists into the country. Tutong has always been a popular destination known for its quaint town centre, its nature attractions, diverse culture, friendly community and of course it's food!
3. Being in the town here today I already see a few popular spots, such as KK Koya and Mei Fang restaurant. People come from all districts to queue as early as 6.00 am to buy the rojak and wrapped glutinous rice (pulut panggang). Other than food, we also have Tasek Merimbun here, which has been declared as one of ASEAN National Heritage sites since 1984 and Brunei's largest blackwater lake with an area of 220 hectares, refreshing waterfall at Wasai Bedanu Recreational Park, Batu Mapan Recreational Park and beautiful beach at Pantai Seri Kenangan - set on a spit of land, with the South China Sea on one side and Sungai Tutong on the other, and arguably one of the best spot for sunset in Brunei.
4. Tutong District has been gaining popularity in terms of receiving visitors. According to the statistics gathered by the Tutong District Tourism Promotion and Coordination Body, in 2016 a total of **1,680 visitors** visited various places of interest around Tutong District. 450 visitors out of which, used tour packages whilst the rest were Frequent Independent Travelers (FITs). Of these, 70% were local visitors, 25% foreign tourists and 5% comprised of school visits and research students. Up till July this year, approximately **1,085 visitors** have bought tour packages either through the Tutong District Promotional Body or travel agents. From this figures, 63%

are local visitors, 25% tourists and 12% are students, researchers and official visits.

5. There are many great attractions here in Tutong that are still undiscovered by many visitors. Other than its beautiful flora and fauna as well as wildlife that you can see in the parks and cruise along the Tutong River, there are also exciting stories that you discover about this town when taking a city tour. In addition, you will also find quite a number of community based tourism activities.
6. Aimed at boosting tourist influx into this picturesque district, there are plentiful cottage industries that you can visit here amongst them are the Cahaya Gaharu Plantation, Eco Ponies Garden which is a unique village homestay tucked away in a corner of Lamunin, with jungle trails for visitors to explore, and a community garden with more than 20 varieties of traditional herbs. Tutong is also known for its local produce such as Tasbee honey from the Meliponiculture farm, Herbal Tea from Kampong Kiudang, sago and virgin coconut oil from Kampong Tanjong Maya just to name a few. I hope that after today, all of you will take the time with your family and friends to discover what Tutong has to offer.
7. The Tutong District is very active in offering tourism products and for that I would like to congratulate and thank the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Tutong District Office, Tutong District Tourism Promotion and Coordination Body, Village Consultative Council Committee, Tutong community as

whole for their endless efforts to promote tourism products and services to not only the locals but also to the international visitors.

8. Airlines, hotels and travel agents should take this opportunity to collaborate with these tour product providers in order to add variety and choices to their existing tour programs. This is vital in making Tutong as another main tourist destination in Brunei Darussalam. One such collaboration we will witness today is a memorandum signing ceremony between our travel agent Hasa Incentives Sdn Bhd and Kampong Rambai Consultative Council Committee, Sinar Tour Sdn Bhd and a boat entrepreneur Sri Melati Enterprise, and Hasa Incentives Sdn Bhd and Puteri Maya Enterprise. I applaud this initiative and welcome more travel agents to create this business deals which will make a positive impact on the tourism sector and our country as a whole.
9. With more arrivals coming from the chartered flights from Korea, Kunming and Nanning in China it is hoped that by providing more tourism offerings in the country that the tourist would choose to stay longer in Brunei and contribute to our economy and the country.
10. With that I end with, Wabillahi taufiq wal hidayah
wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wa barakatuh

Thank you.

11. On this note, with kalimah Bismillahirrahmannirrahim I will now officiate the promotion of the “Tutong Destination Package 2017”.