



**Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism  
Brunei Darussalam**

## **OPENING REMARKS**

**YANG BERHORMAT  
DATO SERI SETIA AWG HAJI ALI BIN APONG  
*Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism  
Brunei Darussalam***

**AT THE LAUNCHING OF NEW PACKAGES  
“PROMOTION OF BELAIT DESTINATION PACKAGE”**

**Oil and Gas Discovery Centre (OGDC),  
Seria, Belait  
Brunei Darussalam**

**Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

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

Yang Berhormat States Legislative Council Members;  
Your Excellencies, High Commissioners and Ambassadors;  
Members of the Brunei Tourism Board  
Permanent Secretaries;  
Deputy Permanent Secretaries;  
District Office;  
Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Faridah binti Dato Hj Talib, Commercial  
Director of Brunei Shell Petroleum;  
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Salam Sejahtera and A very Good morning

1. For the past one year, the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism through The Tourism Development Department has launched several holiday packages in Brunei Darussalam, such as the Temburong Holiday Package; Bandar Seri Begawan and Kampong Ayer National Heritage Package; Brunei Diving Package; and Tutong Destinations Package to attract more tourists to visit the country.
2. The Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) is committed to ensure that the tourism services sector becomes one of the significant contributors to the development and growth of the country's economy, particularly in the non-oil and gas sector.

3. I am pleased to be here today to promote the Belait district as another addition to the tourist packages. Not many people out there **may** know what Belait has to offer other than Nodding Donkeys and a town famous for its Oil and Gas industry. But in fact, there are quite a few interesting hotspots such as Luagan Lalak Recreational Park and Teraja Forest which are known to be popular for Birdwatching; visitors can also trek to the Teraja waterfalls and immerse in local culture at the Teraja longhouse. For dive enthusiasts, Belait is scattered with beautiful technical wrecks such as the Yuho Maru from the Second World War and the Pacific Boxer at depth exceeding 50m. For those seeking local delicacies, Belait is well known for their Fried Kway Teows, Rojaks and Dodols (a chewy, sweet and thick cake made from glutinous rice flour, coconut milk and palm sugar) which you can find in most popular food stalls and restaurants such as Tudung Saji, Hans Coffee and others. There is also a river cruise on offer where you can catch glimpses of crocodiles and various species of birds that resides on the Belait river.
  
4. As you can see these are just few of the things which you can do, there are plenty more which I have not mentioned. We want to provide more options for tourism stakeholders to actively include these activities to the Belait tour programmes to promote and attract both local as well as international visitors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. In our efforts to develop Belait, the Ministry has been working very closely with the Ministry of Home Affairs; Ministry of Culture Youth and

Sports; Brunei Shell Petroleum; tourism stakeholders and the local communities in Belait to create these exciting tour packages. Furthermore, we had also gone to great lengths to ensure that the packages have high levels of quality, comfort, safety and efficiency in terms of services provided to all visitors.

6. In addition, I also wish to applaud Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) for their contribution to tourism by organizing several educational and fun exhibitions over the years through their Oil and Gas Discovery Centre (OGDC). The Centre has attracted over 42,000 visitors since 2014 and today I am pleased to launch the Explor-A-Saurus exhibition from Scitech, Australia. OGDC will be home to life size animatronic world-famous dinosaurs for a period of five (5) months. Furthermore, I would also like to thank BSP for their extended support to promote not only their product but will now also be providing information as a Tourist Information Centre in the Belait District.
7. With all these events, tour packages and activities, I strongly urge all our tourism stakeholders namely the travel agents, airlines, hotels, accommodation providers and the local communities to actively work together and further promote Belait as another preferred tourist destination in Brunei Darussalam.
8. To conclude, I once again, would like to thank and congratulate all those involved in the promotion for Belait for their dynamic involvement and I look forward for more involvement from other stakeholders to support these initiatives. In this hall today, we have six (6) of the tourism service providers for the Belait Destination

Package, please feel free to look around find out more on the packages that is on offer.

9. May I also take this opportunity to invite everyone to participate and support the Brunei December Festival which kicks off on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017. The Brunei December Festival marks the first ever month-long festival initiated by the Brunei Tourism Board in collaboration between ministries, public sectors and relevant stakeholders, with the objective of increasing the number of tourist arrivals in Brunei by developing an annual calendar of events that will attract both local and international visitors. This will also spur local residents to travel and spend within the country, and in doing so increase domestic tourism, help the domestic economy and increase business opportunities for SMEs.
10. With less than a week to go, it's shaping up to be a fun-filled end of year holiday for locals and tourists. With over 40 **events and activities** lined up across all four districts throughout the month of December, ranging from arts and culture, culinary, performing arts as well as sports and recreation, this is definitely the year to consider a staycation. So you can be assured that it will be a very busy month in Brunei this December. To find out more details of the festival you may visit our website [www.bruneitourism.travel](http://www.bruneitourism.travel) or [www.brunei.events](http://www.brunei.events). I look forward to seeing everyone there this Sunday.
11. With the Kalimah '**Bismillaah Hirrahmaniir Rahiim**' and with **Salawat and Salam to our Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alahi Wassalam, may Peace be Upon Him**, I officially Launch the Belait Destination Package.

**Wabillahi Taufik Wal Hidayah, Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.**