

**Welcoming Remarks by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Col. (Rtd.)
Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Paduka Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar**

**Brunei Maritime Academy (BMA) Engagement with
Marine Industries**

4th January 2014, Saturday

ILIA, UBD

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

الحمد لله رب العالمين

والصلاة والسلام على اشرف الانبياء والمرسلين

وعلى اله وصحبه اجمعين

Yang Mulia Setiausaha-Setiausaha Tetap

Yang Mulia Para Pengarah Urusan dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif

Yang Mulia Pegawai-Pegawai Kanan Kerajaan dan Sektor Swasta

Hadirin dan Hadirat Sekalian

1. Alhamdulillah, saya berasa gembira kerana dapat bersama-sama para peneraju utama industri minyak dan gas khususnya dalam sektor maritim dan pihak-pihak yang berkepentingan dari sektor Awam dalam sesi perjumpaan dan seterusnya dialog mengenai 'Penglibatan Akademi Maritim Brunei bersama Industri Maritim'.
2. Saya sukacita merakamkan penghargaan dan ucapan ribuan terima kasih di atas kehadiran abiskita sekalian. Sokongan dan kerjasama yang berterusan dari pihak industri adalah sangat penting sebagai penentu kejayaan Akademi Maritim Brunei yang mana Insyaa allah akan dapat

membantu negara kitani dalam melahirkan generasi muda yang berpendidikan dan menjadikan mereka sebagai tenaga kerja yang mahir.

Untuk memudahkan semua hadirin dan hadirat yang hadir, izinkan saya menggunakan bahasa Inggeris dalam meneruskan ucapan saya seterusnya.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Alhamdullillah, by the Grace of Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala we are all gathered here today for the Brunei Maritime Academy's (BMA) engagement with the marine industry. I welcome you and am grateful for your presence today.
4. The marine industry, which provides services to the Brunei Oil & Gas Industry spends more than B\$500 million annually, operating more than 100 vessels of various types and purposes and employing more than 2,000 individuals, including 1,500 positions as seafarers. Job opportunities in the marine sector have not previously been given sufficient attention as, currently only 10% of the human resources in this sector are filled by local Bruneians and the majority foreign workforce. It is no coincidence that any successful and sustainable economies put strong emphasis on building local capacity and this regards I would like to see the employment figures in our marine industry reversed, with 90% of the workforce in this sector filled by local Bruneians within the next few years. We have so much opportunity to do so. Furthermore, it has been projected that this sector will continue to grow with the increasing activities offshore, both servicing the existing production and from future deep-water explorations.

5. Towards supporting Local Business Development (LBD) directives, that is to increase local content including local employment in the marine sector, there is a need to produce industry ready Bruneians as maritime professionals and seafarers, approved and recognized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to work in the maritime industry of Brunei Darussalam. This is one of the key objectives for the formation of Brunei Maritime Academy (BMA).
6. The Brunei Maritime Academy (BMA) will be one of the centres of excellence under the new Brunei Technical Education (BTE) system, operating under the purview of the Ministry of Education and supported by the Energy Department at The Prime Minister's Office (EDPMO) and the Ministry of Communication (MoC).
7. I am pleased to share with you that the Singapore Maritime Academy is working closely with the Ministry of Education in establishing the Brunei Maritime Academy. This academy will offer a range of industry- and internationally accredited competency-based qualifications training for the maritime industry. The assistance provided by SMA amongst others, will include building training capabilities, training of trainers and to help establish an academic quality assurance system in accordance with the standards for Quality in Maritime Education and Training (QMET).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Alhamdulillah, we are grateful to Allah Subhananahu Wata'ala for blessing us with a visionary Monarch who is truly and sincerely compassionate for the wellbeing of our nation and His citizens. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has raised the issue of high number of job seekers among the youth during the National Youth Day Celebration in November 2013. His Majesty stressed that the youth are the backbone of the society and they are the country's greatest assets. They need to be productively employed to contribute to economic development of our nation. His Majesty in his Titah mentioned that if the unemployment issue is not addressed collectively by all relevant agencies, it might jeopardise the stability of the country.

9. The need to create more job opportunities particularly in the private sector and encourage youth to take up more technical and vocational training was again emphasised during His Majesty's Titah to welcome the new year 2014. With regard to this, BMA aspires to play a role in providing opportunities for our youth to develop themselves into skilled and competent seafarers, chief engineers and eventually captains working not only in Brunei's water but also internationally.

10. It is projected that the jobs required for the marine industry in Brunei Darussalam from 2013 to 2020 are more than 2,000 jobs, not including onshore requirements. I would like to see the marine industry play their role by providing gainful and sustainable employment to these graduates as well as playing a bigger role in their training during their time at BMA. All relevant government agencies such as EDPMO, MoE and MoC will work closely and collaborate with the marine industries to align with and meet with their needs and demand.
11. The courses to be offered will be recognised by the industry and hence industry's participation will be critical. Furthermore, the demand is driven by the industry and they should take the lead in ensuring the graduates meet their requirements. The courses must also meet International Maritime Organisation (IMO) accreditation. In fact, I am pleased to share with you that some of the courses currently offered are already accredited by IMO.
12. Oil and gas industry has existed in Brunei Darussalam for the past more than 80 years. With our hands on our hearts can we truly say that we have built a sizeable local workforce that reflects the 80 plus years of oil and gas exploration in this country? How many locally grown companies that have become regional if not international players? I truly believe such dream of our local companies and local workforce venturing abroad is not impossible. However, to achieve this, we cannot continue to do business as usual. We need to work in synergy with a collective vision of building and

sustaining our economy through innovation, knowledge and technology transfer, enhancing entrepreneurship and creating spin-off activities. Only with such concerted commitment, energy, synergy and vision, will we be able to have more local players coming into the scene and for the marine industry to increase their local content and also grow into regional and international players in the very near future.

13. Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to everyone for supporting this initiative. I personally am very committed to the BMA initiative. You too should be committed for the sake of our children and the future of this country. I look forward to a meaningful discussion and to interacting with all of you today.

Thank you, Wabillahhi taufik walhidayah wassalamualaikum wbt.