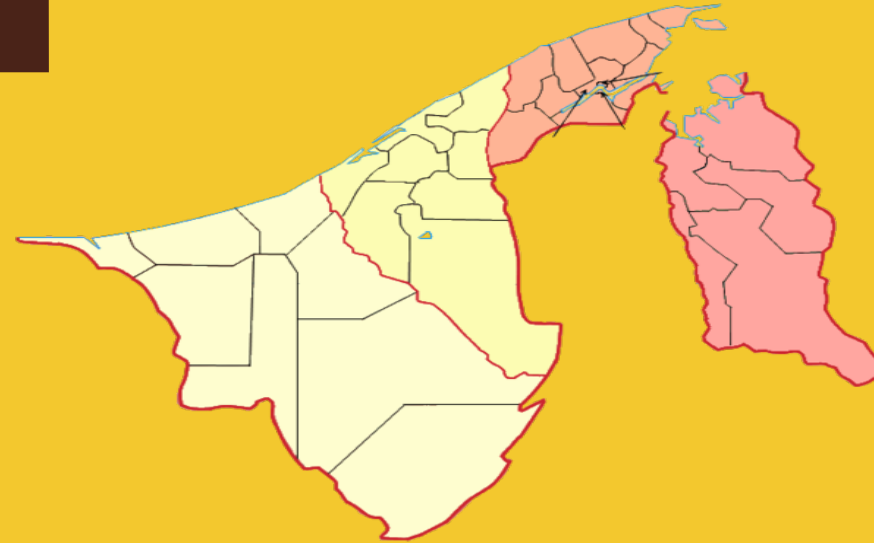




BRUNEI DARUSSALAM COUNTRY REPORT

Regional Conference on
"Promoting Decent Work for Older Persons for an Inclusive Society:
Strengthening A More Resilient and Inclusive Society During and After the
COVID-19 Pandemic" 28th - 29th June 2021 via Video Conference

AGEING SITUATIONS IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

1. Trend of Population
2. Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on older persons and their families
3. Challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic affecting promoting decent work for older persons
4. Existing public measures; selected case studies/ best practices/ projects of stakeholders
5. Way Forwards

POPULATION OF OLDER PERSON IN BRUNEI

2021 (June 2021)	
Population	417,200
Old Aged Pension recipient (60 years old and above)	40, 570
Percent	10.1%
Source: Dept. of Community Development, MCYS	

IMPACTS OF COVID-19

BRUNEI OVERVIEW OF COVID-19

Overview as of 27 June 2021

ACTIVE CASES	TOTAL CONFIRMED	TOTAL DEATHS	TOTAL RECOVERED
11	259	3	245

IMPACTS OF COVID-19

- COVID-19 pandemic pushes up Brunei's inflation rate.
- Brunei records 81% plunge in tourist arrivals
- Brunei has missed its [rice self-sufficiency target](#) of 11%
- Rice imports have also declined six percent to 34,082.40 metric tonnes
- School closures expose the disparity of computer and internet access among students.



MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

‘Whole of Nation Approach’

Steps undertaken are focused on 3 main components:

1

Maintaining the
well-being of
the public



Protecting jobs and
providing support for
individuals

2

3

Supporting and
assisting
businesses



1.MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC

“HIGH QUALITY AND COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THAT IS EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND RESPONSIVE WITH SUFFICIENT MEDICAL AND SAFETY EQUIPMENTS”

- **Construction of the new National Isolation Centre Building in Tutong District** to treat and monitor confirmed positive-infected COVID-19 patients.
- **Construction of an additional National Virology Laboratory in Kampung Sumbiling, BandarSeriBegawan**, to increase the capacity and accelerate the testing process for COVID-19 in the country.
- **Monitoring Centres for foreigners**, citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam that have entered into Brunei Darussalam from abroad to undergo self isolation.

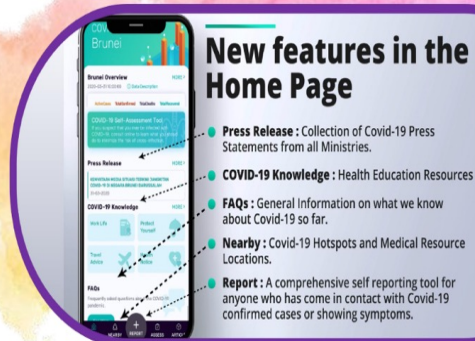
EFFECTIVE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION AND LATEST UPDATES ON CURRENT COVID-19 INFECTION IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



- Press Conference conducted daily to provide latest information on COVID-19 cases in Brunei Darussalam.
- Health Advice Line 148 has been set up and can be contacted for further information and latest updates on COVID-19 cases in Brunei Darussalam.

- Self Assessment Tool via healthinfo.gov.bn to help individuals self-assess possible COVID-19 symptoms and assist Government's initiative to provide real-time Government dashboard.

- Official launch of the mobile application Telegram for GOV.BN for the dissemination of official Government information, including official Press Releases.



MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC

ONLINE LEARNING

- Schools continue to conduct Online Learning and Teaching following the announcement of school holiday dates in the month of Ramadhan and Hari Raya Aidilfitri as well as the date for the beginning of Second School Term.
- Online learning platform for students and teachers with provision of bandwidth and data to enable continuous learning.
- In support of online learning, the public is welcome to donate computers, laptops and tablets (new or used).
- Program Rancangan Pembelajaran di Rumah for Year 6 Students are shown through RTB Aneka and RTB GO (Every Monday to Thursday and Saturday from 8.30 am).



RESTRICTIONS OF EXIT AND ENTRY INTO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

- Travel ban out of Brunei Darussalam in effect starting 16th March 2020 has been included in all application guidelines for all citizens and permanent residents to prevent the spread of COVID-19 outbreak.



- Addressing the well-being and security of Bruneian students currently studying abroad to return into the country.

- All applications to recruit new foreign workers are temporarily suspended.
- All foreign nationals/visitors including those in transit are not allowed to enter Brunei Darussalam.



CONSUMER AFFAIRS

- Enhancing telecommunication services to meet the increasing demand.



- Bilateral negotiations between the Postal Services Department, Brunei Darussalam and Pos Malaysia, Malaysia have approved for Postal Services Department as representative for item collection in Pos Miri dan Pos Limbang for recipients based in Brunei Darussalam. To facilitate the process of shipping and receiving of items purchased online from abroad, the public is encouraged to use their addresses in Brunei Darussalam.

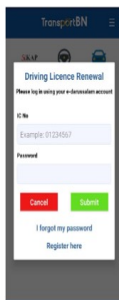
MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC

PROVIDING ALTERNATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY



- Drive-Thru for service pension payments and descendants' pension to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection and prevent congestion and overcrowding.

- Old Age Pension payment is implemented in two methods, namely through bank as additional option and the current option of payment made through Penghulu and Village Heads.



- A number of Government agencies have started to provide online services for the convenience of the public.

MAJLIS PERMUKAAN NEGARA
KEMENTERIAN KESEHATAN, BELIA DAN SUKSES

PEMBAYARAN MELALUI BANK BAGI
PENCEN UMUR TUA, PENCEN ORANG BUTA, PENCEN HILANG UPAYA,
ELAUN BERCELARU MENTAL, ELAUN KUSTA, ELAUN KURANG UPAYA

- 1 MUAT TURUN BORANG : bit.ly/elaunJAPEM
- 2 IMBAS (SCAN) ATAU GAMBAR DOKUMEN:
BORANG KAD PINTAR NOMBOR
PEMOHON & PENJAMIN AKAUN BANK
- 3 HANTAR MELALUI E-MEL:
BAHAGIAN.PENCEN@JAPEM.GOV.BN
ATAU
MASUKKAN KE DALAM:
PETI KOTAK, TINGKAT 1, RUANG LEGAR
KKBS
- 4 SEBARANG PERTANYAAN SILA HUBUNGI:
HELPLINE 141

SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

- Temporary closure of all mosques, suraus and worship halls throughout Brunei Darussalam.
- All public events and gatherings including weddings and sports events are temporarily not allowed.
- Temporary closure of several tamu/stalls in Temburong, Tutong and Belait Districts.
- Cancellation of all Gerai Ramadhan under the provision of the Municipal Department, District Department, and Youth and Sports Department.
- Suspension of the weekly Bandarku Ceria.



2. PROTECTING JOBS AND PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS

- Starting 1st April 2020, the Government provides **the full SCP contribution** for self-employed individuals for a period of six months.
- **Providing online training free-of-charge** through **Coursera**, an online learning platform that has **over 300 courses** related to business matters.
- **Life-long Learning**: Companies are encouraged to conduct **upskilling dan reskilling** trainings for their local staff, as provided by Manpower Planning and Employment Council (MPEC).
- **Contract extension for i-Ready apprentices** for a period of **six months** especially for those whose contract expires before September 2020 in the public and private sector.



- **Expanding the i-Ready Apprenticeship Program** to Level 5 Diploma (**HND or Advanced Diploma**) and **Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET)**
- **Revamping of Job Centre Brunei (JCB) Website** – Job Matching, real-time notifications for job matches, and companies would also be able to get talent profiles and compatibility reports based on the criterias of the jobs.
- **JCB will be working with private companies**, where a larger workforce is needed, by providing services such as sending SMS to **local jobseekers** and **providing pool talent** for the companies' reference and conducting interviews through its virtual platform.



SUPPORTING AND ASSISTING BUSINESSES

IN EFFECT AS OF 1ST APRIL 2020:

- **Deferment on contributions towards Employees Trust Fund (TAP) [5%] and Supplementary Contributory Pension (SCP) [3.5%] for local employees earning less than \$1,500 per month in all sectors under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with less than 100 employees – for a period of 6 months.**
- **Providing 25% salary subsidies for Bruneian employees in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with less than 100 employees – for a period of three months.**



- Deferment on principal repayments on loans for businesses and individuals.
- Trade and payment transaction fees are waived until 30th September 2020 for companies in the tourism, restaurants/cafes, air transport and imports of food and medicine sectors.
- Deferment on principal repayments on personal financing/loans and vehicle financing/loans, or restructuring loans/repayments with a period of not exceeding 10 years.
- Deferment on principal repayments on personal financing/loans related to land (hartanah), either for ownership or for investment purpose.
- Conversion of outstanding balances on credit cards into a term loan for a period not exceeding 3 years for affected individuals working in the private sector only, including the self-employed. However, this measure will not lead to an extension of the borrower's credit card limit within the 3-year period. All bank and fee charges for deferment and restructuring applications (including restructuring of outstanding balances on credit cards), excluding third party charges, will be waived until 30th December 2020. Applications for loan/financing deferment and restructuring are valid until 31st December 2020. All charges and bank payments for interbank transfers, except third party charges, will be waived until 30th September 2020.

STRATEGIES AND INITIATIVES



COVID-19 vaccine will be free for all living in Brunei



Vaccine is distributed in 3 phases:-

Phase 1:

frontliners, the elderly (over 60), and students bound for overseas study.

Phase 2: teachers, childcare workers and adults at high-risk of contracting the virus.

Phase 3: adults aged 18 and above.

Brunei starts vaccinating seniors against COVID-19

Brunei has begun inoculating its senior citizens against COVID-19. As of April, some 344 seniors have received their first dose.

- *Special lane*
- *Special counter*
- *No appointment (walk-in)*

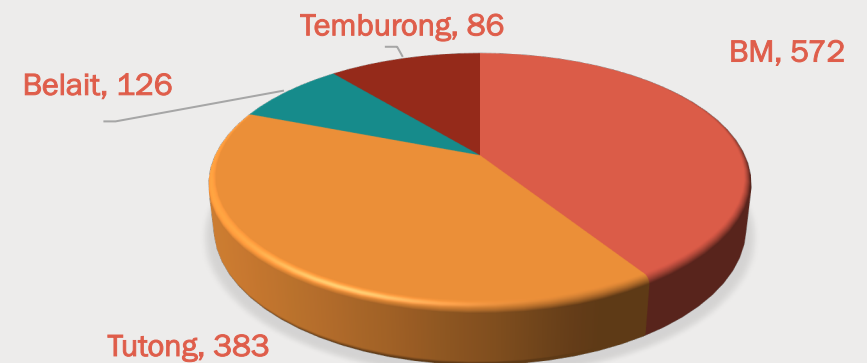


Development of Older Persons:

Senior Citizen Community and Activity Centres



- To establish a knowledge-based network between the young and the elderly.
- To support the ageing population and to help them develop a healthy and active lifestyle.



WAYS FORWARD

Whilst remarkable progress has been made towards improving the wellbeing and enhancing skills of older people, ageing is still seen as a social challenge. Ways forward include:

- Research and Data Collection – Study of Ageing
- Reviewing provision Old Age Pension and Disability Act, 1954 (amended in 1984).

THANK YOU

