



► Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2012

### PRESS CONFERENCE ON OIL SPILL AT KUALA BELAIT

The priority action in regards to the oil spill at Kuala Belait is to clean up the beach as soon as possible. Challenged with rough weather and tide conditions, the progress of the cleaning operations has run smoothly since daylight on Monday morning.

The Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation (JASTRE) will further assess and certify the completion of the cleanup operations.

Yang Mulia Awang Haji Jamain bin Julaihi, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Energy Division of the Prime Minister's Office together with members of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan Management Team (NOSCOMP) held a press conference in Belait to share the update of the situation.

Also present at the press conference were Yang Mulia Awang Haji Mohd Salihin Haji Aspar, Acting Director of Marine Department also Chairman of NOSCOMP, Ken Marnoch, Managing Director of Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd, Pengiran Md Jeffrynul Hafli, Acting Belait District Officer and representative from the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation (JASTRE).

On Sunday, Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd (BSP) reported that the spill was suspected to have originated from a single buoy mooring (SBM) leak situated approximately eight kilometers away from land. SBM is an offshore facility used to load crude oil onto the tankers.

Investigation is ongoing to ascertain the cause of the spill.

The spill has affected a portion of the Kuala Belait beach and members of the public have been advised to remain calm and refrain from venturing to the area as a crew of 100 personnel from BSP and another 20 from the Fire and Rescue Department are still in the midst of a cleanup operation that was halted yesterday due to time constraints and level of tide.

The spill has been described as a Tier One incident, which is equivalent to a "low-level" and "small scale" spill.

There are three tiers to signify the seriousness of an oil spill with Tier One being the lowest, which is under the jurisdiction of the Director of the Marine Department also Chairman of NOSCOMP.

Tier Two and Three being the highest that involve the National Oil Spill Preparedness and Response Task Force Agency Management Committee and Incident Management Team comprising other government agencies who have specific roles and responsibilities.

The Marine Department is the focal point for coordinating the planning and implementation of the NOSCOMP, which was prepared in line with the requirements of the OPRC 90 that calls for a tiered response and lays out the mechanism for responding to the respective tiers.

All oil companies operating in the country are required to have their own oil spill contingency plans or other emergency response procedures that should identify procedures responding to Tier One spills and resources available to responding to Tier Two and Three spills originating from oil industry operations.

The spill response strategy for the Brunei shoreline concentrates on preventing oil from entering the sheltered, more sensitive interior environments and from crossing international boundaries with the likely sequence of response activities being dispersant application, mechanical containment and recovery and shoreline protection.

**ENDS.**

Notes to Editors: Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd (BSP) should be referred as BSP or Brunei Shell Petroleum for abbreviation or headline purposes. Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd's activity is primarily for the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas from onshore and offshore fields. The Government of Brunei Darussalam and a company in the Royal Dutch Shell Group of Companies each owns a 50% stake in BSP.