



► Wednesday, 11th January, 2012

JASTRE DECLARES KB BEACH SAFE FOR PUBLIC USE

The joint two-day oil spill cleanup operation, initiated on Sunday last week, January 1st, came to a successful conclusion on Monday, January 2nd, as the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation (JASTRE) declared the affected beach along Jalan Maulana in Kuala Belait as clean and safe.

JASTRE issued an official report to the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan Committee on Thursday, January 5th, which stated "there were no further signs of contamination" and that the seven kilometres of affected beach in Kuala Belait was "safe for public use".

Most of the oil spill was dispersed by nature, through wave action and heavy rains, and any remaining oil that landed ashore was quickly removed by the cleanup teams.

A total of 74 tonnes of beach sand was removed throughout the cleanup operation. The sand collected was found to have very low oil contamination.

The cleanup also had strong support and presence from government agencies, which included the Marine Department, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Fire and Rescue, JASTRE, the Energy Department at the Prime Minister's Office and the local police. There were also visits by senior government officials who witnessed first-hand the cleaning operations.

Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) Managing Director, Ken Marnoch said, "On behalf of BSP, I would like to thank everyone involved in the cleanup operation for their support and effort in making it a success. We saw an example of collaboration and rapid action, in a team made up of people with different backgrounds and expertise, coming together for a common cause."

Monitoring teams further confirmed that all the nearby rivers were clear and continuous assessment showed that there was no adverse environmental impact, as the patches landed on sandy shores and the cleanup response was expedient and effective.

BSP's emergency coordination team only stood down after reconfirming that the beach was clean on Tuesday. BSP will continue to monitor the coast and its waters closely for any remaining residues of the spill.

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.