



► Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2012

### **BLESSING CEREMONY FOR INTENDING BSJV HAJ PILGRIMS**

WITH the upcoming Haj season set for early next month, millions of Muslims from all four corners of the world will be converging to the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia to perform the fifth pillar of Islam – performing the obligatory Haj pilgrimage to the birthplace of Islam.

Amongst the four hundred Haj pilgrims that will be making the obligatory once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Brunei Darussalam are 20 staff and spouses from Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd, Brunei LNG Sdn Bhd and Brunei Shell Marketing Company Sdn Bhd.

As part of BSP's employee value proposition, the organisation provides a Haj assistance scheme for its eligible Muslim staff that have successfully completed at least 10 years of service at the end of the year preceding the pilgrimage. In addition, upon normal retirement, any staff that did not claim any Haj assistance during their service, BSP has extended the period for them to claim the Haj assistance within five years of their retirement.

As is the local custom and tradition for intending Haj pilgrims prior to their send-off, BSP through the External Affairs Department, organised a blessing ceremony for staff and their spouses who will be performing their Haj later this month on Monday afternoon, September 24, 2012 at the Brunei Shell Recreation Centre's Cenderawasih Ballroom.

Among the honoured attendees at the blessing ceremony were Hj Salleh Bostaman Bin Hj Zainal Abidin, Deputy Managing Director of BSP, the pilgrims' respective supervisors, department heads and government officials from the Department of Religious Affairs to join in the prayer.

To further seek blessings from Allah the Almighty, the ceremony was further enlivened with a recital from the Holy Quran and a religious talk, which was presented by Ustaz Hj Fansuri Sharimi @ Mansur Bin Mohd Ali, an invited speaker from the Islamic Da'wah Centre. A question and answer session was also opened to the floor for pilgrims and invited guests to field questions on the Haj and other related issues.

**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.