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Pictorial article: Celebrating Ramadhan offshore

Rain or shine, there is a sector of our Muslim communities who celebrate Ramadhan or Eid away from their beloved home and families as they have to carry out their duties offshore.

Nordin Bin Hj Mohamad, Junior Guidance Counselor for Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP), who leads the religious activities at Ampa-9 shared that it was a matter of getting used to the offshore life and appreciating what it has to offer. Like the other BSP offshore employees, he is on a two-week on and two-week off shift.

“This is my second Ramadhan offshore. I also experienced Aidilfitri offshore for the first time at Ampa-9 last year. It was quite a life-changing experience for me as I have never been away from my family for Aidilfitri throughout my whole life. Initially I was sad but I managed to overcome it. I just have to be stronger, as I really like what I am doing for a living now.”

Touching on the Ramadhan activities, he said, “My colleague Sahril has been leading the religious activities since the first day of Ramadhan at Ampa 9 with Terawih, witir prayers and recital of Al-Quran activities. Alhamdulillah, the Ampa staff have completed reciting the 30 juz of Al-Quran for 13 times to date.

“For Terawih prayers, there has been good rapport and response from staff, and we would also end the Tadarus Al-Quran reading circle, which is open for everyone.”

For most of those working on board Ampa-9, Champion-7, vessels or barges, their duties exposed them to the sun, humidity and sea challenges. These, however, have never hindered them from being steadfast in performing their daily religious obligations including during the holy month of Ramadhan. It is because it is not only a month to refrain from food but also a time to recharge faith and reap the many benefits and rewards.



Terawih mass prayer at Champion 7



Break of fast at Ampa 9



Terawih mass prayer at Ampa 9 led by Nordin Hj Mohamad



Preparing one of the snacks for the break of fast at Ampa 9



Get together after the Terawih prayer

Ends.