

## Ceri Powell: Comic book launch

Good afternoon – Salam Sejahtera.

First and foremost, may I formally welcome our esteemed guests Dayang Hajah Aisah and Awang Herman from the Ministry of Education. I would also like to thank the organizers for inviting me to be part of this afternoon's very special occasion; with a very big thanks to Steph Straatman and her father Rudy, and their supporting team, whose brainchild it was to make a beautiful comic book about the unique plant and animal life of Brunei.

Brunei Shell Petroleum is a strong partnership between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Shell that has thrived for 90 years. Our commitment is to the nation, to the communities in which we operate and to the environment around us. Consideration for the natural habitat is an integral part of our business, and BSP is proud to play a leading role in many efforts to preserve it: the rainforests; the peat forests; and the coastal environment.

And here we are in Panaga. We are honoured to live in Panaga, and we are privileged to live in Panaga's special environment. Here our staff and their families have made nesting boxes for Hornbills, founded "The Last Straw" to help curb plastic straws, and contributing to the Asian waterbird census through birdwatching for migratory birds.

All this of course would not have been possible without the help of the Panaga Natural History Society and the passion and dedication of its members to organize bird watching, lectures, and publish books on the rich wildlife of Brunei to name but a few. And now they are also sponsoring "*Raffie and Simpor: Wild Adventures*".

For me as Managing Director of BSP, it is so important that we value the biodiversity around us, and support education on this nation's rich, diverse and pristine natural heritage. And take action, from waste recycling to beach clean-

ups, to contributing funds and expertise to support initiatives at national and Belait District level. That is why I am delighted with this wonderful book that will play a role in that education in an informative and fun way.

BSP is delighted to sponsor 1,100 comic books about Raffie and Simpor as they rediscover flora and fauna in Brunei in a well-researched and attractively illustrated story on the tropical rainforest and traditional lifestyles.

I hope this encourages the younger generation to have an even keener interest in the rich plant and animal life around them. And I hope Raffie and Simpor will have the chance to enjoy many more adventures in future editions to come!

Thank you, Terima Kasih.