

**BSP Managing Director Welcome Remarks
Launch Event of BSP Travelling Photo Gallery
at the Belait District Museum
16 December 2019**

Good afternoon, Salam Sejahtera.

Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, our guest of honour today.

Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Putera Maharaja Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Ghani bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Dewa Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Rahim, member of the Legislative Council.

Yang Berhormat Awang Hanapi bin Mohamad Siput, member of the Legislative Council.

Yang Mulia Awang Abdol Hazis bin Haji Ahad, Acting Belait District Officer

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you to the launch of the Brunei Shell Petroleum Travelling Photo Gallery.

Titled 'Padang Berawa: A Country's Legacy', this travelling gallery is our way of saying thank you to the generations of people who have been part of BSP's journey over the last 90 years.

What started as an internal project to digitise our old photographs and records became a labour of love that created a unique opportunity to share our rich history captured over the years. We realized that BSP's history is deeply interwoven with the history and growth of the Nation.

Our intrepid Communications & External Affairs team went through the BSP archives and found photos and films; some of which had endured floods,

condensation, leaks and mould. The scale is enormous. More than 30,000 photographs have been digitized already. But there are 200 film reels left to go!

Braving scorpions and snakes, they kept unearthing precious gems and so we came to believe this legacy should be shared across the nation.

Therefore, with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, we connected with the Brunei Museum Department to explore how we can do this. The idea of holding a travelling exhibition across the districts came about and here we are, being the first to look at never-before-published photographs from back in the day.

The images you see here today tell a story of the people, places, and ways of working at BSP in the old days. But more importantly, they paint a picture of the Belait community through the ages.

In launching this exhibit in this museum here today we also step into a piece of history. This house has itself a long and rich history; it used to be home to the British Resident in those years before Brunei's independence. After 1984, it then became home to those holding the eminent role of the Belait District Officer before conversion ultimately to the Belait District Museum.

This marriage of two great histories make this a special day for us and we thank, in their absence, the photographers who captured these amazing images so that we can relive those times today.

We chose to call the collection Padang Berawa, or Field of Wild Pigeons, because that field, now known as Seria Town, is the true birthplace of Brunei's prosperity.

We are very proud to share the Padang Berawa collection with you. It is a great privilege to stand here together to honour those before us and to inspire those delivering for BSP, Belait and Brunei today and tomorrow.

Please, join us in viewing the gallery. Thank you.

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