

Unsung Heroes in the Sea: BSP Offshore Crews Celebrate National Day



Crew of Brunei Shell Petroleum's Champion 7 in a group photo

Every year on February 23rd, Bruneians across the country celebrate National Day with much passion and energy. While thousands gather in colourful and patriotic ensembles at Taman Haji Sir Muda Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, hundreds of BSP employees don their orange coveralls in the middle of the sea. The locations are different, but the intent is similar – to display their sense of pride and patriotism.

The celebration of National Day offshore is a special BSP tradition. Festivities are scheduled into the weekly operational plan for manned platforms and complexes to make sure that National Day is safely celebrated, whilst ensuring critical day-to-day activities continue to be carried out and stable production is maintained.

For the Offshore Installation Manager of the *Champion 7* Complex, Dk Sapiah binti Pg Ismail, that means making sure all frontline personnel are on standby and on call. Dk Sapiah is accountable for the safety of the *Champion 7* platform and the people working within its vast complex. Her efforts ensure that the "24-hour operation" is maintained smoothly so that the nation is provided with the energy needed to keep the lights on and the cars running.



Complex Offshore Installation Manager at Champion 7 Dk Sapiah binti Pg Ismail

Showing Appreciation with Mass Prayers

Celebrations offshore begin on the eve of National Day, when crew members gather for mass Maghrib prayers with recitation of *Surah Yassin* and *Doa Selamat*. At the crack of dawn the next morning, the sea is greeted by a mass of orange coveralls waving the Brunei flag and marching with pride, work boots clunking on the steel platforms. The revelry continues with the hoisting of the national flag to the sound of the Brunei national anthem filling the air. Next up, the recital of the National Day *Ikrar* followed by a special *makan-makan* before crew members resume their operations.

Over on *Fairley 4*, Zulfadli bin Zaili, a Field Production Operator shares his joy and pride when asked about celebrating National Day offshore, "Frontline work is physically and mentally challenging. There are times when you have to work for extended hours, battling the hot sun, bad weather, big waves and sea sickness. But Brunei needs energy, and it's important to remember that."



Field Production Operator at Fairley 4 Zulfadli bin Zaili

Menjayakan Wawasan Negara

Hj Syamaizar bin Hj Mat Daud, Operation Installation Manager of *Ampa 9*, shares how honoured he is to be working offshore on National Day, "I personally feel an honour working offshore, as the nature of our job is to directly fuel Brunei's present and future".



Operation Installation Manager at Ampa 9 Hj Syamaizar bin Hj Mat Daud

This proud feeling is a common sentiment, highlighting the uniqueness of celebrating National Day offshore. It is celebrating Brunei while providing the energy that fuels the nation. For the people offshore, the hardships of living and working in the middle of the sea away from relatives and friends are secondary to what it means for the country.

"Our number one priority is safety, and a safe operation means a stable operation - this leads to a stable cash flow for the country," adds Hj Syamaizar. "However, the meaning of *Menjayakan Wawasan Negara* goes beyond delivering for today. It is also thinking about tomorrow".

Bruneian-led, Today and Tomorrow

For *Ampa 6* Electrical Supervisor, Nur Hazirah binti Abdul Rahman, National Day is a time to reflect on a shared duty to ensure Brunei will continue to have highly skilled individuals. This includes making sure that there is always room for continuous improvement.

"Our continuous improvement culture at BSP ensures that the teams we lead have the right trainings, the right knowledge, and the right competence to ensure that we deliver not just for BSP, but for Brunei Darussalam. Not just today, but for many more years to come. "



Electrical Supervisor at Ampa 6 Nur Hazirah binti Abdul Rahman

This sentiment is echoed by Abdul Haziq Hazmi bin Haji Abd Nasir, *Champion 7* Graduate Production Analyst who believes that part of realising Brunei's Vision 2035 is by continuously learning from his offshore colleagues with many more years of experience.

"It is to ensure that myself and others can develop to contribute to Wawasan Brunei 2035 aspiration of ensuring our people are highly educated and highly competent. In addition, I can contribute with sharing the knowledge and learnings to develop others as well," He said.



Graduate Production Analyst at Champion 7 Abdul Haziq Hazmi bin Haji Abd Nasir

Proudly Celebrating National Day

Dk Sapiah sums up National Day celebrations as a reminder of how far we have come as a country, "While we celebrate more than 90 years of fuelling Brunei Darussalam in BSP, we are grateful to be living in Brunei as a peaceful and blessed country that has been independent for 36 years. As a Bruneian, we should be proud of how Brunei has developed in the last 36 years, and the sense of pride should always be sustained and be reminded to our future generation. It is a reminder for everyone to contribute to the development of the country, and to continue fuelling Brunei's future".



Crew of Brunei Shell Petroleum's Ampa 9 in a group photo



Crew of Brunei Shell Petroleum's Fairley 4 in a group photo



Champion 7 crew celebrate the National Day offshore