LEGAL YEAR 2026



LEGAL YEAR

2026

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah
ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien
Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam

EXCERPTS

FROM HIS MAJESTY'S TITAH

"Sesungguhnya adalah harapan Beta supaya pada suatu ketika nanti semua pegawai-pegawai dan kakitangan kehakiman kita akan kesemuanya terdiri dari rakyat Beta iaitu sepertimana juga kedudukan Jabatan Undang-Undang sekarang. Tetapi yang penting sekali ialah memelihara kedudukan Kehakiman yang adil dan saksama. Kearah itu Beta menggesa rakyat Beta khususnya mereka yang masih berada di bangku sekolah dan institusi-institusi pengajian tinggi untuk juga memilih mata pelajaran-mata pelajaran undang-undang supaya pada satu ketika nanti mereka dapat memainkan peranan yang penting di dalam pentadbiran kehakiman dan kepeguaman baik di sektor Kerajaan mahu pun di sektor swasta."

Petikan Titah Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda
Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah,
Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam
sempena Istiadat Pembukaan Rasmi Bangunan Baru Mahkamah Besar
Negara Brunei Darussalam pada 15hb Mac 1984.

"Although it is my hope that one day all our judicial officers and staff would be from my subjects as can be found in the Legal Department now, but the most important factor is the maintenance of the status of a just and impartial judiciary. Towards this end I call upon my subjects especially those who are still in schools and institutes of higher learning to choose law as a subject which they should pursue so that in future they would be able to play an important role in the administration of justice and laws either in the public sector or the private sector."

Titah of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin
Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam
at the Official Opening of the New Supreme Court Building of
Brunei Darussalam on 15th March, 1984.



CHIEF JUSTICE
SUPREME COURT

The Honourable Chief Justice
Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong Wan Oon

FOREWORD

ACTING CHIEF REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT
Hajah Hazarena binti Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Jaya Dato Paduka Haji Hurairah
Chairperson of the Organising Committee



بِسۡمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحۡمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

The year 2025 marked a period of significant consolidation, innovation, and international cooperation for the Judiciary. Across all divisions, the courts continued to uphold the principles of fairness, independence, and efficiency while progressing major reform initiatives that strengthen Brunei Darussalam's justice system in alignment with His Majesty's titah and the Judiciary's long-term strategic vision.

2025 was a year defined by progress, collaboration, and institution-building. The Judiciary strengthened its international partnerships, modernised its internal systems, expanded its training agenda, and implemented reforms designed to enhance quality justice for all court users. Several new circulars and practice directions were introduced covering practising certificates, bankruptcy procedures, AI governance, internal HR and training policies, and trust account management resulting in more consistent and transparent court administration.

As we look toward 2026, the Judiciary reaffirms its commitment to delivering quality justice grounded in integrity, independence, and fairness. In alignment with His Majesty's titah emphasising the importance of cultivating a competent and locally rooted judiciary,

the year ahead will focus on enhancing judicial services, strengthening human capital, and modernising our systems to meet the evolving expectations of court users.

Amid increasing complexity in legal disputes, the Judiciary's mission remains constant: to administer justice effectively, efficiently, and without delay. The coming year will build upon the foundations laid in previous strategic initiatives by prioritising the following key areas:

1. Elevating the Quality of Justice

2026 will see renewed focus on improving the consistency, clarity, and quality of decision - making across all levels of court. This includes:

- Strengthening judicial and bench skills through targeted courses for judicial officers at all tiers.
- Enhancing case management practices, ensuring adherence to timelines, minimising adjournments, and improving the pace of case disposal.
- Expanding mediation in both civil and commercial matters to promote early resolution and reduce litigation costs for court users.
- Publishing more judgments and sentencing decisions to reinforce transparency, accessibility, and the development of local jurisprudence.

These measures directly support the Judiciary's ongoing commitment to public confidence, accountability, and access to justice.

2. Improving Services and User Experience

In line with the Civil Court Strategic Plan's focus on access, service quality, and technological integration, 2026 will prioritise upgrades to improve the delivery of court services:

- Enhancement of the e-Filing, e-JCMS, and e-QMS platforms, allowing for smoother user interactions and better tracking of case progress.
- Continued use of electronic hearings, particularly in interlocutory matters, to save time and resources.
- Improved court forms, SOPs, and guidelines, including updated templates for litigants-in-person.
- Strengthening registry support, ensuring timely issuance of orders, file management, and communication with parties.

The Judiciary aims to ensure that all court users, litigants, lawyers, witnesses, and members of the public and receive services that are timely, fair, courteous, and accessible.

3. Investing Heavily in Training & Capacity Building

2026 will place training and professional development at the centre of judicial improvement. Key initiatives include:

- Attachments and study visits to partner courts in Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, and the UK to broaden exposure to comparative practices.

- Continuous learning on specialised areas such as:
  - commercial law,
  - cybercrime,
  - child protection,
  - insolvency,
  - digital evidence,
  - sentencing frameworks.

A strong emphasis is placed on judicial craft, including fair hearing management, neutral reasoning, credibility assessments, and procedural discipline.

4. Enhancing Efficiency Through Technology and Structural Reform

The Judiciary will continue modernising its operations by:

- Expanding the use of technology courts, remote hearings, and digital transcription.

- Rolling out improvements to data collection, statistics, and performance monitoring, enabling more accurate clearance rate and backlog evaluation.

- Progressing with the proposed restructuring of administrative units, allowing judicial officers to focus more on judicial work while corporate and policy units handle administrative functions.

These reforms aim to create a judicial system that is not only more efficient, but more resilient, responsive, and future-ready.

5. Building a Judiciary Rooted in Local Talent

Consistent with the national aspiration for a judiciary composed primarily of Bruneian judges and officers, 2026 will focus on expanding the pool of competent local judicial talent through:

- meaningful rotational postings,

- exposure to complex High Court and Intermediate Court matters,

- leadership development,

- targeted skills enhancement, and

- structured progression pathways.

This long-term effort reinforces His Majesty's vision for a strong and credible judiciary anchored in local expertise, supported where necessary by experienced foreign judges to ensure continuity and judicial excellence.

Conclusion

As the Judiciary moves into 2026, its priorities remain clear: to strengthen the quality of justice, improve the delivery of services, invest deeply in people and training, and continually modernise processes to meet the needs of the nation.

With unwavering dedication from judges, judicial officers, and supporting staff, and guided by His Majesty's titah, the Judiciary will continue to uphold the rule of law, protect the rights of all court users, and advance Brunei Darussalam's vision of a world-class judicial system.

JUDICIARY'S **MISSION STATEMENT**

OBJECTIVE

"Upholding the Rule of Law"

MISSION

"Administration of Justice"

GOALS

"Securing Justice"
"Enhancing Access to Justice"
"Preserving Public Trust and Confidence"

PRINCIPLE

"To faithfully discharge judicial duties"
"To do right to all manner of people after the Laws and Usage of Brunei Darussalam without fear or favour, affection or ill will to the best of their ability"
"To be faithful and bear true allegiance to Brunei Darussalam"

VALUES

"Taqwa"
"Independence"
"Accountability"
"Timeliness"
"Accessibility"
"Equality and Fairness"
"Integrity"



LEGAL YEAR 2025

SPEECHES

CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

The Hon. Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong Wan Oon



The Honourable Attorney General,

Yang Amat Arif/Yang Berhormat Chief Syarie Judge,

Yang Mulia Deputy Minister for Security and Law, Prime Minister's Office,

President of the Law Society,

Members of the Bar,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I. Introduction

1. Welcome to the Opening of the Legal Year 2025. It is an honour for me to address you here this morning. The Opening of the Legal Year ceremony signifies a moment for reflection, renewal and affirmation of our commitment to justice and the rule of law. Today, as we convene to mark this occasion, we do so in an environment of rapid change and rising complexity. The challenges we face – whether legal, social or technological – demand adaptability, foresight and a steadfast dedication to our shared values.

2. Over the last year, our courts have continued to uphold the rule of law with impartiality, fairness and efficiency. Yet, as we navigate an increasingly interconnected and digitized world, we must evolve to meet the needs of our time. To this end, I am pleased to announce several key initiatives.

II. Key Initiatives for 2025

A. Upgrade of JCMS

3. Our Judicial Case Management System (JCMS) was introduced in March 2015 as part of the Judiciary's strategic plan to achieve excellence through the delivery of quality services, improved accessibility, and the integration of technology in the courts. However, technology advances very rapidly and there is a constant need to actively review systems and obtain upgrades. There has been a significant demand for new features aimed at enhancing the court's overall services, not only for internal users but also for stakeholders and the public.

4. It is no longer a matter of choice but a necessity for any Judiciary to upgrade its systems in order to operate effectively and efficiently in delivering justice. I am delighted to share that this year, the Judiciary intends to develop JCMS 2.0 in order to enhance and expand the platform's functions to its fullest potential and also support the country's aim to transform into a Smart Nation – one driven by digital government, digital economy and digital society.

B. Civil Procedure Reforms

5. The civil litigation system empowers individuals and businesses to assert and enforce their rights and offers mechanisms for the resolution of disputes. Civil justice is essential not only for upholding the rule of law but also for fostering a robust economy and ensuring a fair and just society. And in order to support Brunei Darussalam's Wawasan 2035 to become a dynamic and sustainable economy, our civil litigation process needs to align and reflect socio-economic realities, harness technological advances and adapt to meet the needs of court users of today.

Looking ahead, changes are needed to improve and update the civil litigation system and enhance access to justice and improve efficiency.

6. I therefore call upon the Acting Chief Registrar to establish a working committee to draw on the expertise of members of the Judiciary, Attorney General's Chambers and the Law Society to review our civil procedure rules and decide how best to create a modern and efficient civil litigation system. It is imperative that we work together to propose reforms and identify ways to improve civil justice in such a way that it will serve and benefit court users now and also in the future. I look forward to seeing the working committee drive the reforms and make the system effective for the 21st century.

C. Restorative Family Justice

7. As a society, we place great importance on the family institution and providing support to families when dealing with issues such as divorce, separation, child custody arrangements and maintenance is essential. In delivering family justice, we strive to ensure that our courts meet the needs of the families we serve by resolving disputes in a timely manner and with minimal disruption. However, the family justice system cannot be considered in isolation. The Judiciary's vision for restorative family justice supports the country's Wawasan 2035 Social Blueprint in which one of its key aspirations is to empower strong, caring and resilient families.

8. To this end, we propose to strengthen our family justice system to ensure that our judicial processes promote mediation, reconciliation and long-term societal well-being in helping families heal. We are keen to collaborate and are looking to work actively with relevant agencies when handling family related judicial work to help families have more access to mediation, counselling and encouraging early family advice on options, processes and rights and responsibilities.

This would contribute to the broader national effort to support families and reduce the impact of conflict on children and I would welcome all stakeholders in the legal, health and social care sectors to come together to make family justice more accessible and fit for purpose.

D. Mentorship Programs and Training Opportunities

9. Mentorship is an important part of one's journey in law and all young lawyers should actively cultivate and seek opportunities for mentoring. It facilitates the transmission of skills and helps pass down the legal profession's ethics, values and traditions. The invaluable experience and expertise of mentors can play a pivotal role in shaping the modern Bar,

unlocking potential in mentees, and empowering young lawyers to achieve their goals and excel. I believe strongly in the value of mentorship to foster professional growth in our legal community and I hope that members of the fraternity will consider instituting a mentorship scheme in order to support the future of the legal profession in Brunei.

10. I would also encourage lawyers to seek further educational and training opportunities. Joining mooting and debating workshops and competitions are valuable when honing oral advocacy skills during one's formative years of practice in litigation. In addition, developing legal competence in the field of data and the digital economy will also be helpful when lawyers are expected to address and advise on legal issues involving technology regulatory matters ranging from e-Commerce, data privacy and protection, cybersecurity and cybercrime. I would also like to emphasize the importance of having the necessary skills and ethical standards to navigate practising law in the age of AI.

E. Guidelines on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

11. On a related note, I am pleased to share that the Judiciary will be introducing guidelines on the use of generative AI for judges and judicial officers. The guidelines will establish general rules and guiding principles on the use of AI in carrying out judicial duties. I must stress that AI lends support to but does not replace judicial functions and principles of judicial independence, impartiality and accountability must continuously be upheld. Indeed, it is important to capitalise on the benefits of deploying AI technologies, while also clearly defining the very human role in the administration of justice. Following from this, I would also suggest that the Law Society look into producing guidelines for members of the legal profession who use, or are looking to use generative AI tools as part of their practice.

F. Insolvency Reforms

12. In July 2024, we held a briefing on Insolvency and Restructuring matters with stakeholders from the Ministry of Finance and Economy, Prime Minister's Office and the Attorney General's Chambers. The briefing was delivered by Justice Kannan Ramesh, Judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Singapore on "Insolvency and Restructuring: The Singapore Journey" where we had an opportunity to learn about Singapore's recent experience in reforming their insolvency and restructuring regime.

13. In summary, Singapore has moved away from its creditor-driven model in prioritizing the rights of creditors for dealing with insolvencies. They have since moved towards a regime that places greater emphasis on rehabilitation and preserving the value of the business.

14. Singapore has introduced pre-bankruptcy initiatives such as the Debt Repayment Scheme which enables debtors with unsecured debts to enter into a debt repayment plan with their creditors and avoid bankruptcy, along with its restrictions and social stigma. Singapore has also recognized the need to support individuals address their unsecured debt problems and through a non-profit organization, Credit Counselling Singapore (CCS), it has assisted over 35,000 people through education, credit counselling and facilitated debt restructuring.

15. Following the briefing, we began to seek the views of various government agencies on:

> i. Whether Brunei Darussalam's current bankruptcy and insolvency regime is sufficient to meet the needs of the business community;

ii. Whether the current regime is user-friendly and accessible for individuals and companies;

iii. Whether there are gaps that ought to be addressed in the current bankruptcy and insolvency laws and framework in Brunei Darussalam; and

iv. Whether Brunei Darussalam should look to reform its bankruptcy and insolvency laws and framework to a structure similar to that of Singapore.

16. Our next course of action will be to work with the Law Society and seek their views on the same issues mentioned. I must reiterate that all stakeholders should recognise the importance of an effective insolvency and restructuring ecosystem in bringing benefits for our economy in promoting entrepreneurship, access to finance and economic growth. Indeed, this will require a whole-of-nation approach and reforming Brunei Darussalam's insolvency and restructuring regime will only be possible with a concerted and collective effort of all stakeholders.

III. Key Developments in 2024

A. Statistics

17. I will now reflect on the events over the past year and begin with a summary of our court statistics for the 12-month period ending in December 2024. High clearance rates were achieved in Magistrates' Court civil cases at 100% and Magistrates' Court criminal cases at 90%, marking a substantial improvement from the previous year's clearance rates of 83% and 80% respectively. Meanwhile, Intermediate Court criminal cases achieved a clearance rate of 92%.

18. In terms of time taken for the delivery of judgments, 88% of judgments for Magistrates' Court criminal cases were delivered within three months from the close of submissions, whereas 75% of judgments were delivered within three months from the close of submissions in High Court civil cases.

19. The total number of criminal cases filed in the Magistrates' Court have shown an overall decrease from 498 cases filed in 2023 to 481 filed in 2024. There is a similar decrease in the number of criminal cases filed in the Intermediate Court with 58 cases filed in 2023 and 49 cases filed in 2024 and also for High Court criminal cases with 14 cases filed in 2023 and 12 filed in 2024.

20. Statistics have shown that the number of applications for registration of marriages have dropped significantly from 115 in 2023 to 66 in 2024, while there has been a rise in number of divorce petitions filed. The number of chamber hearings in the High Court and Intermediate Court before Registrars showed a marked increase from 497 in 2023 to 535 in 2024. The Probate Registry also saw an increase in the number of applications for letters of administration, with a total of 768 applications received in 2024. Similarly, the Official Receiver's Chambers saw an increase in the number of bankruptcy notices filed from 344 in 2023 to 350 in 2024. There was also a rise in the number of winding up orders made, with 9 companies going into liquidation in 2023 and 15 in 2024.

B. International Engagement

21. I turn now to our international engagement and our efforts to foster long term partnerships with fellow Judiciaries. It has been one of our busiest years and we have seen significant progress in strengthening our communication, collaboration and cooperation with key jurisdictions.

22. We formalized our substantive engagements bilaterally with a Memorandum of Judicial Cooperation (MOJC) with the Federal Court of Malaysia and with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Judicial Branch of the Republic of Peru. We had the honour of hosting Chief Justice Tun Tengku Maimun binti Tuan Mat and her delegation for the signing of the MOJC in Brunei Darussalam in March 2024. I then had the opportunity to visit to the Palace of Justice in Lima in November 2024, where we were kindly hosted by President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Peru, Dr Javier Arevalo Vela for the signing of our MOU.

23. Continuing to build on our regional partnerships, the Australian High Commission facilitated an introductory meeting online with Chief Justice William Alstergren of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia in February 2024. Chief Justice Alstergren and I had productive discussions on case management and mediation for matters involving families and children and we look forward to supporting the Australia-Brunei comprehensive partnership under the pillar of judicial cooperation.

24. Subsequently in March 2024, I represented our Judiciary at the 8th Judicial Seminar on Commercial Litigation in Hong Kong SAR and in November 2024 at the 11th Meeting of The Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) in the Philippines.

25. In July 2024, we were honoured to host Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon and his delegation as part of the first annual bilateral meeting between our Judiciary and the Supreme Court of Singapore. It was a privilege to have Chief Justice Menon deliver a keynote speech at the Supreme Court on "The role of an effective and efficient judiciary in promoting economic development: the Singapore perspective" to over 230 attendees, comprising of members of the legal fraternity, law students and representatives from various Government ministries and departments.

26. We commemorated the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China with a visit to Beijing and Shanghai in September 2024, which was facilitated by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China. I had the pleasure of meeting His Excellency Zhang Jun, Chief Justice of the People's Republic of China where he and I expressed our shared commitment to fostering stronger judicial ties between both jurisdictions with a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

27. We then welcomed the Secretary for Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (Hong Kong SAR), His Excellency Mr. Paul Lam, SC on his first working visit to Brunei Darussalam in September 2024. The Secretary for Justice's visit to Brunei Darussalam signified an important milestone following the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between our Supreme Court and the Hong Kong Department of Justice (DoJ) in May 2023.

28. In October 2024, I had the privilege of attending the Opening of the Legal Year in England and Wales, which marked the first time a Chief Justice from Brunei Darussalam has ever attended. I had the opportunity to meet with the Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales, the Right Honourable Dame Sue Carr and had the pleasure of reconnecting with the Master of the Rolls, the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Vos and Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, the Right Honourable Lord Hodge.

29. During our time in London, I was also able to meet with Bruneian law students at the Brunei High Commission. It was the first time a Chief Justice and members of the Judiciary engaged with Bruneian law students based in the United Kingdom. I was encouraged by the continuing interest of Bruneian students to study law and practice law and the Judiciary is committed to supporting students and graduates on their journey in law as they have an important to role to play in leading the legal profession of Brunei into the future.

30. Exchanges between judiciaries foster capacity-building and the adoption of best practices. Judicial cooperation builds trust and respect between nations by ensuring fair and transparent legal processes. It contributes to broader diplomatic and economic relations by creating a predictable environment for international trade and investment.

C. Establishment of Joint Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC)

31. I am pleased to report on the establishment of the Joint Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) in May 2024 where the Acting Chief Registrar together with committee members from the Judiciary, Attorney General's Chambers, and Law Society work together to address inter-related legal issues that are faced by the fraternity.

32. There are currently six working groups under the JLAC that are tasked to deal with amendments to the Legal Profession Act (LPA), amendments to the Legal Profession Act Rules, the institution of a Continuing Professional Development framework, the procedure on admission to the Bar, the McKenzie Friends scheme and updates to the personal injury awards guidelines.

33. Significant progress has been made by the JLAC with the following amendments to the Legal Profession Act and Legal Profession (Practice and Etiquette) Rules having been submitted to the Legal Draftsman at the Attorney General's Chambers:

i. Amendments allowing the Council of the Law Society to apply to cancel a practicing certificate, where previously it was only the Attorney General that could cancel a practicing certificate;

ii. Amendments to streamline the disciplinary process of advocates and solicitors with the establishment a Review committee where unfounded complaints can be disposed of summarily by a committee of 2 persons and with the Inquiry committee composition reduced from 4 persons to 3, where previously a full inquiry committee of 4 persons was required to be convened;

iii. Amendments to allow the Chief Registrar to impose conditions on the grant of a practicing certificate, specifically to impose conditions on the grant of a practicing certificate in the event that an advocate and solicitor has an outstanding civil judgment of over BND 50,000.00 which has not been settled in full within 6 months;

iv. Amendments to govern conduct in relation to professional fees and costs, for legal professionals to act in the best interests of his or her client and to charge the client fairly for work done;

v. Amendments to address the conduct of alternative dispute resolution process by legal practitioners;

vi. Amendments to prohibit an advocate and solicitor to be in partnership in their practice with an unqualified person;

vii. Amendments to prohibit legal practitioners from touting or carrying out any trade which is declared by the Chief Justice or the Law Society as unsuitable for an advocate or solicitor to engage in; and

viii. Amendments to address allegations against another legal practitioner.

D. Appreciation

34. Please allow me to conclude with some acknowledgements. Firstly, I warmly congratulate the Attorney General, Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Paduka Dayang Hajah Nor Hashimah binti Haji Mohammed Taib, on her appointment. I look forward to continued cooperation with the Attorney General's Chambers in upholding the principles of justice and rule of law that underpin our society.

35. Let me also express my appreciation to Dato Seri Paduka Haji Ahmad bin Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Di-Raja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa for his contributions during his time as Attorney General and I extend him my best wishes for the future.

36. I also congratulate Mr. Haji Mohammad Zainidi Bin Haji Abdul Hamid on his new role as President of the Law Society. I look forward to further enhancing the partnership between the Bench and the Bar. Mr. Haji Mohammad Zainidi succeeds Ms. Nur Azizah binti Dato Seri Paduka Hj Ahmad and I wish to thank Ms. Nur Azizah for her valuable contributions to the legal fraternity through her active involvement with the Joint Legal Affairs Committee and extend our appreciation for the service she has rendered to the profession

37. Let me also welcome the appointments of Magistrate Muhammad Qamarul Affyian bin Abdul Rahman and Registrar Raihan Nabilah binti Haji Ahmad Ghazali. They bring with them their years of experience as Deputy Public Prosecutors at the Attorney General's Chambers and this will certainly add to the strength of our Bench.

38. In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to the Acting Chief Registrar, as well as the officers and staff of the Judiciary for their meticulous preparations for today. I also extend my sincere thanks to the Prime Minister's Office, the State Judiciary Department, the Department of Adat Istiadat Negara, the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation and the Accident and Emergency Department of RIPAS Hospital for their invaluable support and assistance.

39. My appreciation also goes to Royal Brunei Police Force for the Guard of Honour Parade, it continues a meaningful ceremonial tradition that serves as a reminder of the Royal Brunei Police Force's important role in the justice system.

40. Thank you all for your presence and I wish each of you a happy, healthy and fulfilling year ahead.



THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
The Hon. Datin Seri Paduka Dayang Hajah Nor Hashimah binti Haji Muhammed Taib

بِسْمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحْمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

A Very Good Morning To All.

May it please Your Honours

Yang Amat Arif Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong, Honourable Chief Justice;

Yang Amat Arif / Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Syarie Judge;

Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Sufian bin Haji Sabtu, Deputy Minister (Security and Law) at the Prime Minister's Office;

Honourable Judicial Commissioners;

Yang Mulia Solicitor General;

Yang Mulia President of the Law Society of Brunei Darussalam;

Members of the Law Society of Brunei Darussalam and the legal fraternity;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Alhamdulillah, with the blessings of Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala we are able to gather here today to observe an important legal tradition, reaffirm our collective commitment to uphold the rule of law and to serve the public with honour and integrity.

Throughout my career, I have sat in this audience, listening attentively to the profound words of Chief Justices, Attorney Generals, and presidents of the Law Society. I admired their wisdom, their ability to inspire, and the responsibility they carried. Never did I imagine that one day, I would address this distinguished audience as Attorney General. It is both a humbling honour and a solemn duty, and I am privileged to lead a strong organisation rooted in justice, excellence, and unwavering dedication to public service.

I have had some time away from Chambers to serve His Majesty's Government in other capacities. This experience has allowed me to gain fresh perspectives and insights, which I now bring back to Chambers to further strengthen our delivery of legal service, and thereby support the Judiciary in the administration of justice, amongst others.

Rule of Law

At the heart of any thriving nation lies a steadfast commitment to the rule of law. It is the foundation of trust, justice and progress. This principle is inherently aligned with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's vision for a public service defined by integrity, accountability, and adherence to laws and regulations pursuant to his titah at the 30th Hari Perkhdimatan Awam in 2023.

In 2024 significant strides were made to strengthen our legal framework. The Legal Drafting Division facilitated amendments to key legislations, which includes amongst others amendments to Employee Trust Act, the Employment Act and the introduction of law that will regulate and protect personal data.

Complementing these efforts, the Law Revision Orders Nos. 1 to 7 has incorporated 30 revised legislations into the Revised Edition of the Laws of Brunei. which ensures our laws remain up to date, and relevant, covering areas such as cybersecurity, workplace safety, and financial oversight

However, the value of these laws lies not only in their drafting but in their enforcement. For laws to achieve their purpose, they must be consistently and fairly upheld - a responsibility shared by law enforcement, public servants, and society at large. Strengthened enforcement measures and robust prosecution processes are critical to safeguarding justice, deterring misconduct, and maintaining public confidence in our institutions.

Enforcement and Prosecution

Prosecution plays a pivotal role in upholding the rule of law. Recent cases demonstrate our continuous commitment to combatting misconduct, even within public service.

Such as the recent convictions of enforcement officers who have abused their public position for their own advantage. In one case a former Assistant Narcotics Officer divulged sensitive information to further his interests. Whilst in another separate case a former Chief Senior Immigration Officer accepted valuable items on several occasions from individuals connected to his official duties. Such actions not only betray the trust placed on them as a public servant but also risks eroding public confidence in the institutions that protect and serve the public.

Further is the recent Court of Appeal decision, whereby the aggregate sentence of 9 years' imprisonment with 3 strokes of whipping imposed on a relief teacher for special needs children was upheld. In a rather challenging trial involving the use of basic sign language, anatomical dolls, photos and drawings; the special child victim was able to give convincing evidence for the Court to convict the appellant.

The conviction, upheld by the Court of Appeal, has set a precedent for how the courts evaluate evidence from victims with disabilities. It further emphasises the importance of ensuring that justice is accessible to all, regardless oftheir physical or verbal limitations.

These cases demonstrate a common thread: they represent a betrayal of trust, whether within families, public institutions or society at large. From the exploitation of a vulnerable child to the misuse of public office for personal gain, these acts if left unchecked or unaccounted for, risks not only in eroding confidence in the institutions that should provide security and stability, but also the integrity of the rule of law. In this regard, the officers of the Criminal Justice Division in carrying out their duties as Deputy Public Prosecutors and Prosecuting Officers stand equipped and ready to hold those who undermine the law accountable.

Consistent and impartial enforcement does more than safeguard justice; it establishes confidence and stability essential for economic growth.

As highlighted in His Majesty's titah during the New Year's address, enhancing efforts to attract more high-quality and impactful Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the country is a critical priority for the Government. This vision reflects not only the aspirations of our leadership but also the collective responsibility of every institution to support the nation's economic growth and resilience.

It is important to send a clear message to businesses and investors: this is a nation where investments are safeguarded, and operations can flourish free from the threat of corruption or instability.

Contributions Across Chambers

From developing sound legal policies to safeguarding commercial agreements and upholding prosecutorial integrity, Chambers remain steadfast in its commitment to supporting Brunei Darussalam's vision for economic resilience and development, which extends across all Divisions of Chambers.

The Civil Division has played a significant role in providing comprehensive legal support to His Majesty's Government. In the past year, the Division has been instrumental in facilitating agreements that align with Wawasan 2035 for a "A Dynamic and Sustainable Economy". Advising and negotiating on 22 Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and 157 contracts, which includes high value and complex legal issues. The Division has supported strategic investments and transformative technologies that not only to address domestic needs but also create opportunities for FDI, driving long-term value for the nation.

Our commitment to the rule of law is not merely limited to domestic rule of law, but international rule of law is just as important, by maintaining relations through exchange of information and best practices with our counterparts and international organisations and ensuring our advice is consistent with international law as well.

In that regard the International Affairs Division (IAD) continues to strengthen Brunei's alignment with global and regional standards through advising and negotiating on memorandum of understanding for cooperation, to international treaties and agreements, in particular trade agreements such as its involvement in the United Kingdom Accession Protocol to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP); and the Second Protocol to amend the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA).

Through these efforts, we can showcase Brunei Darussalam as a stable and attractive hub for investment and economic collaboration.

Further, as Secretariat to the Mutual Legal Assistance, the Communications and Strategy Division serves as focal point for Chambers processing requests from external jurisdictions. As the research arm for Chambers, the Division will ensure that we will be ready to address future and current challenges.

Simultaneously, the Intellectual Property Office of Brunei Darussalam (BrulPO) has been at the forefront of initiatives to strengthen our intellectual property ecosystem, through its many activities and awareness programmes at both domestic and international level. The recent launch of the patent examiner apprenticeship programme early this year, as part of BrulPO's efforts to establish its own local patent examination unit, underscores our commitment to build local expertise in this very important area, as well as align ourselves with initiatives to realise the Sustainable Development Goals. With tailored support from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the programme aims to equip apprentice patent examiners with specialised training and reinforce our commitment to incentivise innovation and the protect intellectual property.

Capacity Building and Training

As we move forward, Chambers recognise that investing in the development and training of our officers is not only a cornerstone of upholding the rule of law but also vital to realising its vision of providing excellence in legal service. As in preceding years, Chambers have participated in various training programmes and workshops, focusing on areas such as international law, legislative drafting, intellectual property and prosecution.

I am also proud to share a milestone achievement for Chambers where one of our officers was selected to speak as a panelist at the 11th International Association of Prosecutors Regional Conference in Hong Kong last year. This marks the first time an officer from Chambers has been invited to represent Brunei Darussalam in such a capacity, underscoring the caliber and dedication of our legal professionals.

Through specialised training programs and collaborative efforts with international institutions, Chambers is committed to nurturing a highly capable and adaptable workforce in a dynamic legal landscape.

Youth as the Future

While we continue our commitment to nurturing a highly capable and adaptable workforce within our organisation, it is imperative also to ensure the continued growth and development of the next generation of lawyers to guarantee the rule of law is upheld for years to come. Reflecting on the future of our beloved nation, I am reminded of the adage, "Alone we move faster, but together we move further." As such, the legal fraternity must fulfil our individual roles and responsibilities in upholding the rule of law while remaining aware of and appreciating the contributions of others toward this common goal.

To this end, I extend my congratulations and gratitude to the Judiciary, the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Education, the Law Society, UNISSA, the Brunei Darussalam Arbitration Centre, and all other stakeholders for their ongoing efforts to nurture the next generation of legal professionals. Your initiatives not only help shape aspiring lawyers but also provide opportunities for current practitioners to enhance their skills and competencies, ensuring preparedness to address both foreseeable and unforeseen challenges.

Moving forward, I would like to continue and strengthen collaboration with stakeholders in fortifying the foundation of our legal system through knowledgesharing and skill development initiatives.

Acknowledgment

As I draw my remarks to a close, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the officers and staff of AGC for their unwavering commitment, integrity and perseverance in fulfilling our shared mission. Though we may be small in numbers, but with our commitment to deliver excellence in legal service, I am confident that we will remain dedicated in our mission to support the Government's priorities and further realisation of Wawasan 2035.

On behalf of all the officers in Chambers, I would like to congratulate your Lordship for the Judiciary's initiatives and achievements for the past year, my Chambers remain committed to support you to ensure that justice is delivered fairly and efficiently.

Lastly, please allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate Yang Mulia Haji Muhammad Zainidi bin Haji Abdul Hamid for his election as the new President of the Law Society. A role he is no stranger to, having served in previous years. I am certain that your dedication and experience will steer the Law Society toward new achievements and promoting excellence within our legal community.

I wish Your Lordship, members of the legal fraternity and everyone present the very best for 2025.

May Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala guide us and protect us in our endeavours and grant us continued success.

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT OF LAW SOCIETY
Hj Muhammad Zainidi bin Abdul Hamid



Bismillahirrahmaanirrahiim
Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Good Morning
Your Lordship, the Honourable Justices of the Supreme Court, Yang Berhormat Attorney General, Yang Amat Arif Ketua Hakim Mahkamah Syariah, the Honourable Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, distinguished members of the Diplomatic Corps, my esteemed colleagues in the legal profession, distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen, and to our distinguished guests from foreign Bar associations who have joined us today:

It is with deep respect and gratitude that I stand before you all on this significant occasion to commemorate the Opening of the Legal Year 2025. I am truly honored to be in the presence of all of you, and I extend a warm welcome to our esteemed international guests today:

i) Ms Lisa Sam Hui Min, President, Law Society of Singapore;
ii) Mr Muhd Ezri b Abdul Wahab, President, Malaysia Bar Association;
iii) Mr Gurvir Singh Sandhu, President, Advocates Association of Sarawak;
iv) Mr Ryan Soo, Vice-President, Sabah Law Association
v) Mr Amirali Nasir, Vice President, The Law Society of Hong Kong;
vi) Mr Steven Thiru, Vice President and President Elect, Commonwealth Law Association

Thank you for being with us today. This event provides an opportunity not only to reflect on our journey and achievements over the past year but also to renew our collective commitment to upholding the rule of law and advancing the standards of legal practice in Brunei Darussalam.

I wish to thank your Lordship and Yang Berhormat Datin AG on your kind words on my new appointment and I would also like to congratulate Yang Berhormat Datin on your appointment last year and also to the new addition to the Judiciary of last year.

In my speech today, I will be looking back at the work done by the Law society since the Opening of the last Legal year to date as well as the initiative that we intend to take in 2025.

The Law Society's Work from 2024 to date.

In 2024, the Law Society of Brunei Darussalam had an eventful and productive year. Our efforts were focused on three core priorities: i.e. fostering professional development, addressing the concerns of our members, and strengthening relationships both locally and internationally.

Our work in 2024 has been marked by significant engagement with stakeholders. The Council members held meaningful dialogues with the Registry of Companies and Business Names (ROCBN) to discuss the possibility of the coming into force of the Limited Liability Partnership Order and the evolving requirements for law firms under the Legal Profession Act and the Law Society Order. In April 2024 new guidelines were issued stipulating that prior to any new business name registration or changes to law firms' business name particulars, the Law Society's approval is required. This is to ensure that the firms are properly registered with properly consisted lawyers to ensure public protection.

We also engaged with the Brunei Intellectual Property Office to address the concerns of IP practitioners, particularly regarding trade mark examination processes and patent application delays. Additionally, members of the Law Society participated in regular discussions with the Ministry of Development to review proposed amendments to the Land Code. We put forward constructive views on behalf of the stakeholders that we represent. Final discussions have been concluded and we are waiting for the enactment of the amendments.

A significant highlight in 2024 was the Law Society's involvement in the United Nations Convention against Corruption country review. Our immediate past president attended and contributed valuable insights to the country's anti-corruption efforts.

Legislative and Regulatory Developments

We also made substantial progress in updating our regulatory framework. One notable achievement was the gazetting of the Legal Profession (Professional Indemnity Insurance) Rules, 2023, which mandates that all law firms must maintain insurance coverage with a minimum indemnity of B$1 million. This is a vital step in ensuring that our profession and the public remains protected and professional standards are upheld.

Professional Development

In June 2024, in the area of professional development, the Law Society of Brunei Darussalam conducted the most comprehensive advocacy training to date. The four-day Basic Advocacy Training Course, in collaboration with the Law Society of Singapore, included a 'Train the Trainers' component and advocacy sessions for junior lawyers. This

initiative attracted participation from both private practice and colleagues from the Attorney General's Chambers, demonstrating our commitment to nurturing talent across all sectors of the legal profession.

International Engagement

On the international front, the Law Society strengthened its connections through active participation in the ASEAN Law Association and meaningful dialogues with the Hong Kong Secretary of Justice. Our council members attended the regional Opening of Legal Year ceremonies and participated in the Presidents' Round Table Discussion to discuss best practices and current issues in the legal profession. We made further progress with our already strong relationship with the Law Society of Singapore by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with them on 13th January this year.

As part of our international engagement, a member of the Law Society attended the International Conference on Legal Aid in Cambodia, where we shared insights and collaborated with global counterparts on improving access to justice. Additionally, our younger members have participated in the International Mooting Competition in Singapore in January 2024 and January 2025, furthering our commitment to fostering legal skills and global collaboration and networking.

Regulatory Responsibilities and Access to Justice

The Law Society remains committed to its regulatory duties, handling complaints and disciplinary matters with utmost transparency and according to strict statutory procedures. In 2024, we received 26 petitions for admission to the Brunei Bar and about 6 complaints lodged against practitioners. All complaints are being addressed in accordance with our regulatory framework to uphold professional standards.

Furthermore, our commitment to access to justice continues through monthly legal aid clinics and the new online legal aid application system. Through constructive liaison with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Prison Department, we achieved positive changes that have enabled our members to better fulfill their professional responsibilities in accessing their incarcerated clients.

We look forward to more improvements in this area of our practice.

Looking Ahead: Initiatives for 2025

As we step into 2025, the Law Society's priorities will focus on the following key issues:

1. Professional Development, as follows:
- Ongoing advocacy training programs,
- Alternative Dispute Resolution particularly mediation,
- A more robust continuing education framework including the introduction of continuing professional development (CPD) programs, and
- Specialized workshops tailored to emerging practice areas including upskilling in the digitalization of legal practice.

2. Regulatory Framework, namely:
- Implementation of new insurance requirements
- Updates to practice guidelines
- Streamlined administrative processes
- Review of the disciplinary process

Joint Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC)

The collaborative efforts between the Judiciary, Attorney General's Chambers, and the Law Society have been instrumental this year which is exemplified by the work of the Joint Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC). As Your Lordship has said there are currently 6 working groups that are focused on critical aspects of legal practice. Your Lordship has kindly listed out the work that we are currently doing, so I would not go through that part in my speech.

Conclusion

In conclusion, my lord, as we look back at the work done to date, it is clear that there is still much more work to be done. However, we must acknowledge that due to our relatively small membership, there are many limitations to our capabilities logistically, financially and in manpower. Our own housekeeping can be a challenge with the balancing of the interests of our members, the public and the administration of justice at hand. However, I believe that our members are strong, able, and will prevail. The Council remains dedicated to transparent operations, regular membership communication, and continuous improvement in all areas of our profession. I wish to thank Council members past and present for all your hard work in 2024 and to thank our past president, Ms. Nur Ahmad and we look forward to striving forward in 2025 with the same dedication and zeal. On behalf of the Council, we would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to our members and the Judiciary and the Attorney General's Chambers, all the agencies and members of the public involved in the administration of justice and all our international colleagues for their unwavering support.

Looking ahead, as we move ever closer to the Wawasan Brunei 2035, let us approach the new legal year with a renewed spirit of service, collaboration, mutual respect, cooperation, and excellence. Together, we will continue to strengthen the administration of justice and the rule of law in Brunei Darussalam and contribute to the advancement of our legal profession on the global stage.

Thank you, and I wish everyone a successful and fulfilling year ahead. Wabillahitaufik walhidayah, Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

SUPREME COURT

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM







Court of Appeal

In 2025, the Court of Appeal of Brunei Darussalam continued its role as the principal appellate court in the Supreme Court, delivering judgments on a range of criminal and civil appeals. Its work focused on ensuring correct application of the law, reviewing sentences in criminal appeals, enforcing procedural rigour, and clarifying the boundaries of legal rights and remedies in criminal and commercial matters.

The Court of Appeal comprises of the Chief Justice as the President of the Court Appeal and three Judicial Commissioners, who sit based on their areas of expertise. These judges are assisted by Registrars of the Supreme Court and staff from the Supreme Court Registry. The Court of Appeal maintained its proactive case management approach, conducting two sessions during the year, with the first in May-June and the second in October-November.

With respect to civil appeals, the Court of Appeal delivered significant judgments clarifying the standards for setting aside default judgments and the strict principles governing auto-discontinuance and the reinstatement of discontinued actions. These decisions serve as vital resources for lawyers practicing in Brunei Darussalam.

1. Standards for Setting Aside Default Judgments

Mashhor General Contractor Sdn Bhd
v
Top Ibra Nooreen Sdn Bhd
(Civil Appeal No. 2 of 2025)

In this landmark judgment delivered, the Court of Appeal clarified the test for setting aside a default judgment that has been regularly obtained. The central issue was whether the lower court had applied the correct standard when it set aside a default judgment based on the mere existence of a "triable issue."

The Court of Appeal held that the correct test is whether the defendant can demonstrate a defence with a "real prospect of success." The judgment emphasized that a mere "arguable case" is insufficient to set aside a regularly obtained judgment. The Court reasoned that there is no utility in setting aside a judgment if the defence is bound to fail.

The decision restores the default judgment and serves as a stern reminder that the discretion to set aside regular judgments is reserved for cases with genuine merit.

2. Automatic Discontinuance, Case Management and Reinstatement

Ak Muhd Abdul Hafiz Pg Zainal
v
Awg Lufti Hj Awg Lamat & Anor
(Civil Appeal No. 17 of 2024)

This appeal constitutes one of the most comprehensive appellate examinations of Order 21 rule 2(6) in Brunei to date. It affirms, clarifies, and consolidates the case-management philosophy underlying the automatic discontinuance rule, which aims to promote expedition, efficiency, and the avoidance of inexcusable delay in the conduct of litigation.

The Court's judgment draws on English and Singaporean authorities, confirming Brunei's close alignment with the wider common law framework while emphasising the unique local addition of O.21 r.2(11), which bars the commencement of fresh proceedings once an action is deemed discontinued.

This case sets out a definitive and authoritative restatement of the automatic discontinuance and reinstatement framework, including:

- Clear separation between setting down for trial and trial readiness.
- Reaffirmation that litigation is party-driven, even within a proactive case-management system.
- Recognition that O.21 r.2(11) reflects Brunei's policy choice of finality in discontinued actions.
- A stern reminder that lengthy periods of inactivity will not be excused.



High Court

The High Court Registry is currently led by the Acting Chief Registrar Hjh Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Hj Hurairah, who is assisted by a team of Senior Registrars who each head specific units in the Supreme Court, together with Registrars and Court staff. In 2025, we welcomed Registrar Hajah Izzatul Faizah binti Dr Haji Mohamad and we look forward to her contribution to the work of the High Court.



In 2025, the High Court continued to perform its core judicial functions in both civil and criminal jurisdictions, upholding the rule of law and ensuring the fair, efficient, and timely administration of justice. The Court maintained an active schedule throughout the year, with regular sittings across civil, commercial, family, criminal, and appellate cases.

Justice Woolley continued the conduct of his hearings online in 2025 with a notable judgment delivered on the issue of forex trading - Pg Mohd Yakub bin Pg Othman v Abdul Aziz bin Haji Abdul Latip & Anor (HCCS No. 117 of 2019).

In this case, the Plaintiff sought to recover funds invested through the Defendants for a forex trading venture that ultimately resulted in a complete loss of funds. The Plaintiff alleged that he was induced to invest by representations and assurances made during a 2011 presentation and claimed that the 1st Defendant had personally guaranteed his investment. The High Court found that the Plaintiff's pleadings did not properly allege misrepresentation and, in any event, the evidence did not establish that any statements made were false. Representations about trading expertise and past performance were not shown to be untrue, while statements about future returns or risk management were merely aspirational statements, not actionable misrepresentations. The Court also emphasised that the Plaintiff was an experienced and educated investor who understood the high-risk nature of forex trading and knowingly accepted those risks.

OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S CHAMBERS

The Official Receiver's Chamber continues to play a pivotal role in the administration of bankruptcy and insolvency matters. The Chamber is led by the Acting Official Receiver, Hajah Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Hj Hurairah, supported by Senior Magistrate Hjh Ervy Sufitriana binti Haji Abdul Rahman, who continues to serve as the supervisor of the Chamber. Together with a dedicated team comprising the Deputy Official Receivers, the Assistant Official Receivers, the Bankruptcy Registry staff, and the Finance Unit, the Chamber remains committed to effective case management and the delivery of professional, timely, and efficient public service.



Creditors' Meetings at District Courts

In line with the Judiciary's strategic objective of enhancing access to justice, the Official Receiver's Chamber introduced a pilot project to conduct creditors' meetings at the District Courts. Under this arrangement, judgment debtors attend proceedings from the Tutong and Kuala Belait District Courts via video conferencing, while the Deputy Official Receiver and counsel participate from the Supreme Court in Bandar Seri Begawan. This initiative aims to reduce travel burdens, improve accessibility, and support the efficient progression of bankruptcy matters. The first series of creditors' meetings in the Tutong District commenced on 15 November 2025, followed by the Kuala Belait District on 11 December 2025.

To further support Judgment Debtors in the districts, the District Courts began accepting filings from Judgment Debtors in December 2025, including the submission and collection of letters and correspondence that were previously obtainable only in Bandar Seri Begawan. These measures have collectively enhanced convenience for judgment debtors and improved the overall administration of proceedings across districts.

Operational Continuity

The downtime of the Judiciary Case Management System (JCMS) required the activation of the Chamber's Business Continuity Plan, including alternative procedures for creditors' meetings, case administration, name searches, and the declaration of dividends. Although certain processes had to be carried out manually and some delays were unavoidable, core operations continued with minimal disruption. The Chamber remained committed to ensuring service continuity and minimising the impact on stakeholders during this period.

The Chamber extends its appreciation to counsels and parties for their cooperation and understanding, which supported the timely handling of documentation and the ongoing management of bankruptcy matters.

Declaration of Dividends

As of 11 November 2025, dividends and payment of composition totalling BND 4,167,787.98 were declared across 133 cases. The downtime of the JCMS resulted in temporary suspension of declarations between May and August 2025. The process resumed in September 2025 following the introduction of revised administrative measures.

Organisational Changes

The Chamber records its appreciation to Deputy Official Receiver Nurul Hidayah binti Hamdan for her service and contribution as Head of the Bankruptcy Registry. With effect from 6 August 2025, the Chamber welcomes Deputy Official Receiver Nuuror-Raheebah binti Haji Abd Wahab, who now assumes responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Registry. The Chamber looks forward to her leadership in this capacity.

The Chamber also welcomes Deputy Official Receiver Hajah Izzatul Faizah binti Dr Haji Mohamad, who joined the Judiciary in 2025.

Moving forward

As the new legal year begins, the Official Receiver's Chamber reaffirms its commitment to maintaining efficient and reliable processes in the administration of bankruptcy matters. The challenges encountered during the year have strengthened the Chamber's resolve to remain adaptable and responsive in meeting the needs of users and stakeholders. With continued emphasis on procedural integrity, coordination, and service improvement, the Chamber will work towards enhancing its processes and ensuring that it remains a reliable and effective institution within the administration of justice.



Official Receiver's Chambers officers and staff

Upper row: Hj Shamsul, Norhafizah, Nurul Atiyah, Hjh Rakiah, Afandi, Nur 'Afifah Basyirah, Hasiah, Norzafan, Hj Hanafi
Bottom row: DOR Nuuror-Raheebah, DOR Hjh Ervy Sufitriana, ACR Hjh Hazarena, Hjh Azza Yosie, Suraimah

Probate Office



From left:

Azdisyahfina, Nurul Zahra Aqilah, Asrina, DPO Kamaliah Fadhilah, ACR Hjh Hazarena, Mohamad Fikri Fathuddin, Rozliyani, Noorhayati

Introduction

The Probate Registry continues to serve as the nation's sole authority responsible for the issuance of Grants of Probate and Letters of Administration. Upholding its central role in ensuring the lawful transfer and administration of estates, the Registry remains committed to delivering timely, accurate, and compassionate service to the public.

For 2025, the Probate Office is led by the Acting Probate Officer, Hajah Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Haji Hurairah, supported by Senior Registrar Hajah Kamaliah Fadhilah Haji Ibrahim, who assists in overseeing operational and procedural matters. The team is further strengthened by dedicated Deputy Probate Officers, an Assistant Probate Officer, officers, and support staff who collectively ensure the smooth running of the Registry's daily operations in all 4 districts.

Review of Processes and Improvements

The Probate Registry continues its long-term initiative to refine, simplify, and modernise probate procedures. Building on reforms implemented in previous years, 2025 saw focused efforts to strengthen the clarity, accountability, and timeliness of estate administration.

Key improvements in 2025 focused on refining procedures, improving clarity of guidance materials, and strengthening consistency of processes across districts. Operational resilience was demonstrated through the activation of the Business Continuity Plan during the JCMS downtime, ensuring minimal interruptions to service delivery.

The JCMS downtime resulted in a temporary halt of the Name and File Search service, which includes searches for probate and administration files as well as name-based queries from the database. In response, the Probate Office updated and expanded its manual search database to ensure continuity of service, and full search operations resumed in September 2025.

Website & Access to Information

In line with the Probate Registry's commitment to ensuring accessible, clear, and user-friendly information for the public, significant effort has been dedicated in 2025 toward improving our digital presence. A comprehensive redesign of the Probate section on the Judiciary website is currently underway, guided by feedback from users and internal stakeholders. This revamped layout, scheduled for publication in 2026, will feature improved navigation, updated forms, and the inclusion of dedicated resources such as FAQs and guidance notes. These enhancements reflect the Registry's broader objective of promoting transparency, empowering applicants with clearer information, and ensuring that probate services remain accessible to all members of the public.

Mediation

The Probate Office remains committed to promoting the efficient and amicable resolution of disputes wherever possible. In applications where disagreements arise, parties are encouraged to explore mediation before resorting to High Court proceedings. Throughout 2025, the Registry observed an increase in the number of mediations conducted before a Deputy Probate Officer, reflecting the growing willingness of parties to resolve issues collaboratively. This approach not only supports faster resolution but also reduces the emotional and financial burden associated with contentious litigation, ensuring that estate administration proceeds with greater clarity and cooperation.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Probate Registry remains committed to strengthening collaboration with partner agencies and raising public awareness of probate processes. These engagements support operational consistency and institutional cooperation.

Workforce

To meet the rising caseload and procedural demands, the Registry continues to strengthen its staffing capacity. The growing responsibilities, from manual processing during system downtime to managing increasingly complex applications, underscore the need for sustained manpower and ongoing training to ensure efficient and consistent service delivery.

Statistics

In 2025, the Probate Registry continued to experience a steady inflow of applications across all four districts, receiving 678 applications for Letters of Administration and 26 applications for Grants of Probate. Of these, 396 Letters of Administration and 10 Grants of Probate were successfully issued within the year. Pending matters were generally attributable to incomplete submissions, outstanding extraction fee payments, and necessary follow-up clarifications.

When accounting for files registered in previous years but processed in 2025, the Registry granted a total of 602 matters, comprising 582 Letters of Administration and 20 Grants of Probate. This demonstrates the Registry's ongoing effort to reduce backlog while balancing the demands of new filings. Mid-year performance had already reflected strong progress, with 323 grants issued by 30 June 2025, indicating a consistent workflow despite operational challenges such as JCMS downtime.

Other filings remained minimal, with only one caveat lodged and 14 Summons in Chambers applications filed across the districts, largely involving sanction orders and administratorship matters. The overall caseload and grant rate continue to highlight the Registry's capacity to manage increasing demands while maintaining procedural integrity and timely service delivery.

Conclusion

The year 2025 presented both challenges and significant developments for the Probate Registry. Despite system disruptions and the operational challenges posed by manual processing during JCMS downtime, the Registry continued to demonstrate resilience, adaptability, and unwavering commitment to service excellence.

Looking ahead, the Registry aims to strengthen procedural clarity, enhance digital readiness, improve data systems, and expand capacity-building efforts for officers. The Registry extends its appreciation to all officers, stakeholders, and partners for their cooperation and support throughout the year.



From left:

Nazurah, Masrina, Dk Nur Amalina, SR Hjh Noor Amalina, Noorhadina, Hjh Fatimah, Amirul Kamal

Civil Marriage Registry

CIVIL MARRIAGES

The Civil Marriage Registry continues to support couples through the civil marriage process. Its main services include the solemnisation and registration of civil marriages, issuance of Certificates of No Impediment (Single Status), facilitation of name searches for marriage records, and the issuance of subsequent copies of marriage certificates.

Marriage interviews continue to be conducted via Zoom, and the Registry maintains active communication with the public through its dedicated email address.

The ongoing use of Zoom for marriage interviews highlights the Registry's commitment to hybrid service delivery, aligning efficiency with public convenience.

In 2025, the Registry standardised its weekly schedule for marriage ceremonies and interviews to improve efficiency and accessibility, with Bandar Seri Begawan set on Wednesdays and Saturdays, Kuala Belait set on Thursdays and Tutong on Saturdays. This streamlined schedule ensured consistent availability of services across the districts.

In 2025, the Registry processed a steady volume of applications across all districts. The highest activity was recorded in Bandar Seri Begawan, followed by Kuala Belait and Tutong.





Ra'eyah, Rohani, ACR Hjh Hazarena, Reg Nurul Hidayah

Library Unit

The Library Unit functions as the principal research and information center for its users. Its core mandate is to provide authoritative, comprehensive, and up-to-date legal resources to support judicial decision-making, legal research, and the administrative needs of the Court. The Unit manages a diverse collection of legal materials, including statutes, law reports, case digests, law directories, journals, and a digital legal database. Through these resources, the Library Unit ensures that Judges, Judicial Officers and members of the Judiciary have access to accurate and reliable legal information essential to the administration of justice.

Under the administration of the Acting Chief Registrar, the Library Unit has continued to expand. Key developments include the appointment of a new Assistant Librarian effective July 2025 the Library Unit welcomed a new Assistant Librarian, Dayang Ra'eyah binti Haji Omar, who is currently responsible for the day-to-day operations of both the Supreme Court Library and the Magistrates' Court Library. And whereas Dayang Rohani Binti Haji Zakaria continues to oversee the libraries in the Tutong and Belait District Courts, ensuring consistent service delivery across all locations.

Highlight

Another significant highlight for the year 2025 is the acquisition of new reference and legal texts spanning a broad range of specialized areas. These include Civil Procedure, Construction Law, Contract Law, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Digital Finance, Equity, Insolvency, Insurance Law, Personal Injury Litigation, Private International Law, Sentencing and Torts. The addition of these materials further strengthens the depth and breadth of the Library Unit's collection.

Contact us

The Library Unit will continue to undertake its utmost efforts to provide relevant legal resource to ensure the continued support for the evolving Judicial and legal research needs. For any enquiries and further information, the Library Unit can be contacted via e-mail at sc.library@judicial.gov.bn

Translation Office



Nurhafizah, Norzafan, Dewi Susianty, Nureizah, Norfazidah

This year, this office saw a breakthrough to an overall efficiency in particular providing services to the Court and The Public in general. The Unit, with leadership and wisdom of Acting Chief Registrar Madam Hajah Hazarina POKSJ DP Haji Hurairah met the desired and expectation goal in its own pledge to clients' charter this year.

This office reports directly to Acting Chief Register of Supreme Court.

Apart from doing translations for inter-departmental purposes, this unit serves to accept various types of documents for translation and for certification pertaining to court cases such as documents from other government departments.

Although generally the unit does not accept documents to be translated from private individuals for private purposes, it accepts certain official pieces which need to be certified by the Court and embossed with the Court seal to be recognized and submitted in foreign jurisdictions. These documents are Identification Cards, Birth Certificates, Adoption, Marriage, Divorce, Personal Academic Certificates and official documents from other government departments.

Officers & Staff

The officers and personnel in this unit are Chief Translator Dewi Susianty Hj Md Daud, Senior Translator Nurfazidah Taib, and Translator/Interpreters Nooreizah Haji Jaya, Nurhafizah Haji Moksin and Norzafan Haji Nordin.

Nurhafizah and Norzafan are attached to assist at the Finance Unit of Bankruptcy Office from July 2022 as at 29th November 2025.

Statistics

Numbers of application continues to rise from June 2025 to November 2025 compared to numbers from June 2024 to November 2024 last year.

As at November 2025 statistics shows that the unit had received and completed 329 applications for this year.

Court of Appeal translation

14 folders of translation containing notice of motion and submission was completed and submitted a month prior to Court of Appeal May and October 2025 session.

Milestone for 2025

On 7th July 2025, this office has achieved another significant milestone by becoming the selected first-choice unit - the preferred representative - from the civil court to represent State Judiciary Department, after being recognized for its ability to gather and act on customer feedback through Customer Satisfaction Survey conducted by Management Service Department, Prime Minister's Office. The office's ability to meet the demand of its client's charter (for reliable and timely services) has illustrated how trust and confidence from the public is met.

Applicants may provide feedback and comments by scanning the QR code available at the unit's counter.



This ensures that the services are effective and aligned with customer satisfaction objectives, while also facilitating Ease of Doing Business initiatives. This achievement reflects the unit's commitment to customer care and dedication to the standards set under the Client-Centric Service Excellence initiative

JUDGES AND JUDICIAL COMMISSIONERS



From left: *The Hon. Justice Haji Abdullah Soefri bin POKSM DSP Haji Abidin, The Hon. Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong Wan Oon, The Hon. Justice Muhammed Faisal bin PDJLD DSP Haji Kefli.*

PANEL OF INTERNATIONAL JUDGES



Judicial Commissioner of Court of Appeal
The Hon. Justice Michael Peter Burrell
Date of appointment: 19th November 2018



Judicial Commissioner of Court of Appeal
The Hon. Justice Michael Victor Lunn
Date of appointment: 19th November 2018



Judicial Commissioner of Court of Appeal
The Hon. Justice Sir Peter Henry Gross
Date of appointment: 28th October 2023



Judicial Commisioner of Supreme Court
The Hon. Justice Edward Timothy Starbuck Woolley
Date of appointment: 7th September 2021

Supreme Court Units

Research, Statistics & Data Collection



Kamaluddin Bakar

"This year has presented significant operational challenges for the Unit, particularly in relation to data access and retrieval. These limitations have highlighted key vulnerabilities in our processes and have strengthened our commitment to building more resilient, adaptable, and future-ready systems. Moving forward, the Unit will continue to prioritise improvements that ensure continuity of work in any circumstance.

Throughout the year, we also welcomed four attachment students. Their contributions have been valuable, and we remain committed to providing similar opportunities in the future. We hope that their experience with the Unit will support their academic growth and future careers."

Corporate Affairs Section



Upper row: Yusof, Ghazali, Hj Badaruddin, Izzam Mahmud

Bottom row: Asiah, Mastika, Noraini, Asrina, Suzielawati

High Court Registry



Upper row: Ali Rahman, Pg Suhaili, Abd Razak, Kamaluddin, Amirul Kamal
Bottom row: Hjh Fatimah, Nazurah, Dk Nur Amalina, ACR Hjh Hazarena, Noorhadina, Masrina, Salmiah

Confidential Secretary & Confidential Clerks



From left: Norhayati, Suzana, Hjh Nurul Hazimah

Bankruptcy Finance Unit



From left: Nurhafizah, Norzafan, Hjh Azza Yosie, Suraimah, Sarinah

Court Interpreters



From left (upper row): SI Fadzillah, Dk Khadijah, Shaliza, CI Pg Norfarzat Irwani, SI Hjh Noorinah, Alizah, Arief

From left (bottom row): Qhaire, Rashidah, Noorain, Ain, Dk Syafeeqah Hakeemah, Siti Hadizah, Izzati, Nurarina Nazirah, Khairunnisa, Faizin

Court Recorders

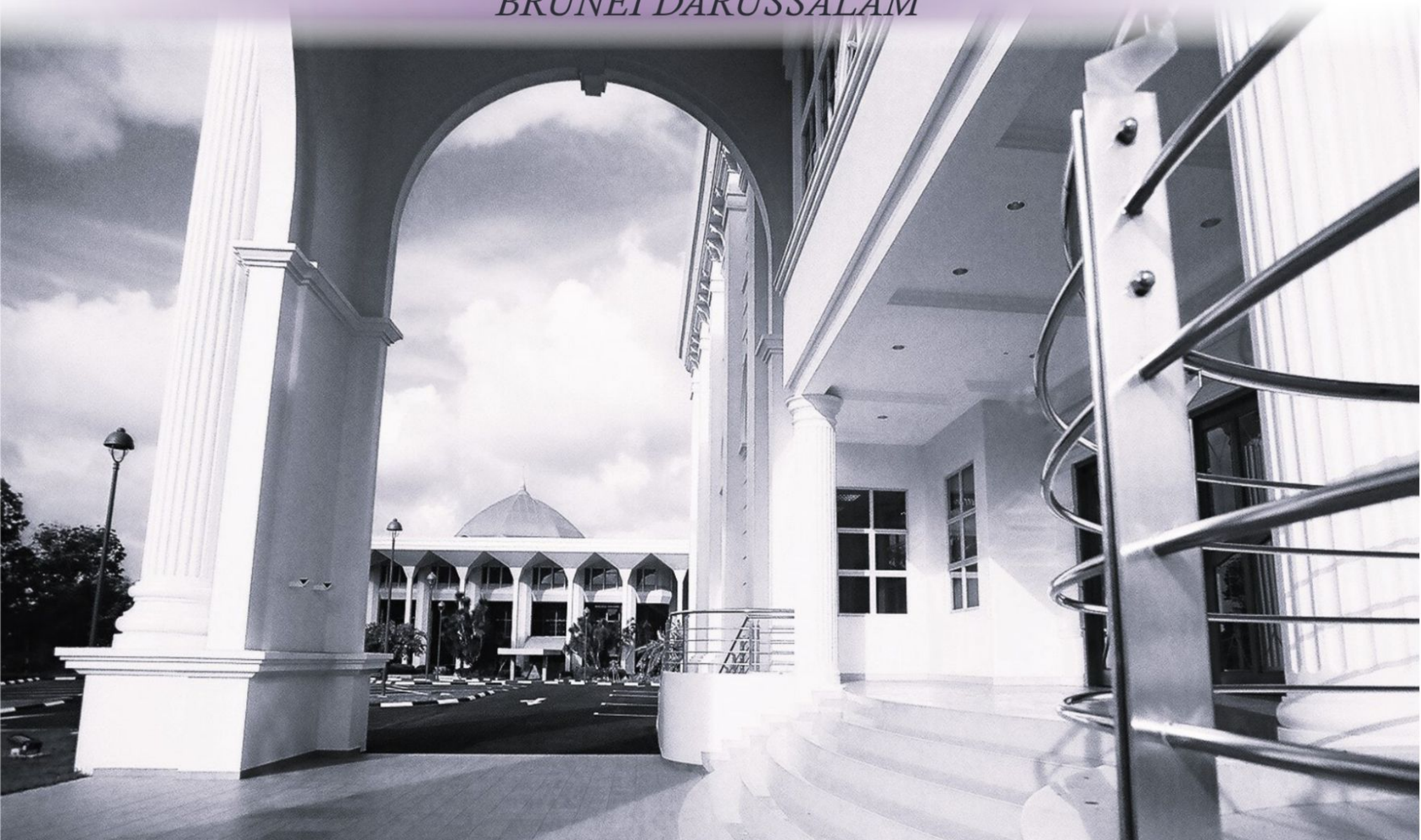
From left (upper row): Suhailah, Nurarina Nazirah, Dyg Nurbazilah

From left (bottom row): Diyana Rashidah @ Ruz'zainnah, Khairul Khairiah, Noorain, Dyg Siti Nooraqilah, Nurnajiah



INTERMEDIATE COURT

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM





The Intermediate Court continues to play a critical role within the civil and criminal justice system, functioning as a vital bridge between the Magistrates' Courts and the High Court. The Court shares a registry with the High Court, supported by the Supreme Court Registry, which continues to face a number of shared operational and administrative challenges. Notwithstanding these limitations, the Intermediate Court has maintained its emphasis on efficiency, quality of decision-making, and the continued development of local judicial capacity.

Currently, the Intermediate Court comprises five judges, including two full-time judges stationed in Bandar Seri Begawan and three officers concurrently holding Intermediate Court powers. This composition enables the Court to manage an increasingly varied caseload while simultaneously supporting the High Court through the exercise of transferred matters under section 16C of the Supreme Court Act. In several capital-offence trials, Intermediate Court judges also sat as second judges, exemplifying the Judiciary's commitment to strengthening local capacity and widening the pool of experienced judicial officers.

Strengthening Mediation & Case Management

The Intermediate Court continues to encourage mediation as a core dispute-resolution tool. Mediation is routinely offered at the close of pleadings in commercial and civil actions, either through court-assisted mediation or through private arrangements. This approach has helped reduce trial backlogs and supports the Judiciary's overarching emphasis on accessibility, efficiency, and user-centered services.

The Court's commitment to early resolution is also reflected in proactive case management, strict adherence to timelines, and ensuring that interlocutory matters are disposed of swiftly. These initiatives align with the Judiciary's broader goals of timeliness, clearance rates, and reduction of backlog indicators.

Selected Civil Decisions

The Intermediate Court delivered important clarifications of civil procedure during the year. Key rulings addressed the application of Order 21 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, reinforcing the importance of litigants' duty to prosecute their claims with diligence.

1. Order 21 Rule 2(10) – Adjournment sine die vs. Stay of Proceedings

The Court clarified that an adjournment sine die does not amount to a stay of proceedings, and therefore does not suspend the automatic discontinuance timeline. This distinction is now a useful precedent for case management and serves as guidance for counsel who must ensure that adjournments do not prejudice their clients' positions.

2. Order 21 Rule 2(6) – Reinstatement After Automatic Discontinuance

In another significant ruling, the Court dismissed an application for reinstatement of a discontinued action, reiterating that exceptional circumstances are required to justify such an application. The Court emphasised that even disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic do not automatically satisfy the threshold. This reinforces the Judiciary's longstanding position that litigation must be conducted efficiently and without undue delay.

3. Wrongful Termination & Contractual Interpretation

The Court continued to develop jurisprudence in employment-related claims, wrongful termination, and the construction of contractual terms. These decisions strengthen predictability for litigants and support the wider commercial environment. All published decisions may be accessed through the Judiciary's website and the E-Filing Portal.

Criminal Jurisdiction & Sentencing Trends

The criminal docket in the Intermediate Court reflects a high proportion of property-related offences, including:

- housebreaking
- theft
- mischief and destruction of property
- offences involving violence or attempted violence

A clear sentencing pattern has emerged:
1. Guilty pleas attracted appropriate discounts, particularly for first-time offenders.

2. Repeat offenders received proportionately heavier sentences, reinforcing deterrence.

3. Sentencing took into account:
    - public safety
    - rehabilitation potential
    - the seriousness of offences involving violence
    - the offender's background and prior record

Intermediate Court judges continued to exercise careful discretion to ensure sentencing outcomes remain proportionate, principled, and consistent with established guidelines.

Conclusion

In 2025, the Intermediate Court continued to demonstrate resilience, adaptability, and commitment to judicial excellence. Through active promotion of mediation, firm application of procedural rules, and effective sentencing practices, the Court upheld its mission to deliver justice that is timely, fair, and accessible.

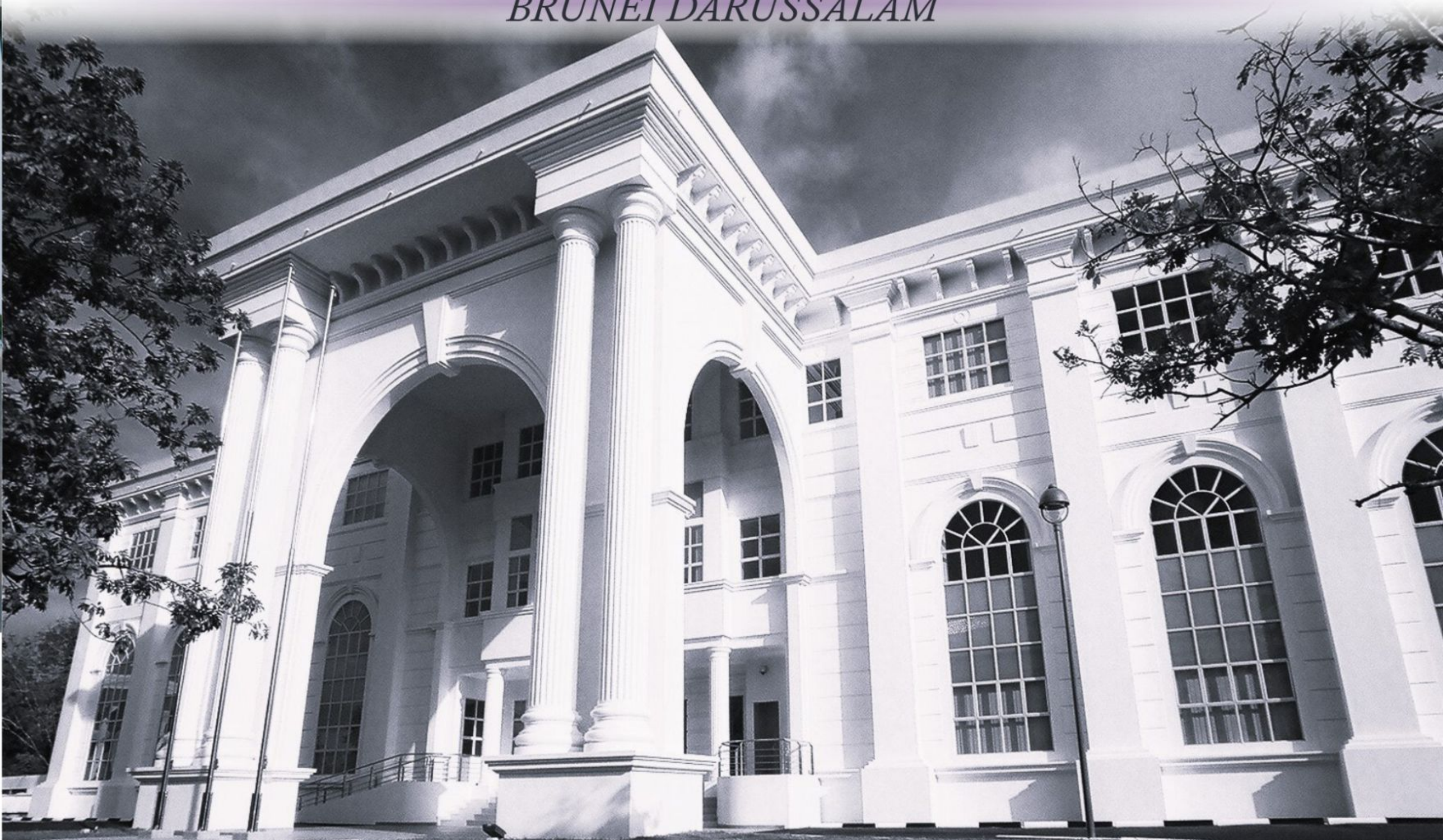
The Court's work also remains deeply connected to the Judiciary's strategic vision of cultivating future leaders, expanding the pool of local judicial talent, and strengthening institutional independence. The Intermediate Court will continue to serve as both a cornerstone of civil and criminal justice and a vital platform for judicial development.



from left: *The Hon. Judge Harnita Zelda Skinner, The Hon. Judge Pengiran Hajah Norismayanti binti Pengiran Haji Ismail, The Hon. Judge Radin Safiee bin Radin Mas Basiuni, The Hon. Judge Pengiran Masni binti Pengiran Haji Bahar and The Hon. Judge Hajah Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Haji Hurairah*

SUBORDINATE COURTS

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM





The Subordinate Courts continues to play a significant role within the judicial system of Brunei Darussalam. As the court of the first instance for the majority of cases, the court forms a foundation upon which public confidence in the administration of justice is built. It plays an essential role in ensuring that justice remains accessible, timely and fair to every individual who appears before the court.

The Subordinate Courts are made up of three components; the Magistrates' Court, the Juvenile Court and the Small Claims Tribunal. The bench currently comprises ten (10) judicial officers, including the Chief Magistrate, Senior Magistrates and Magistrates. Over the past year, under the continued leadership and administration of the Chief Magistrate, Pg Hajah Norismayanti binti Pg Haji Ismail, continuous efforts have been made to focus on improving efficiency, strengthening procedural consistency and enhancing the overall experience of court users.

The administrative side, on the other hand, are a dedicated team of Registrars, Deputy Registrars, and administrative staff. With this strengthened team, the court has significantly bolstered its capacity, leading to a notable increase in the clearance rate of cases across both civil and criminal dockets. The expansion of the bench not only relieved pressure of the caseload but enhanced judicial diversity, enabling for more timely resolution of cases and improved management of court resources. As a result, we are able to maintain a streamlined workflow with no backlog of cases, ensuring that all matters are dealt with promptly and efficiently.

As we move forward, the Subordinate Courts remain committed to staying responsive to new challenges and the evolving needs of society. We will continue to review and refine our efforts to further enhance the efficiency, quality, and accessibility of judicial services. Collaboration among all legal stakeholders remained instrumental in achieving a productive and meaningful year. Together, we upheld the rule of law and strengthened the foundations of a legal system built on integrity and public trust.

District Courts







The Magistrates' Court operates consistently across all four (4) districts; Brunei-Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait, and Temburong. Each court is managed and administered by its District Magistrate, who reports directly to the Chief Magistrate. All district courts preside over civil and criminal matters, Road Traffic Act offences, juvenile cases, and conduct probate hearings. The solemnization of marriages is also conducted in every district court except Temburong Court.

Despite our JCMS system being non-operational since May 2025, all district courts have maintained efficient caseload management through manual processes and close coordination among court staff. Operations continue to remain steady, with no significant structural or procedural changes implemented.

DISTRICT COURTS

Belait District Court, under the leadership of Magistrate Nur Eleana binti Dato Seri Paduka Haji Hairol Arni, functions on a full-time basis, supported by one (1) visiting Registrar or Deputy Registrar and fourteen (14) court personnel.



Upper row: Siti Zuraidah, Hamizah, Jazmi, Hadif, Pg Zamahin, Maarif, Rohani, Zuraidah
Bottom row: Ainurafif, Zahirah, Sumarni, Mag Nur Eleana, Selamah, Salina, Nadhatul Qartika

Tutong District Court, overseen by Magistrate Hajah Normazdina binti Haji Md Maskub, attends Tutong Court twice weekly and is supported by one (1) Deputy Registrar and eight (8) court personnel.



Upper row: Dk Nurkhairyn Syamimi, Rakinah, Siti Aliah, Nurul Qaidah, Khairuddin, Rosnah
Bottom row: Dk Norafidah, Khadijah, Mag Hjh Nor Mazdina, Alizah, Nabilah

Temburong District Court, headed by Magistrate Syaffina binti Syahif, is attended once a month and is supported by one (1) visiting Deputy Registrar every Wednesday and three (3) court personnel.



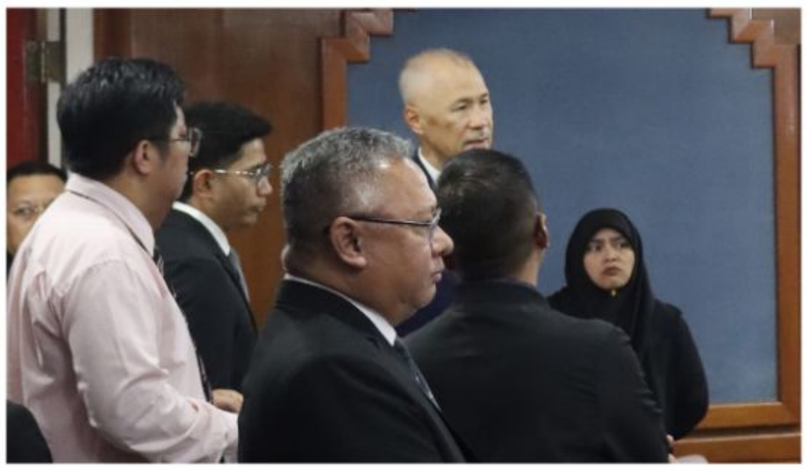
From left: Ulat, Noraiman, Mag Syaffina, Kasman

As part of ongoing efforts to monitor and support court operations across all districts, in August 2025, the Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam, Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong, accompanied by Judicial Commissioner Haji Abdullah Soefri and other judicial officers, conducted official visits to Belait, Tutong and Temburong District Courts.



















BELAIT

TUTONG

TEMBURONG

Duty Magistrates

Fresh Cases

From Monday to Thursday, and Saturday, different Magistrates are assigned daily on a weekly rotation to hear new cases across a wide range of offences. Common offences include offences under the Penal Code, Road Traffic Act offences, offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act, offences under the Immigration Act, offences under the Income Tax Act, as well as offences under the Customs and Excise Orders.

The duty Magistrate also hears cases and applications arising during public holidays. Duty assignments are rotated every six (6) months to ensure fair distribution of responsibilities and maintain operational efficiency.

Civil Mentions

In Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB) Court, civil mentions are held weekly on Mondays and Tuesdays. Whereas, in Kuala Belait District Court, civil mention is held every Thursday and in Tutong District Court, civil mention is held every Saturday. Case assignment is based on value: Magistrates hear claims up to $30,000, while Senior Magistrates preside over claims exceeding $30,000. Senior Magistrates and Magistrates are assigned portfolios comprising government claims, specific law firms and private summonses, and the portfolios are rotated every six (6) months to maintain balanced workloads and to ensure consistent access to justice for all parties.

Strengthening Court Operations: The Role of the Registrars

Beyond their primary function as the Registrars of the Supreme Court, they also play a significant role in strengthening the court's operational capacity. Their contributions extend to conducting civil mentions in the Magistrates' Court once every month and taking part as the Assistant Registrar on rotation under the Small Claims Tribunal (SCT). Their involvement significantly enhances the overall efficiency and management of both civil and SCT proceedings, demonstrating the judicial system's commitment to accessible and orderly processes.

Notary Duties

The Magistrate on duty also performs essential notarial functions, including witnessing documents and processing applications for certified true copies (CTC) for the public, reinforcing the court's role as a reliable and accessible point of service.

Coroner

Beyond their daily court duties, Magistrates also shoulder the weight of coroner responsibilities. Each Magistrate is assigned a designated coroner zoning across all districts, ensuring coverage for all areas. These duties can extend beyond regular working hours, requiring Magistrates to respond promptly to urgent cases, if required. The current coroner zoning can be found on the judiciary website.

Bench Book

The Magistrate's Court, in its criminal jurisdiction, typically handles a large volume of criminal cases. In 2025, there was an increase in the number of criminal dockets registered across all districts compared to the previous year. To maintain the efficiency of the criminal courts, it was necessary to expand the list of offences in the Magistrates' bench book.

In 2025, the Criminal Justice Section's working committee added offences under the Public Order Act (Cap. 148), the Passport Act (Cap. 146), and several additional offences under the Penal Code (Cap. 22). These updates will assist Magistrates in managing their criminal caseloads more effectively, enabling quicker case disposal without unnecessary delays.

The bench book serves as a flexible guide tailored to the facts and legal issues of each case. It does not limit Magistrates' discretion but acts as one of several resources to promote fair, transparent, and consistent decisions. The bench book will continue to be updated regularly to support the goal of court excellence.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Magistrates' Court continues to engage closely with other government agencies to enhance case management. In 2025, a coordination meeting was held with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) to improve communication and ensure drug-related cases progress smoothly. A joint discussion was also conducted with the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) of the Attorney General's Chambers to review procedures and identify ways to make the handling of criminal matters more efficient. These efforts reflect the Court's commitment to improving processes and strengthening collaboration with key stakeholders.

Use of Technology

The Magistrates' Court has continued to make use of technology to improve efficiency and access to justice. Civil mentions in district courts for claims above $30,000 which are heard before a Senior Magistrate, and brief non-complex criminal mentions are now conducted via online video conference. This has reduced the need for parties to travel potentially long distances to the designated court for their matters and ensures greater accessibility for litigants.

Attachment / Internship Program

Every year, the Subordinate Courts welcome applicants from diverse educational backgrounds, both local and international institutions, who wish to gain first-hand experience through our program. Acceptance into our attachment or internship program is at the court's discretion, based on candidate suitability. Under our program, applicants gain insight into the daily workings of the court and observe a variety of cases, from civil disputes to criminal matters, Road Traffic Act offences, and juvenile matters. They undertake meaningful tasks such as conducting legal research and shadowing duty Magistrates, providing them with a solid understanding of the justice process.

Towards the end of the program, applicants have the rare opportunity to step onto the bench to deliver mock sentences, conduct mock bail applications and mooting in a real courtroom setting, complete with role-play participants. This hands-on experience not only strengthens their confidence and understanding of courtroom advocacy but also equips them with practical skills that will benefit their future legal careers.





Accredited Mediators

As part of the Judiciary's continuous efforts in making justice more accessible and efficient, it involves encouraging disputants to an early amicable settlement of disputes by way of mediation. In 2025, two more judicial officers had obtained accreditation from the Singapore Mediation Centre in collaboration with the Brunei Darussalam Arbitration Centre (BDAC), namely Senior Magistrate Dewi Norlelawati binti Abdul Hamid and Magistrate Hajah Normazdina binti Haji Md Maskub, Training in this field for judicial officers is a continuing one.

Streamlined and Accessible: The Growing Reach of the SCT

The recent streamlining of Small Claims Tribunal (SCT) procedures has significantly enhanced the accessibility and efficiency of its processes, particularly for self-represented individuals. As part of our In-House Training, in 2025, the SCT Unit has conducted a Refresher Course for judicial officers. Furthermore, proactive efforts by SCT, including public outreach through government emails and the government official Telegram account, have successfully raised awareness among those previously unfamiliar with SCT. These initiatives have led to a noticeable increase in individuals approaching the Registry, recognising SCT as a practical and efficient avenue for resolving disputes outside court. Cases are initially reviewed by an Assistant Registrar for consultation and resolution. Disputed claims may also be referred for mediation before proceeding further. Those that remain unresolved are then referred to an Adjudicator for a final decision.

Dedication of the Staff

Behind every decision and hearing at the Subordinate Courts are a team of devoted members who work diligently to keep the court running smoothly. Every member, from Registrars and Deputy Registrars to Legal Assistants, Interpreters, Clerks, Process Servers, and other court personnel, plays an essential role in the smooth functioning of the Subordinate Court. From managing case files to supporting legal proceedings, their hard work and often behind-the-scenes contributions, are crucial in ensuring that justice is delivered efficiently and effectively which makes the court a reliable and trusted institution for the community.

Welcoming a New Office Supervisor

On 5 April 2025, we welcomed Chief Hajah Kartinah binti Haji Minggo as the new Office Supervisor. We are confident that with her proven leadership, experience, and steadfast dedication, she is well-positioned to further enhance the efficiency of court operations and strengthen the support provided to both judicial and administrative personnel.

Farewell with gratitude

On 9 January 2025, we bid farewell to Chief Norhayati binti Hj Idris, after her long years of dedicated service as Office Supervisor. We express our deepest gratitude for her immense contributions to the judiciary and her unwavering commitment to supporting the efficient administration of the courts.

On 20 October 2025, the court also bid farewell to one of our on-call court interpreters, Norhafilah binti Hj Mohiddin. We thank her for her valuable contributions throughout her time with us and wish her every success in her future endeavors.





Conclusion

The past year has been marked by steady progress, strengthened teamwork, and a shared commitment to delivering justice efficiently and fairly. Despite operational challenges, the Subordinate Courts continued to uphold high standards of service through enhanced procedures, technological adaptation, and the dedication of both judicial and administrative personnel.

Guided by the Chief Magistrate and supported by senior judicial officers, this collaborative environment has ensured the effective distribution of responsibilities and the timely resolution of cases. By maintaining a strong focus on fairness, transparency, and accessibility, the Subordinate Courts reaffirm their commitment to serving the community.

As we move into the year ahead, we remain dedicated to improving access to justice, supporting the needs of court users, and ensuring that the Subordinate Courts continue to serve as a reliable, trusted, and responsive pillar of the judicial system.



Subordinate Courts'

OFFICERS

Registrars of the Subordinate Courts



Front: Dk Norafidah, Hjh Asmawati, Hjh Fauzihana, Hashimah, Noorhayati

Back: Mohamad Norhamizan, Hj Badaruddin, Mohamad Jazmi, Muhammad Hardy Iman.

The Subordinate Court Act (Chapter 6), Section 11(2) states that the Registrars and Deputy Registrars shall be ex-officio Commissioner for Oaths'. Examples of documents attested by the Registrar of the Subordinate Courts:

- Public documents
- Statutory Declarations
- Affidavits
- Proof of Debts
- Contracts
- Agreements
- Deeds
- Power of Attorney
- Other declaration

Presently, we have nine (9) registrars of the Subordinate Courts.



STAFF

Office Administration

Nani Hamizah, Hjh Kartinah, Norfadilah, Hjh Fauzihana, Yenny, Rohani



Finance

Pg Saerah, Hjh Mimi, Hjh Farida

Criminal Section

This section is responsible in administrating day to day criminal cases in Magistrates Court. It includes issuing summons, subpoena, correspondences to parties, processing criminal appeal applications and anything related to criminal cases.



Front row:
Mumtazah, Norhamizah, Kamilah, Nurhamizan

Back row:
Mag Abd 'Azim, CM Pg Hjh Norismayanti, SM Dewi Norlelawati, Mag Muhammad Qamarul Affyian

Civil Section



Yusof, Nurafiqah, Nor Hafizah, Mohamad Jazmi, Mag Hjh Normazdina, SR Zelda, Nurul Hafizah Dewiyana, Norkhadizah.

The main function of this section is to assist in the administration of civil cases. The section receives and processes civil claims from private individuals, law firms and the government.

Members of the Civil Section include the Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Legal Assistants, civil clerks, bailiffs and process servers, and is headed by an Officer – In – Charge of the Civil Section.

Private individuals may seek assistance from the Legal Assistant on procedural matters such as filing of Summons and defence, stages of civil mentions and so on.

Small Claims Tribunal



Norkhadizah, Norhafizah, Mag Hjh Normazdina, Mag Nur Eleana, Hashimah, Nurafiqah

The SCT continues to serve as an accessible forum for resolving minor disputes efficiently. It is designed to help the public avoid lengthy and complex court procedures as it provides an affordable, fast-track avenue where claims up to $10,000 within 12 months from cause of action can be settled amicably through informal mediation. The types of claim heard in SCT are disputes arising from sale of goods, provision of services and damages to private property (excluding damages arising from motor vehicle accidents and contracts made under the Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Order 2011).

It offers a simple and understandable process, removes the need for legal representation, and ensures timely resolution of disputes. Its purpose is to show that not every disagreement requires full litigation to reach a fair outcome. By providing this streamlined approach, the SCT helps prevent small conflicts from escalating into larger burdens.

Road Traffic Section

The Road Traffic Sections oversee procedures and matters related to Road Traffic Act (RTA) violations. The recently introduced system now allows for closer monitoring of the grace period for fine payments and facilitates the timely issuance of warrants of arrest in cases of non-payment or partial payment. This development has streamlined processes, improved operational efficiency, and strengthened overall case management. The Road Traffic Sections will continue to review and address any challenges to ensure that case management procedures remain both efficient and effective.

Most common Road Traffic Act offences include driving without a valid vehicle insurance policy (s. 3(1) Motor Vehicle Insurance Act), driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other intoxicating substances (s. 26(1) RTA); careless driving without due care and attention (s. 29(1) RTA); using a mobile phone while driving (s. 29A RTA); driving without valid road tax (s. 8(1) RTA); and driving without a valid driving license (s. 16(1) RTA).



Hjh Fauzihana, Mumtazah, Mag Syaffina, Mag Sharifah Baqiyah, Nor Hafizah, Nur Kamilah

Juvenile Court



Hardy Iman, Nurkamilah, Mag Sharifah Baqiyah, SM Hjh Azrimah, Norhamizah, Mumtazah

The Juvenile Court handles matters involving children and young persons under the age of 18 across all four district courts. In particular, it deals with four (4) main types of cases, namely, Child Protection Orders, Beyond Parental Control matters, Juvenile Arrest Cases and Juvenile Traffic Cases. These cases are brought before the court by the Attorney General's Chambers, Jabatan Pembangunan Masyarakat (JAPEM) and relevant enforcement agencies. In fulfilling its role, the court places the best interests of the child at the heart of every decision guided by restorative justice principles that prioritise rehabilitation, reintegration and safeguarding, seeking to place children and young persons in need of protection in the most appropriate care.

In this context, the Judicial Officers and Juvenile Court committee members continued to collaborate closely with JAPEM. Through regular meetings, they strengthened Standard Operating Procedures while working to adopt "therapeutic justice" into juvenile case management. Building on these initiatives, the court strives to ensure its processes remain impactful and responsive to the needs of children and young persons with a focus on continual enhancement.

In addition to procedural improvements, the court also maintains a commitment to community engagement. Judicial Officers participated in annual Ramadhan donation drives at the Kompleks Rumah Kebajikan (KRK), thereby providing support beyond the courtroom. Towards the end of 2025, the Subordinate Courts Judicial Officers together with the Juvenile Court committee members spent a meaningful afternoon with the residents at the protection home at the KRK. This visit further solidified the court's efforts in developing a juvenile justice system that provides hope, guidance and encouragement for every child and young person who comes before it.



Panel of Advisers for Juvenile Court

Haji Awang Abd Alim Bin Haji Awang Othman,
Hajah Mordiah Binti Haji Jackia,
Alinah Binti Haji Tamin,
Ustaz Haji Md Lazim Bin Haji Matali

COURT MARTIAL



JUDGE ADVOCATES

A number of Judicial officers were appointed as Judge Advocates by the Judge Advocate General on the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Court-Martial by virtue of section 124(3)(b) of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Chapter 149, which provides for the appointment of persons having judicial or legal experience as may from time to time, be required to act as Judge Advocates of the Court-Martial.

The appointed Judge Advocates are as follows:-

The Hon. Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong Wan Oon
Muhammed Faisal Bin PDJLD Dato Seri Pahlawan (B) Haji Kefli
Radin Safiee Bin Radin Mas Basiuni
Pengiran Masni Binti Pengiran Haji Bahar
Harnita Zelda Skinner
Hajah Ervy Sufitriana binti Haji Abdul Rahman
Hajah Hazarena binti POKSJ Dato Paduka Haji Hurairah
Pengiran Hajah Norismayanti binti Pengiran Haji Ismail
Hajah Azrimah binti Haji Abdul Rahman
Hajah Noor Amalina binti Dato Paduka Haji Alaihuddin
Hajah Kamaliah Fadhilah binti Haji Ibrahim

STATE JUDICIARY DEPARTMENT



Acting Director, officers and staff of the State Judiciary Department



Shahminan Haji Tengah
Acting Director of the State Judiciary Department

Since the establishment of the State Judiciary Department in 2002, the department had evolved throughout the years in terms of staffing and the creation of new units which contribute to the growth and development of the organization. Each unit has its own Head of unit and staff to cater the needs and wants of both the Civil and Syariah Courts.

HIGHLIGHTS & EVENTS

CONFERENCES, TRAININGS & VISITS

COURTESY CALLS TO HON. CHIEF JUSTICE



Ambassador Rena Lee,
Ambassador for International Law of the Republic of Singapore
6th March 2025



His Excellency Janbaz Khan,
High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam
22nd May 2025

COURTESY CALLS TO HON. CHIEF JUSTICE



Professor Dapo Akande,
United Kingdom candidate for the International Court of Justice 2027 to 2036
25 June 2025



His Excellency Mohammad Taghi Rajabi,
Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam
27th August 2025

COURTESY CALLS TO HON. CHIEF JUSTICE



His Excellency Michael Hoy,
Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.
17th September 2025



His Excellency Laurence Bay,
Outgoing Singapore High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam
9th December 2025

Keynote Lecture by the Right Honourable Lord Hodge, Deputy President of the UK Supreme Court

On Tuesday 25 February 2025, The Right Honourable Lord Patrick Stewart Hodge, Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom delivered a keynote lecture on 'The Impact of the Supreme Court on the Wider Economy.'

The event commenced with welcoming remarks by Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong where he highlighted how in recent years, the relationship between the two judiciaries has strengthened significantly and that this marked the first time a senior member of the UK Supreme Court and Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC) has come to Brunei Darussalam. He stated that this is of particular significance as the JCPC serves as the final court of appeal for civil matters in Brunei Darussalam.

In introducing the keynote lecture on 'The Impact of the Supreme Court on the Wider Economy', the Chief Justice said that Lord Hodge's insights and knowledge "provide a valuable opportunity for dialogue between our judiciaries and the broader legal community on issues at the intersection of law and the economy." He added that "judicial decisions do not exist in a vacuum – they shape industries, influence markets and affect the everyday lives of businesses and individuals alike. The Court's influence extends far beyond legal theory and the impact of judgments can reach boardrooms, policymakers and also consumers in driving investor confidence and steering economic growth."

Lord Hodge was in the country for a 5-day Working Visit, from 24 February to 1 March 2025. Lord Hodge has served as a Justice of the Supreme Court and the JCPC since 1 October 2013 and was appointed as Deputy President in January 2020. Appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1996, before becoming a Supreme Court Justice Lord Hodge worked as a judge in Scotland, Jersey and Guernsey.





Lecture on 'The Work of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council' by the Right Honourable Lord Hodge, Deputy President of the UK Supreme Court

On Thursday 27 February 2025, The Right Honourable Lord Patrick Stewart Hodge, Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom delivered a lecture on 'The Work of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council'.

The event commenced with welcoming remarks by the Acting Chief Registrar Hajah Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Haji Hurairah where she spoke on Brunei Darussalam retaining its relationship with the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC) as the final court of appeal for civil cases. She expressed recognition of the JCPC's role as a source of international legal standards while also highlighting Brunei Darussalam's wish to develop a legal system that "respects our local context while leveraging the wisdom and precedents set by the JCPC."

At the lecture, Lord Hodge explained that the arrangements with the JCPC derived from an exchange of notes on 27 June 1989, which resulted in the JCPC having jurisdiction to hear appeals in civil cases where parties to the proceedings, before the hearing of the case by the Court of Appeal, have consented in writing to be bound by an appeal to the JCPC. These arrangements excluded the JCPC from having jurisdiction over hearing criminal and constitutional matters and were in keeping with Brunei Darussalam's independent status, while still maintaining its connection with the UK Supreme Court.

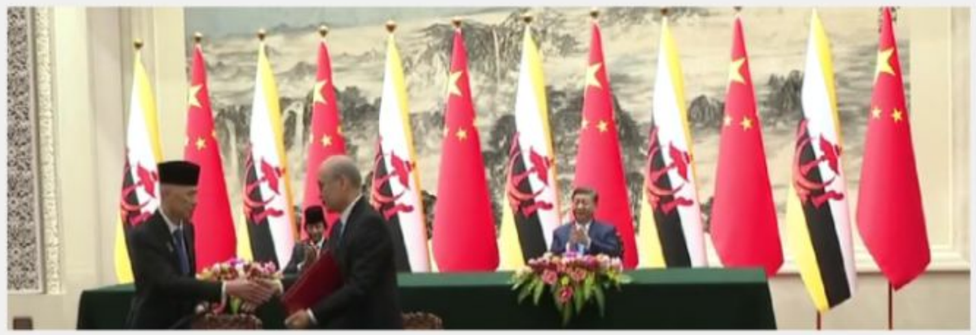




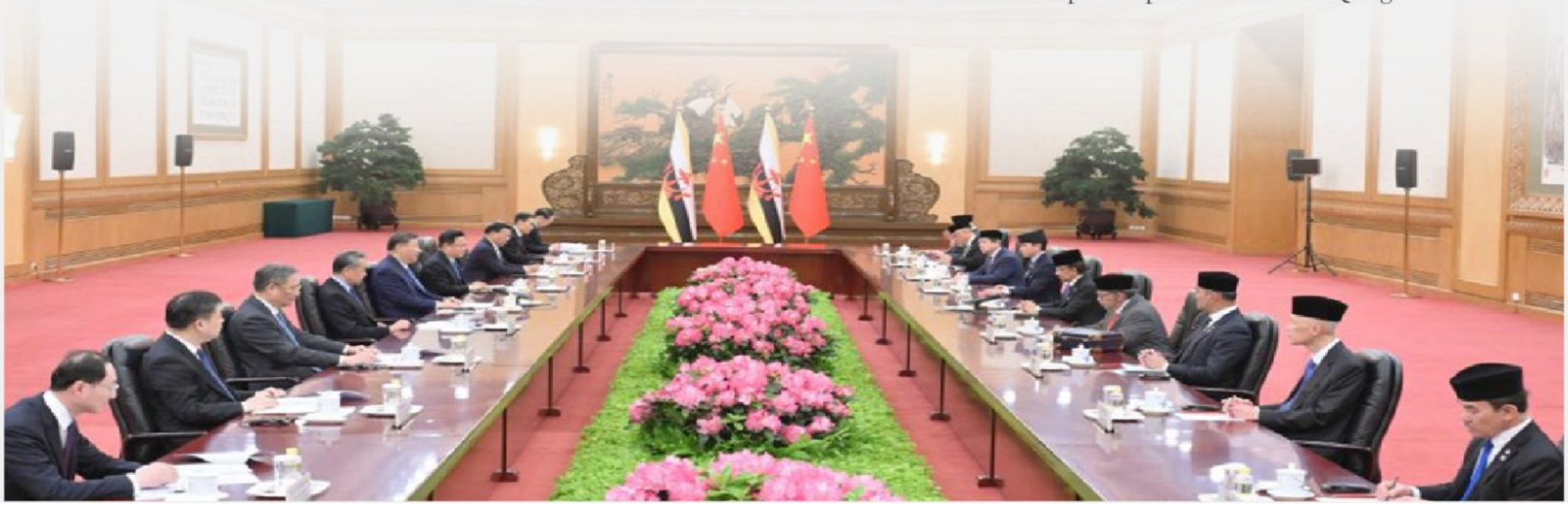
Signing of Renewed Memorandum of Understanding with the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China on Judicial Cooperation

On Thursday 6 February 2025, a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on judicial cooperation was signed between the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China to strengthen communication, collaboration and cooperation on issues relating to dispute avoidance and resolution. The renewed MOU is intended to update the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the two Supreme Courts on 21 September 2004.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Chinese President Xi Jinping witnessed the signing ceremony of the MoU. The MOU was signed by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong and President of the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China Zhang Jun.



Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong joined His Majesty's delegation for the state visit to China and attended the meeting with Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Zhao Leji; welcoming ceremony; meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping; the signing ceremony of memorandums of understanding; the wreath laying ceremony; and meeting with Premier of the People's Republic of China Li Qiang.



Pacific Judicial Conference 2025

The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam, Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong, attended the Pacific Judicial Conference held from 9-12 February 2025 in Auckland, New Zealand.

The theme for the Pacific Judicial Conference 2025 was 'Strengthening the Institution of the Judiciary'. The conference was hosted by the New Zealand Judiciary and covered topics including judicial independence and the rule of law, the future shape of courts, the use of technology, judicial diversity, judicial appointments, legal pluralism, and climate change litigation.





The conference was attended by Chief Justices, judges and judicial officers from the Judiciaries of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States and Vanuatu.

The welcome address and keynote speech was delivered by The Rt. Hon. Dame Helen Winkelmann GNZM, Chief Justice of New Zealand.

Also in attendance at the conference was the Acting Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court, Hajah Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Haji Hurairah, together with another senior judicial officer from the Supreme Court.



Chief Justice Attends 8th Joint Judicial Conference in Singapore

Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong together with a delegation of senior judges and judicial officers from the Brunei Darussalam Judiciary attended the 8th Joint Judicial Conference (JJC) on 28 May 2025 hosted by the Singapore Judiciary.

The judiciaries of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Singapore meet at the biennial conference to discuss judicial and legal matters of common interest. Since its inception in 2011, the JJC provides an invaluable platform for judicial cooperation for the three Judiciaries to deepen ties by engaging in meaningful dialogue on topics of mutual importance and strengthening the already resilient and long-standing relationships that exist.

The theme of the 8th JJC was 'Building a Future-Ready Judiciary', focusing on key aspects of judicial excellence in a rapidly changing world. The three Judiciaries, each represented by their judges, showcased presentations by speakers and engaged in panel discussions on emerging issues including 'Access to Justice and Technology: Potential and Pitfalls', 'Judicial Communication and Cooperation in Cross-Border Disputes' and 'Judicial Education, Wellbeing, and the Role of Judges in a Modern Judiciary.'







In his opening remarks Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong highlighted that "judiciaries must evolve, collaborate and innovate" and that the topics discussed at the conference "go to the very core of how we administer justice and they are deeply rooted in the work we do as judges, not only to uphold the rule of law but also to ensure that our justice systems remain inclusive, accessible and responsive to the evolving needs of the people we serve."

"The Chief Justice added that the "enduring connection between Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore reflects not only a past rooted in our common law tradition but also a close and abiding friendship". Over 62 participants from Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Singapore attended the conference."



Chief Justice Attends the Establishment of International Mediation Organization and Global Forum

Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong attended the signing ceremony of the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) and Global Forum on International Mediation held in Hong Kong SAR on 30 May 2025.

The Chief Justice witnessed the signing of the IOMed Convention in a ceremony presided over by China Foreign Minister His Excellency Wang Yi. The IOMed Convention establishes the world's first inter-governmental international legal organization dedicated to resolving international disputes through mediation.

The ceremony was attended by representatives from several countries, including Indonesia, Pakistan, Laos, Cambodia and Serbia. Representatives from 20 international bodies, including the United Nations, also attended the ceremony.

The Global Forum on International Mediation covered topics including 'State to State Mediation' and 'International Investment and International Commercial Dispute Mediation.'

The Chief Justice also held a meeting with Her Excellency Judge Hu Fang, Deputy Chief Judge of the Fourth Civil Division of the Supreme People's Court of China on the sidelines of the IOMed Convention Signing Ceremony and Global Forum on International Mediation.

Also in attendance was the Acting Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court, Hajah Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Haji Hurairah, together with another senior judicial officer from the Supreme Court





Visit to the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia

On Monday 22 September 2025, The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam, Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong, and a delegation from the Judiciary of Brunei Darussalam comprising of the Acting Chief Registrar and Chief Magistrate Pg Hjh Norismayanti Pg Hj Ismail and Senior Registrar Kamaliah Fadhilah Hj Ibrahim, made an official visit to the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA) in Melbourne.

The delegation was welcomed by The Honourable Chief Justice William Alstergren AO and senior members of the FCFCOA. During the visit, the Chief Justices held discussions on court and judicial administration, case management processes, court-annexed mediation and the role of registrars, as well as initiatives to support self-represented litigants. The meeting also explored the Court's Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) mechanisms and the Family Advocacy and Support Services (FASS), particularly in safeguarding vulnerable litigants.

Both Chief Justices reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing judicial cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Australia under the Australia–Brunei Plan of Action 2024–2027. The visit served to strengthen ties between the two judiciaries and to identify opportunities for professional exchanges, judicial education, and collaboration on best practices.



As part of the programme in Melbourne, the delegation also visited the Children's Court of Victoria and the College of Law, where they gained insights into child-centred justice processes, restorative practices, continuing legal education, and accredited mediation programmes.

The Judiciary of Brunei Darussalam also wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the valuable support provided by the Australian High Commission to Brunei Darussalam, whose assistance was instrumental in facilitating the visit and strengthening cooperation between both judiciaries.

Chief Justice Visits the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn



The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam, Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong made an official visit to the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn on Tuesday 30 September 2025.

The Chief Justice was accompanied by a delegation comprising of Intermediate Court Judge Pengiran Masni binti Pengiran Haji Bahar and Senior Registrar Hajah Noor Amalina binti Dato Paduka Haji Alaihuddin.

During the visit, the Chief Justice and delegation were received by the Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn, The Hon. Sir Paul Morgan and Under Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn, Emma Hopkins OBE and Senior Benchers of the Inn. The Chief Justice was also received by the Master of the Rolls, The Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Vos, who was Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn for 2023.

The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the longstanding ties between Brunei Darussalam's legal fraternity with Lincoln's Inn, noting that many members of the judiciary and legal profession were called to the Bar at the Inn including the Chief Justice himself in 1982.

During the meeting, the Chief Justice affirmed Brunei Darussalam's commitment to preserving and nurturing its professional ties with Lincoln's Inn and the high standards of advocacy and ethics instilled at the Inn which continue to shape Brunei Darussalam's legal profession today.

The Chief Justice expressed his interest to collaborate with Lincoln's Inn to nurture the next generation of advocates as Bruneian law students continue to choose the Bar as a route to practice in Brunei Darussalam.



The Chief Justice discussed avenues for future cooperation, including opportunities for continuing professional development for Bruneian advocates through advocacy training and support for strengthening ethical and professional standards within the Brunei legal fraternity.



Joint Statement between the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on Advancing Judicial Cooperation

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom extended an invitation to The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Brunei Darussalam to attend the Opening of the Legal Year in London on Wednesday 1 October 2025.

In conjunction with this invitation, a meeting was held between The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Brunei Darussalam and The Right Honourable Lord Hodge, Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom and Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on Thursday 2 October 2025.

This reciprocates an official visit to Brunei Darussalam by The Right Honourable Lord Hodge, Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom and Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in February 2025.

During the meeting, both parties affirmed their commitment to international cooperation and the rule of law internationally. They held constructive discussions on matters of mutual interest concerning judicial cooperation and the promotion of the rule of law and underscored the importance of maintaining an independent judiciary as a cornerstone of justice, fairness and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

Both parties expressed their strong support for mutual cooperation between their courts to promote understanding and friendship between the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, with the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council serving as the final court of appeal for civil matters in Brunei Darussalam.

They acknowledged that the invitation of Lord Hodge to Brunei Darussalam and the invitation of the Chief Justice to the United Kingdom were arranged to foster closer relations and looked forward to further fruitful cooperation in the promotion of the rule of law, justice and economic prosperity internationally.

Both parties welcomed opportunities to share ideas and best practices, including through future judicial visits, computer-facilitated meetings and other collaborative activities. They agreed to explore avenues to strengthen institutional linkages and professional exchanges aimed at supporting the rule of law and enhancing judicial cooperation between their institutions.

The Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam expressed appreciation to the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council for their warm friendship and constructive engagement and looked forward to continued dialogue and more forms of collaboration in the years ahead.



Chief Justice attends the Opening of the Legal Year in England and Wales

The Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam, Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong attended the Opening of the Legal Year of England and Wales on Wednesday 1 October 2025.

This marks the second occasion on which Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong has attended the Opening of the Legal Year in England and Wales.

The annual ceremony signifies the start of the legal calendar and was attended by The Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales, The Right Honourable Dame Sue Carr alongside the Master of the Rolls, The Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Vos, Heads of Division, Court of Appeal and High Court Judges, and judges from across England and Wales. They were joined by senior judges from Canada, France, Kazakhstan, Montenegro and Sweden.

Representing Brunei Darussalam, Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong attended the ceremony alongside His Excellency First Admiral (Retired) Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Norazmi bin Pengiran Haji Muhammad, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom.



Following the Opening of the Legal Year, Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong held a bilateral meeting with The Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales at the Royal Courts of Justice on Thursday 2 October 2025. They discussed ongoing and prospective areas of judicial cooperation with the aim to help promote the rule of law, improve the administration of justice and strengthen the shared legal heritage and enduring ties between the Judiciaries of Brunei Darussalam and England and Wales.

Chief Justice Attends 12th Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) Meeting in Singapore



The Honourable Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong together with a delegation of judges and judicial officers from the Brunei Darussalam Judiciary attended the 12th Meeting of the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) from 13-15 November 2025 at the invitation of The Honourable the Chief Justice of Singapore Sundaresh Menon. The meeting was attended by the Chief Justices and Heads of Delegations from the ASEAN member states.

The Chief Justice attended a series of side-line meetings and seminars alongside the 12th CACJ Meeting. On 14 November, the Brunei Darussalam delegation attended the ASEAN Insolvency Judges Meeting, a Seminar on the Transnational Practice of Law in ASEAN, the ASEAN Insolvency Judges and Practitioners Meeting and the ASEAN Intellectual Property (IP) Judges and Practitioners Meeting.

At the opening session of the 12th Meeting of the CACJ on 15 November, Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong delivered his opening speech alongside fellow ASEAN Chief Justices, Heads of Delegation and the ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General.



In his opening speech Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong reaffirmed Brunei Darussalam's shared commitment to supporting the work of the CACJ to maintain and strengthen international partnerships and regional solidarity among ASEAN judiciaries. He highlighted that "a secure, stable and prosperous ASEAN depends on our ability to adapt our justice systems to new and evolving challenges." He added that "the well-being of the communities we serve, turns not only on traditional notions of justice but also on how effectively we can address emerging threats such as cybercrime, online scams, human trafficking, while also safeguarding our region from the far-reaching impacts of climate change." The Chief Justice emphasized that "in confronting these new and complex challenges together, we must remain grounded in the rule of law, a foundation that is essential for our economic progress and social development."



During the meeting, the ASEAN Chief Justices and Heads of Delegation were presented with reports regarding the activities carried out, achievements made and working plans submitted by the CACJ's nine working and study groups and two standing meetings of insolvency and intellectual property judges. The present working and study groups are:

i. Working Group on the ASEAN Judiciaries Portal;
ii. Working Group on Civil Proceedings;
iii. Working Group on Case Management and Court Technology;
iv. Working Group on Judicial Education and Training;
v. Working Group on Cross-Border Disputes Involving Children;
vi. Study Group on the Future Work of the CACJ;
vii. Working Group on ASEAN+ Meetings;
viii. Working Group on the Conduct of Videoconferencing Hearings; and
ix. Working Group on Climate Justice.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chief Justices and the Heads of Delegations signed the Singapore Declaration, as a result of the 12th CACJ Meeting.



National Committee of the Brunei Chapter of the ASEAN Law Association (ALA) Attends 46th Meeting of the ALA Governing Council in Singapore



The National Committee of the Brunei Chapter of ASEAN Law Association (ALA) attended the 46th Meeting of the Governing Council held from 13 to 15 November 2025 in Singapore. This meeting was hosted by the ASEAN Law Association (Singapore Chapter). The meeting brought together Governing Council members from all ALA National Committees across ASEAN, including Judges, Judicial Officers, legal academics, private practitioners and government legal officers. As the governing body of ALA, the Governing Council convenes annually to discuss matters related to the policy direction and steering of the Association.

Brunei Darussalam's delegation was headed by The Honourable Judicial Commissioner Muhammed Faisal bin PDJLD DSP Haji Kefli in his capacity as Chair of ALA Brunei National Committee. He was accompanied by members of the ALA Brunei National Committee comprising members of the Judiciary, the Attorney General's Chambers, Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali, and the Law Society.





The official programme commenced on 13 November 2025 with the SICC–SAL Seminar on International Disputes, jointly organised by the Singapore International Commercial Court and the Singapore Academy of Law. The seminar featured two panel discussions focusing on developments in cross-border trade and investment and on cross-border insolvency frameworks in ASEAN, with contributions from members of ASEAN judiciaries and leading legal practitioners.

On 14 November 2025, the 46th Governing Council Meeting was convened and chaired by the President of ALA, Tun Tengku Maimun binti Tuan Mat. During the opening session, Judicial Commissioner Muhammed Faisal delivered opening remarks on behalf of Brunei Darussalam, reaffirming the country's support for ALA's efforts in strengthening legal cooperation and professional exchange within the region. The Governing Council reviewed reports on the progress of ongoing ALA initiatives, capacity-building programmes for ASEAN legal professionals, and proposals for the continuing development of ALA's Standing Committees. The meeting also highlighted cooperation with other ASEAN bodies to promote greater harmonisation of legal understanding and enhanced accessibility to legal training and development opportunities across Member States.

Held in conjunction with the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) events, delegates attended the Seminar on the Transnational Practice of Law in ASEAN and concurrent meetings for the ASEAN Insolvency Practitioners and Judges and the ASEAN Intellectual Property Practitioners and Judges.

The 47th Meeting of the ALA Governing Council is expected to be hosted by Thailand in 2026.







Regional Validation Workshop for the Model Trafickking in Persons Program

Representatives from the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam attended the Regional Validation Workshop on the Model Professional Development Program for ASEAN Judges in Trafficking in Persons (TIP), held from 23 to 24 July 2025. The workshop marked the second part of a two-phase effort to revise and update the Model Trafficking in Persons Program, originally developed in 2018 to ensure the effectiveness and continued relevance of the Model TIP Program.

The Model TIP Program is a specialised training framework designed to help judges across ASEAN better understand and adjudicate TIP cases more effectively. The revised Model TIP Program provides a common yet adaptable framework that enables each Member State to integrate the Model into its respective national TIP-related judicial training, aligning with national legal systems and priorities. By institutionalising this revised program, ASEAN judiciaries could strengthen their capacity to adjudicate trafficking in persons cases more effectively, using victim-sensitive, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed approaches to adjudicating TIP cases—both domestic and transnational. This regional effort also reinforces cross-border cooperation and contributes to a more coherent and coordinated judicial response to TIP across ASEAN.

The first part of the workshop, held in May 2025, involved reviewing proposed updates to the Program based on a regional Training Needs Assessment. The second part, held in July, brought participants together to finalise and validate the revised content. Through collaborative discussions, participants validated the proposed structure and content of the revised Model TIP Program, ensuring it aligns with evolving legal challenges and the unique needs of each ASEAN judiciary. Brunei Darussalam was represented in both sessions, ensuring consistent contributions throughout the process.

This initiative is supported by the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) through its Working Group on Judicial Education and Training (WG-JET), in partnership with ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking (ASEAN-ACT) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The outcomes will be presented at the 12th CACJ Meeting in November 2025.







ASEAN Insolvency Judges Meeting

21 - 25 July 2025
Bangkok, Thailand

Attended by:
Acting Official Receiver Hajah Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Haji Hurairah
Supreme Court Registrar Pg Siti Nursu'aidah binti Pg Jufrizar @ Pg Tajuddin





ASEAN Intellectual Property Judges Meeting

21 - 25 July 2025
Bangkok, Thailand

Attended by:
Supreme Court Registrar Marzuqi bin Haji Sabtu





CACJ Working Group Week 2025

21 - 25 July 2025
Bangkok, Thailand

Attended by:
Supreme Court Senior Registrar Hajah Noor Amalina binti DP Haji Alaihuddin
Supreme Court Registrar Marzuqi bin Haji Sabtu
Supreme Court Registrar Pg Siti Nursu'aidah binti Pg Jufrizar @ Pg Tajuddin





6th UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Summit 2025

1 - 2 December 2025
Hong Kong,

Attended by:
Senior Magistrate Dewi Norlelawati binti Haji Abdul Hamid
Supreme Court Registrar Nurul Hidayah binti Hamdan







2025 Asean Convention on Legal Aid for Children

7 - 9 September 2025
Johor, Malaysia

Attended by:
Supreme Court Senior Registrar Harnita Zelda Skinner
Supreme Court Registrar Raihan Nabilah binti Haji Ahmad Ghazali



Strengthening Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons for Forced

18 - 19 February 2025
Bangkok, Thailand

Attended by:
Chief Magistrate Pg Hajah Norismayanti binti Pg Haji Ismail
Magistrate Hajah Normazdina binti Haji Md. Maskub



Masters in Law in Judicial Studies

August 2024 - August 2025
Singapore

Attended by:
Supreme Court Registrar Pg Siti Nursu'aidah binti Pg Jufrizar @ Pg Tajuddin





IT Security Awareness Course

3 June 2025
Civil Service Institute, Gadong

Attended by:
Senior Magistrate Hajah Azrimah binti Haji Abdul Rahman
Magistrate Hajah Normazdina binti Haji Md. Maskub
Supreme Court Registrar Nur Sariy Syahmina binti Haji Jaffri



Executive Development Programme for Middle Management Officers

30 June - 27 September 2025

Attended by:
Senior Magistrate Hajah Ervy Sufitriana binti Hj Abdul Rahman



Opening Ceremony



Run for Inclusion



Visit to Yayasan



Cohort with Minister of Finance and Economy II







T4A (Together 4 Autism) with His Majesty



T4A at Majlis Belia



T4A with Minister of Health





Capacity Review Project Attachment at Pusat Pekerjaan Brunei



SafeLink Bracelet Distribution Event



Gift Appreciation to Pusat Pekerjaan Brunei



Cohort with CIG Singapore



Closing Ceremony





Executive Development Programme Senior Government Officials

August - November 2025
Ministry of Defence

Attended by:
Acting Chief Registrar / Deputy Chief Registrar Hajah Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Haji Hurairah





Brunei and Malaysia Judicial Lecture Series

The first lecture of the inaugural Brunei-Malaysia Judicial Lecture Series was held on 12 March 2025 and was jointly organised by the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and the Federal Court of Malaysia on the topic of 'General Principles of Judgment Writing'. The collaborative effort between the judiciaries follows the signing of the Memorandum of Judicial Cooperation in March 2024 between the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and the Federal Court of Malaysia.

50 participants took part in the inaugural Brunei-Malaysia Judicial Lecture Series, comprising of judges and judicial officers from both Judiciaries. The lecture commenced with opening remarks made by the Acting Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam, Hjh Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Hj Hurairah. In her address, the Acting Chief Registrar said the lecture series presents a "wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas, share insights, and create opportunities for continued learning and growth." She emphasized the strong ties and cooperation that exists between the two judiciaries and described the partnership as one that "fosters mutual learning and strengthens the administration of justice" in both countries.

The Acting Chief Registrar went on to say that the lecture will provide practical strategies and insights to enhance judgment writing skills. The first presentation on 'Effective Judgment Writing in Criminal Cases' was made by The Honourable Haji Abdullah Soefri bin POKSM DSP Haji Abidin, Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam. Justice Haji Abdullah Soefri spoke on how effective judgment writing ensures clarity, structure, transparency, and objectivity in helping parties understand decisions while maintaining public trust. The second presentation on 'Issue Based Judgment Writing in Civil Cases' was made by The Honourable Datuk Vazeer Alam bin Mudin Meera, Judge of the Federal Court of Malaysia. Justice Vazeer spoke on The Raymond Method and how it follows a structured, issues-based approach using a seven-step framework that ensures clear partitioning of issues, and a well-organized narrative that enhances judicial accountability and accessibility.

Brunei and Malaysia Judicial Lecture Series II

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Judicial Cooperation signed in March 2024 between the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam and the Federal Court of Malaysia, the second lecture of the Brunei-Malaysia Judicial Lecture Series was held on 27 November 2025 focusing on the theme 'Sexual Offences against Children'.

The online lecture series brought together 40 participants from both jurisdictions comprising of judges and judicial officers. The session opened with remarks made by Puan Azniza binti Mohd Ali, Director of the Policy and Legislation Division, Office of the Chief Registrar of the Federal Court of Malaysia. In her remarks, she stated that the Lecture Series has been instrumental in strengthening the ties between the two judiciaries and fostering meaningful exchanges of knowledge and experience. She also highlighted the importance of the topic given the rise in such cases and the increasingly disturbing avenues for exploitation created by technology.

The first presentation was delivered by Yang Berbahagia Datin Kunasundary a/p Marimuthu, Sessions Court Judge in Court for Sexual Crimes Against Children, Putrajaya and titled 'Overview of Sexual Offences Against Children in Malaysia'. The presentation emphasized Malaysia's commitment to protecting children within the justice system, notably through the establishment of a specialized court, the Court for Sexual Crimes against Children and the enactment of the 'Sexual Offences against Children Act 2017 [Act 792]'. Together with the Evidence of Child Witness Act 2007 [Act 676], these legislative frameworks provide robust safeguards designed to protect children and facilitate their participation in the court room to reduce distress.

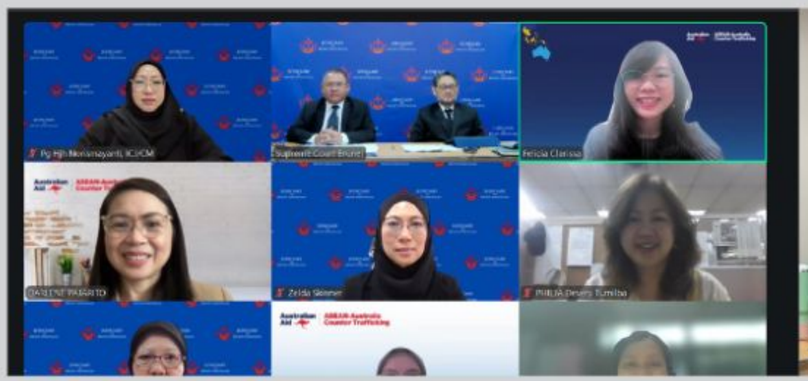


The second presentation on 'Conducting Child Sexual Offence Trials: Credibility, Challenges and Judicial Approaches' was made by Judge Pengiran Masni binti Pengiran Haji Bahar, Intermediate Court Judge of Brunei Darussalam. Judge Pengiran Masni outlined the legal framework in Brunei and discussed the complexities in cases involving children and vulnerable witnesses, particularly those with disabilities. She highlighted the laws on evidence including provisions on how children may testify, the assessment of their competency and the application of the "unusually convincing" standard, a principle used when conviction relies primarily on the child's testimony. Overall, she stressed the need for judicial flexibility and sensitivity in managing such trials to ensure the protection of victims and the preservation of the accused's right to a fair trial.

6th Conferenece of the Judicial Insolvency Network

8 June 2025







Judicial Knowledge Exchange on Trafficking In Person

23 October 2025

UNISSA Advocacy Training

23 August 2025

Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali









ISB visits to Court

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

The Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam wishes to congratulate officers and staff from the State Judiciary Department who have been awarded State Honorary Medals in honour of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan's 79th birthday celebration.



Yang Mulia Pengiran Saerah binti Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman
Yang Mulia Awang Md Fadzillah bin Haji Abu Bakar
Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Fatimah binti Haji Tahir
Yang Mulia Dayang Nur Kamilah binti Haji Metusin
Yang Mulia Dayang Masrina binti Bakar



Yang Mulia Hajah Azrimah binti Haji Abdul Rahman,
Darjah Setia Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bahagia Darjah IV
(P.S.B)

OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR

2025





The Opening of the Legal Year took place at the Supreme Court on Thursday 23 January 2025 corresponding to 23 Rejab 1445. The annual event gathered members of the Judiciary and the legal profession to mark the start of the court's legal year. The ceremony began with the traditional Guard of Honour parade by the Royal Brunei Police Force which was inspected by the Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong.







This was followed by the Chief Justice's address in which he reflected on the Opening of the Legal Year ceremony as one that signifies "a moment for reflection, renewal and affirmation of our commitment to justice and the rule of law."

Speeches were then delivered by the Attorney General, Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Paduka Dayang Hajah Nor Hashimah binti Haji Mohammed Taib and the President of the Law Society, Yang Mulia Haji Mohammad Zainidi Bin Haji Abdul Hamid, in representing advocates and solicitors in Brunei Darussalam.






FIRE
EXIT




COURT 2








SOCIALISING






COURT 2




COURT 1




COURT 2



























CHIEF JUSTICE, JUDICIAL COMMISSIONERS & JUDICIAL OFFICERS



CHIEF JUSTICE, OFFICERS &

& STAFF OF THE JUDICIARY



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

2025

41st BRUNEI NATIONAL DAY





Supreme Court Registrar Raihan Nabilah binti Haji Ahmad Ghazali was selected as one of the National Oath Readers. The oath reading has always been one of the highlights for Brunei Darussalam's National Day grand assembly.

20th YOUTH NATIONAL DAY






Supreme Court Registrar Nuuror-Raheebah binti Haji Abd Wahab, Assistant Official Receiver Nur 'Afifah Basyirah bte Ibrahim and Legal Assistant Siti Nazurah Syamim binti Haji Mohammad Yussof led the reading of the Youth Pledge and were selected as 3 of 100 achieving youth in 2025.

TADARUS & KHATAM AL-QURAN





On 22 March 2025, a Tadarus and Khatam Al-Quran event was held in the Supreme Court, which brought together all Judicial Officers, officers and staff from Supreme Court, Magistrate's Court and the district Courts. The event was organized to promote unity among the court's employees and to create a peaceful and religious atmosphere during the holy month of Ramadan.

RAMADHAN CHARITY DRIVE





Civil Court's charity drive is an annual activity in whcih contribution will be collected amongst the officers and staff. The distribution of the donation is throughout all four districts and regularly done in Ramadhan month.

JUDICIARY RAYA BY THE GARDEN 2025

















9 A SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

18 October 2025
JKR Field







LAW SOC BOWLING TOURNAMENT

24 October 2025
Utama Bowling







HYROX

25 October 2025
Hybrid Movement







FUTSAL

1 November 2025
JKR Futsal Court









BADMINTON TOURNAMENTS

SKIM PERANTISAN PERKHIDMATAN AWAM (SKiPPA)



Badriatun binti Haji Abdul Haris

SKiPPA is a 12-month Brunei government apprenticeship program for graduates (Bachelor's degree and above), aiming to boost employability in the public sector.

ATTACHMENT STUDENTS







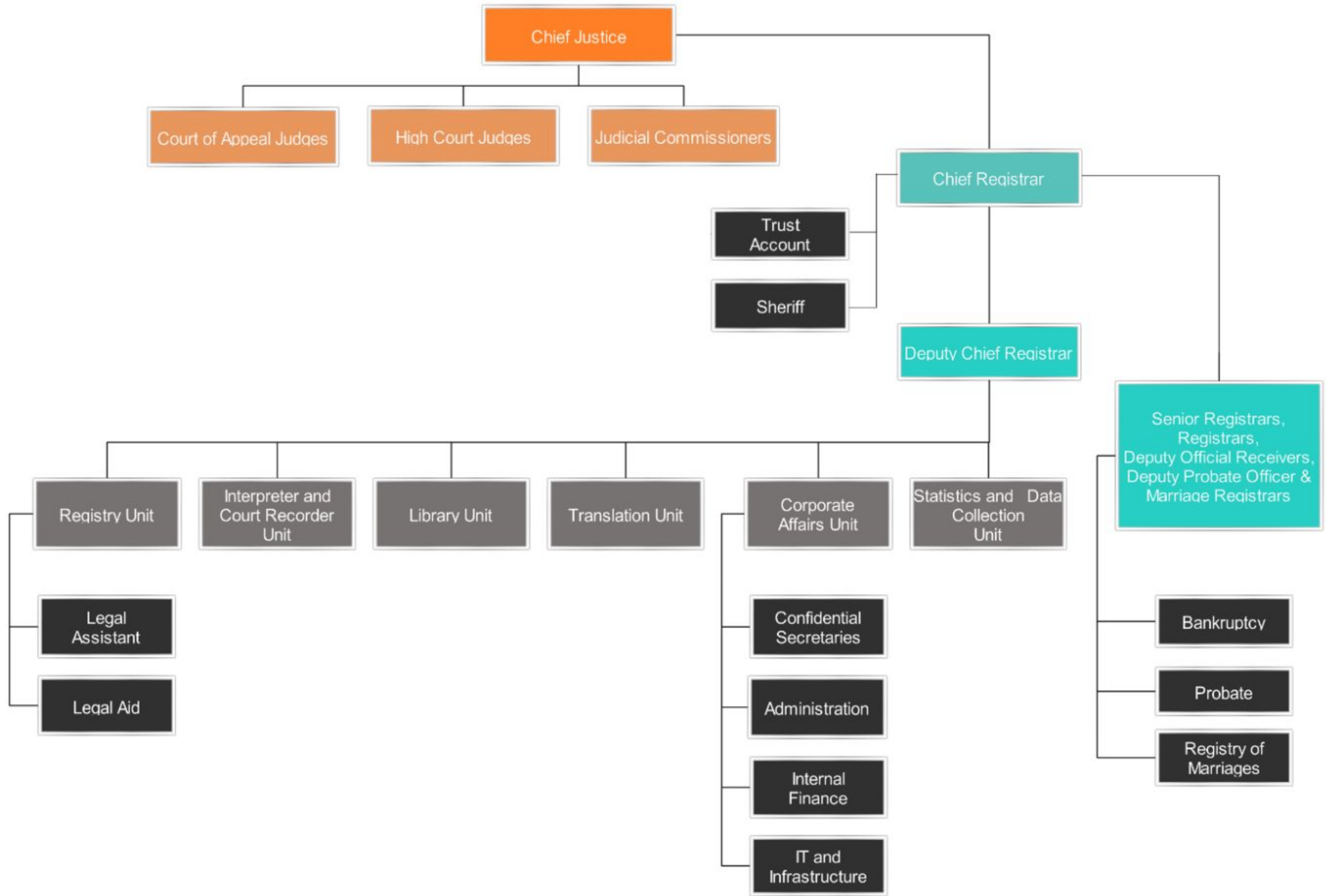




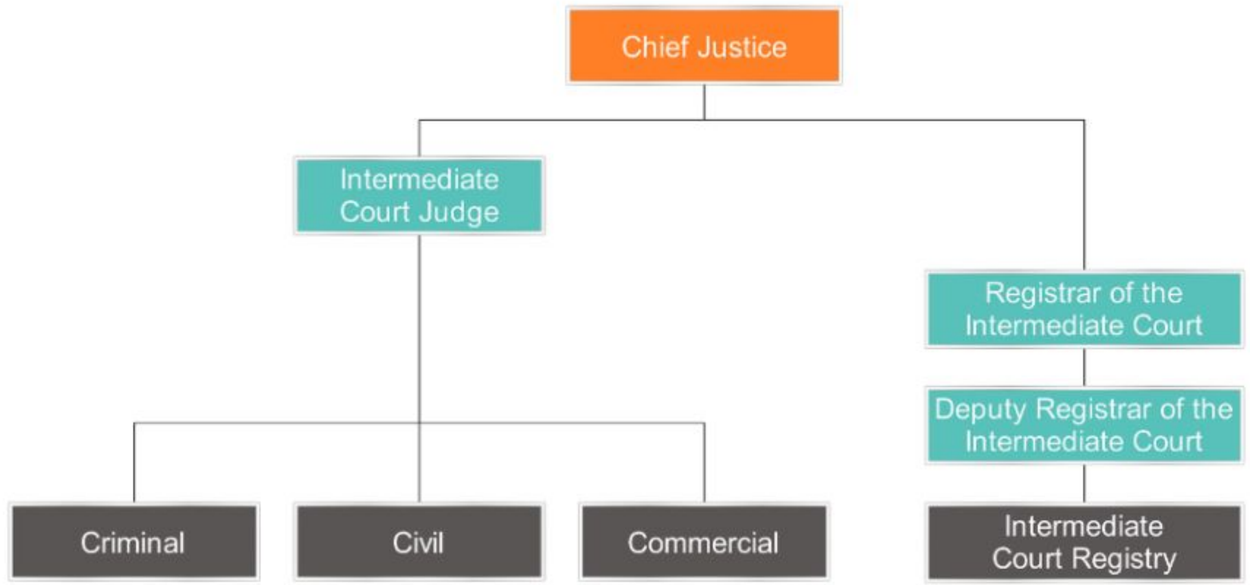
JUDICIARY

ORGANISATIONAL CHARTS

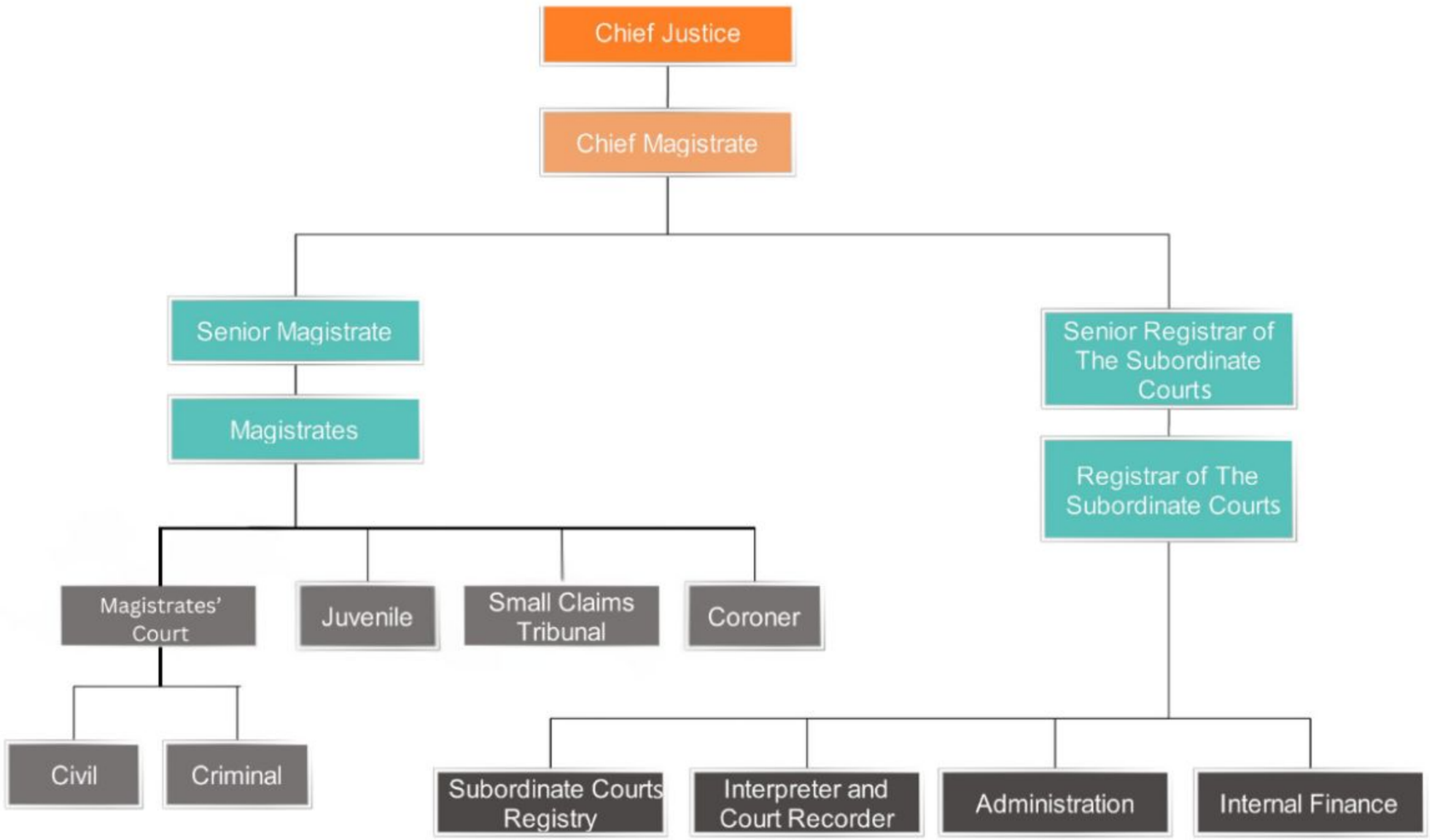
SUPREME COURT



INTERMEDIATE COURT



SUBORDINATE COURTS



STATISTICS

2025

SUPREME COURT

The statistics present a detailed breakdown of the number of case registered and filed within the Judiciary for the year 2025.

No. of cases filed		
	2024	2025
Court of Appeal		
Civil	20	16
Criminal	14	10
High Court		
Civil	56	69
Criminal	12	13
Appeal to the High Court from Magistrate Court		
Civil	2	5
Criminal	29	28
Other Matters		
Chamber hearings in the High Court and Intermediate Court before Registrars	535	439
Legal Aid applications granted	7	4

Bankruptcy Proceedings		
	2024	2025
Bankruptcy Office	350	289
Receiving Order	224	293
Adjudication Order	85	88
Rescission	116	108
Adjudication Order Dicharged	10	3
Winding-Up Order	15	19

Executions made in the Sheriff Office		
	2024	2025
Supreme Court		
Writ Seizure	2	4
Writ of Possession	1	-
Notice of Sale	-	-
Magistrate's Court		
Warrant of Attachment and the Sales of Goods	-	1
Notice of Sale	2	-
Warrant of Levy		3

Registry of Probate				
	No. of applications received		No. of applications granted	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
Letter of Administration	768	742	544	628
Letter of Probate	31	27	14	22

Registry of Civil Marriages and Divorce Petitions		
	2024	2025
Marriage Application Registered	66	100
Divorce Petition Received	39	32

INTERMEDIATE COURT

No. of cases filed		
	2024	2025
Civil	60	49
Criminal	49	54
Commercial	83	79

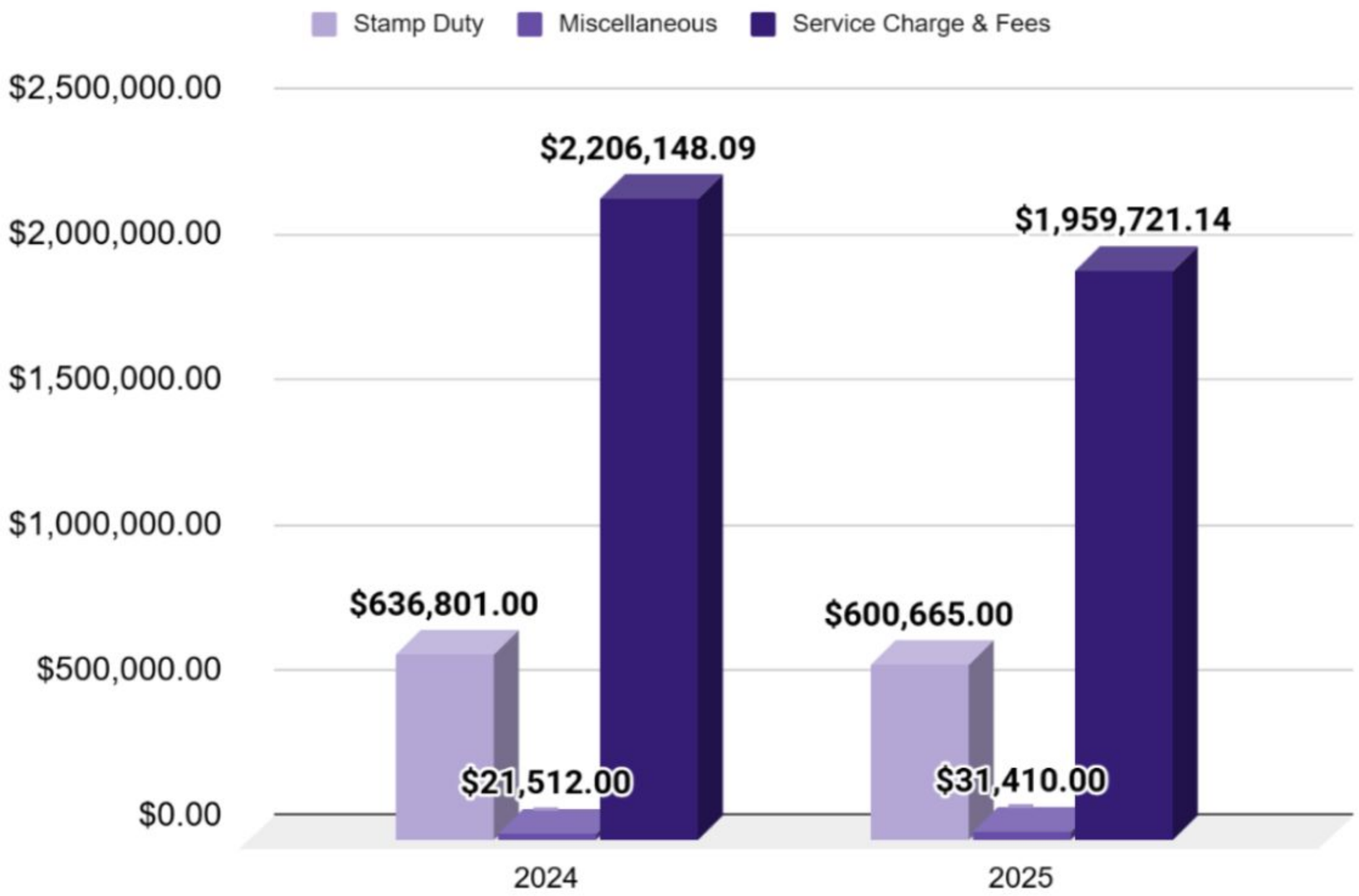
MAGISTRATE'S COURT

No. of cases filed		
	2024	2025
Civil	501	475
Criminal		
Bandar Seri Begawan	338	473
Tutong	47	77
Kuala Belait	94	120
Temburong	2	9
Total	481	679
Road Traffic Act		
Bandar Seri Begawan	145	87
Tutong	50	66
Kuala Belait	142	81
Temburong	7	10
Total	344	244

Juvenile Court		
	2024	2025
Care and Protection Order	6	7
Beyond Parental Control	3	2
Juvenile Arrest Case	2	-
Juvenile Traffic Case	1	-

Statutory Declaration		
	2024	2025
Brunei-Muara	9107	7864
Tutong	423	943
Kuala Belait	1718	1839
Temburong	220	205

COURT REVENUE



COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE OPENING OF THE LEGAL YEAR 2026

1. ADVISOR

The Hon. Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong

2. CO-CHAIRS

Hajah Hazarena binti POKSJ DP Haji Huraiah
Pg Hajah Norismayanti binti Pg Haji Ismail

3. FINANCE

Shahrezawati binti Ahmad

4. INVITATION

Pg Hajah Norismayanti binti Pg Haji Ismail
Hajah Hazarena binti POKSJDP Haji Hurairah
Sharifah Nur Baqiyah binti Malai Shahran
Fatin Fikriyah binti Haji Rosli
Nur Sariy Syahmina binti Haji Jaffri
Haji Badaruddin bin Haji Abdul Karim
Mohamad Norhamizan bin Mohd Nurazman
Khairul Khairiah Wahidah binti Ahmad
Nurbazilah binti Haji Md. Yucop/Haji Muhammad Ya'kub
Suhailah binti Ali
Siti Nooraqilah binti Haji Sirat
Nurnajiah binti Haji Yussop
Yenny binti Awang Walli
Noorhadina binti Abdul Aziz
Dk Nuramalina Binti Pg Umar
Siti Nazurah Syamim Binti Haji Md Yussof
Hajah Nurul Hazimah Binti Haji Tengah
Suzana Binti Basman
Norhayati Binti Haji Masri
Pg Suhaili Bin Pg Haji Ahmad
Siti Aliah Zarina Binti Mohd Sufri
Mohamad Yusof Bin Haji Ahmad
Muhammad Ghazali Bin Haji Tasim
Asrina Binti Haji Jukin
Rodglan Bin Haji Abdul Rahman
Mohammad Shamri Bin Alias
Pg Abu Nur Hairah Bin Pg Hashim
Siti Nurfadillah Binti Untong

5. MEDIA RELEASE & WEBSITE

Hajah Noor Amalina binti Dato Paduka Haji Alaihuddin
Hajah Suzunah @ Suzanah binti Haji Sulaiman
Haji Badaruddin bin Haji Abdul Karim
Mohamad Jazmi bin Haji Mohamad Kamel
Dewi Susianty binti Haji Md Daud

6. FLOOR MANAGERS

Hajah Ervy Sufitriana binti Haji Abdul Rahman
Syaffina binti Shahif
Norhamizah binti Mohammad
Nor Hafizah binti Haji Abd Ghafar
Badriatun binti Haji Abdul Haris
Mohammad Qhaire Hafez bin Haji Abdullah
Ahmad Faizin bin Awang Md Jinan
Mohamad Jazmi bin Haji Mohamad Kamel

7. CAR PARK

Muhammad Kamaluddin bin Haji Abu Bakar
Muhammad Afandi bin Haji Ebil
Mohammad Fikri Fathuddin bin Assokan
Mahmud Zuhdi bin Karim
Md Amirul Kamal bin Yakup
Ali Rahman bin Haji Simba
Haji Hanafi bin Haji Ibrahim
Haji Md Shamsul bin Haji Ismail
Yusuf bin Haji Mustapha
Rodglan bin Abdul Rahman
Mohammad Shamri bin Alias
Abdul Razak bin Haji Untong
Pengiran Abu Nur Hairah bin Pengiran Hashim
Mohd Ghazali bin Haji Tassim

8. MASTER OF CEREMONY

Mohamad Jazmi bin Haji Mohamad Kamel
Pg Norfarzat Irwani binti Pg Haji Mohd Jaafar
Hajah Noorinah binti Haji Noorkaseh
Pg Nurul Syafiqah Hakeemah binti Pg Shaiful Rezal Malek Faesal
Noraiman Al-Emi binti Mohd Shamsul
Dk Nur Khadijah binti Pg Kamarulzaman
'Arief Zulfadhly bin Awang Haji Mohd. Talip

9. FOOD & BEVERAGES

Nuuror-Raheebah binti Haji Abd Wahab
Hajah Normazdina binti Haji Md. Maskub
Noorhadina binti Abdul Aziz
Dk Nuramalina binti Pg Umar
Masrina binti Bakar
Nurul Atiyah binti Awang Adam
Hajah Rakiah @ Ruqaiyah binti Haji Roslan
Hajah Fatimah binti Haji Tahir
Nur 'Afifah Basyirah binti Ibrahim
Nurul 'Ain binti Muhd Hussini
Rashidah binti Awg Haji Tengah
Siti Nor Khairunnisa binti Haji Hassan
Siti Norfadillah binti Untong
Nur Azdisyahfina binti Ahamadi
Atillah binti Ahmad

10. RBPF GUARD OF HONOUR & HEALTH / SAFETY

Muhammad Qamarul Affyian bin Abdul Rahman
Muhd Muzakkir bin Haji Zakaria
Muhd Afandi bin Ebil
Mohammad Fikri Fathuddin bin Assokan
Mahmud Zuhdi bin Karim
Md Amirul Kamal bin Yakup

11. LOGISTICS

Pg Haji Mohd Khairuddin bin Pg Haji Hashim
Haji Badaruddin bin Haji Abdul Karim
Mohammad Fikri Fathuddin bun Assokan
Mohammad Ridhwan bin Haji Jofri
Mastika binti Mohd. Kamal
Pg Metali bin Pg Metamin
Abdul Mateen bin Amirisa
Mohd. Khalil bin Kudil
Ozzan bin Norman
Azlan Al-Azri bin Abdullah Langkan
Herdiman bin Awang /Ismail
Muhammad Hafiz bin Md Norariffin
Shahrun bin Hj Ibrahim / Serbini
Muhd Afandi bin Haji Ebil
Haji Muhd Shamsul bin Haji Ismail
Mohd Izzam bin Haji Mahmood @ Mahmud
Muhammad Ghazali bin Haji Tasim
Mohamad Yusof bin Haji Ahmad
Alirahman bin Haji Simba
Pg Suhaili bin Pg Haji Ahmad
Md Amirul Kamal bin Yakup
Haji Hanafi bin Haji Ibrahim
Muhd Hardy Iman bin Haji Muhd Ukit
Mohammad Jazmi bin Haji Mohamad Kamel
Mohammad Norhamizan bin Mohd Nurazman
Mohd Zuhdi bin Karim
Md Fadzillah bin Haji Abu Bakaar
Ahmad Faizin bin Awang Md Jinan
Mohd Yussof bin Haji Mustapha
Rodglan bin Haji Abdul Rahman
Mohammad Shamri bin Alias
Pg Abu Nur Hairah bin Pg Hashim
Mohammad Hafizurahman bin Awang Haji Majid
Mohammad Qhaire Hafez bin Haji Abdullah
'Arief Zulfadhly bin Awang Haji Mohd. Talip
Abdul Razak bin Haji Untong
Mohammad Khairuddin bin Zakaria
Zulhazmi bin Masri
Pg Zamahin bin Pg Haji Amat
Awg Mahrif bin Haji Kassim
Kasman bin Kamis

12. PROTOCOL & USHERS

Mohammad Marzuqi bin Sabtu
Abdul 'Azim bin Othman
Hjh Azza Yossie Binti Haji Abdul Aziz
Suraimah binti Rosli
Hasiah binti Abdullah
Nur 'Afifah Basyirah binti Ibrahim
Haji Md Shamsul bin Haji Ismail
Suhailah binti Ali
Siti Nooraqilah binti Haji Sirat
Sarinah binti Sahak
Diyanah Rashidah @ Ruz'zainnah binti Seruji
Nur Najiah binti Haji Yussop
Atillah binti Ahmad
Siti Aliah binti Mohd Sufri
Nurul Hafizah Dewiyana binti Abd Aziz
Nor Hafizah binti Haji Abd Ghafar
Rozliani binti Haji A. Timbang
Nur Azdisyahfina binti Ahamadi
Siti Nurafiqah binti Sufri
Zulhazmi bin Masri
Selamah @ Zahrina binti Haji Bujang
Nurul Zahirah Athirah binti Azmi
Abdul Razak bin Haji Untong
Mohammad Khairuddin bin Zakaria
Rakinah binti Rosli
Dk Nur Khayrin Syamimi binti Pg Mohd Ariffin
Noraidah binti Haji Mohd Yussof
Suzielawati binti Rahman

13. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Shahrezawati binti Haji Ahmad
Hajah Norzalinawati binti Haji Razali
Muhammad Hardy Iman bin Haji Muhammad Ukit
Zati Hanani binti Haji Zainal Ariffin
Siti Norhafiqah binti Haji Mohd Salihen
Fazeli bin Haji Duraman
Mohamad Feradaus bin Marif
Mohammad Afiq Aizuddin bin Mohd Daud

14. PHOTOGRAPHY

Nur Sariy Syahmina binti Haji Jaffri
Shaliza Hani binti Ahmad
Nor'Izzati binti Haji Mohd Ali

15. VENDORS

Raihan Nabilah binti Haji Ahmad Ghazali
Nurul Hidayah binti Hamdan
Muhammad Syafiq bin Awg Hj Zakaria
Fatin Fikriyah binti Hj Rosli
Hjh Fauzihana binti Hj Mohamad
Ra'eyah binti Haji Omar

16. LIAISON OFFICERS

Harnita Zelda Skinner
Hajah Azrimah binti Hj Abdul Rahman
Hajah Noor Amalina binti DP Haji Alaihudin
Hajah Kamaliah Fadhilah binti Haji Ibrahim
Dewi Norlelawati binti Haji Abdul Hamid
Nurul Hidayah binti Hamdan
Nur Eleana binti DSP Haji Hairol Arni
Mohammad Marzuqi bin Sabtu
Muhammad Qamarul Affyian bin Abdul Rahman
Raihan Nabilah binti Haji Ahmad Ghazali
Abdul Azim bin Othman
Nurulbillah Aqilah binti Haji Mohd Ali
Sharifah Nur Baqiyah binti Malai Shahran
Hajah Izzatul Faizah binti Dr Haji Mohamad
Haji Badaruddin bin Haji Abdul Karim

17. BOOK COMMITTEE

Nur Eleana binti DSP Haji Hairol Arni
Mohamad Jazmi bin Haji Mohamad Kamel
Norhamizah binti Mohamad

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS

JABATAN ADAT ISTIADAT NEGARA

ROYAL BRUNEI POLICE FORCE

RADIO TELEVISION BRUNEI

INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND RECREATION

FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

ELECTRICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

STATE JUDICIARY DEPARTMENT

OFFICERS AND STAFF OF THE CIVIL COURT