



SPEECH

GUEST OF HONOUR

**Football Forum
'Where Do We Go From Here'
Organised by Football Association of Brunei
Darussalam (*FABD*)**

**Tuesday, 07 Sya'ban 1444H / 28 February
2023**

**Jam: 8.30 am
Venue: FABD House**

[English]

Bismillahir Rahman Nir Rahim

Alhamdulillah Rabbil 'Alameen Wassalatu Wassalamu 'Ala Asyrafil Mursaleen, Saidina Muhammadin Wa'ala Alihi Wasahbihi Ajmaeen.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and a very good morning to all. First and foremost, allow me to convey Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Nazmi bin Haji Mohammad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports' sincerest apologies for not being able to attend this morning's Football Forum organized by the Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (FABD).

Yang Berhormat Dato would also like to congratulate the Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (FABD) for organizing this beneficial forum and he encourages participation from all levels. He believes that this event will run smoothly and will provide significant outcomes towards the development of sports in the country, particularly on football.

Without further ado, I will start off this event by reading out Yang Berhormat Dato's messages on his behalf.

Yang Mulia

Pengiran Haji Matusin bin Pengiran Haji Matasan

President of the Football Association of Brunei Darussalam
(FABD)

Yang Berhormat

Haji Salleh Bostamam bin Haji Zainal Abidin

Deputy President of the Football Association of Brunei
Darussalam (FABD)

Yang Mulia

Mohammad Shahnnon bin Haji Mohammad Salleh

Secretary General of the Football Association of Brunei
Darussalam (FABD)

Paul Munster

FABD Technical Director

Mario Rivera

Head Coach of Brunei Darussalam National Team

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very Good
Morning

Alhamdulillah, by the Grace of Allah Subhanahu Wataala we are gathered here this morning at the Football Forum organized by the Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (FABD) titled "Where Do We Go From Here".

Firstly, on behalf of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the President of the Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (FABD) for inviting me to deliver a speech to initiate this forum. I would also like to congratulate the Football Association of Brunei Darussalam (FABD) for successfully organizing this important forum to discuss the progress and development of sports particularly football in this country.

Since the Football Association of Brunei Darussalam was established, Brunei Darussalam has achieved several successes. According to records, Brunei has won the Borneo Cup 4 times in 1968, 1981, 1987 and 1988. Brunei has also won the Malaysia Cup after defeating Sarawak 2-1 at the Merdeka Stadium, Kuala Lumpur in 1999. The last success was in 2012 when the Brunei Darussalam National Team under 22 won the Hassanal Bolkiah Cup at the National Stadium after defeating the Indonesian team 2-0.

In this connection, I wish to draw our attention to the Titah of His Majesty in the Istiadat Pengurniaan Bintang Kebesaran dan Pingat Kehormatan to the Management and Football Players of Brunei Darussalam for their victory in the 2012 Hassanal Bolkiah Cup at Istana Nurul Iman on Thursday, 13 Jamadilawal 1432 Hijrah / 5 April 2012 AD where, among others, His Majesty has said the following:

"The success of the Brunei Darussalam Football Team is a very outstanding and proud achievement for all the people and residents, especially among the youth in this country.

Such success certainly requires high commitment and discipline at all levels, both at the management level and among the players themselves".

Such is His Majesty's Titah.

It is evident from here that any successes in sports, including football, will be the pride of the nation and the country. His Majesty has also expressed hope that this success will be a catalyst not only for football in particular but to raise the excellence of sports as a whole.

Under the National Sports Policy, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports remains committed at ensuring the success of sports

in this country through community sports and high performance sports. In the "Sports for the Community" sector, many things have been done to expand active participation and produce a solid base or platform towards excellence. In the "High Performance Sports" sector, although some progress has been made, the capabilities of our athletes and national teams still has room for improvement

In addition, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports will continue to ensure the national football team and also other sports teams will succeed in any competition at the regional and international level. However, this success is only possible with the cooperation and collective efforts of the sports associations in the country.

As you already know, to achieve success, FABD and other sports associations need to work hard to improve the sports teams' ability under their management. Efforts need to be focused on improving the performance of the country's athletes or the country's national players to provide a high-quality and steady performance to achieve success at the regional and international level.

For the future of football in this country, thus we need solid collaboration and cooperation among all relevant agencies, stakeholders and football clubs to achieve our desired goals. Furthermore, as with other sports and in the context of this forum,

our young talents in football must be nurtured continuously and adequately through strategic programmes and projects to develop them further to become more skillful, creative and strategic in gameplay. Therefore, it is time to consider reinventing Interschool Football Tournaments and the National Youth Football Championship. Something that we all can ponder and work it out together.

Furthermore, initiatives to hold national leagues for young players such as the DST League must also be continued to nurture the skills of younger generations so they can progress to the next level in further developing football in this country.

Lastly, on behalf of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks for everyone involved in organizing this Football Forum. I strongly believe that the time, resources and effort that we spend at this Football Forum will generate multifold benefits, not just for football but in further advancing the development of sports in Brunei as a whole.

To end this speech, I pray that this forum will bring the desired outcomes and will give success to the FABD Association and also the national football team. With the recital of the Kalimah Bismillah Hir Rahman Nir Rahim, Salawat and Salam upon our

beloved Prophet Muhammad Salallahu Alaihi Wassalam, I am pleased to officiate the FABD Football Forum.

Wabillahhi taufik walhidayah wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi! wabarakatuh.

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