

Message from Yang Berhormat the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports
on the occasion of
International Day of Families 2024

1. The International Day of Families is celebrated every year around the world on **15th May**, in line with the United Nations recognition of the family unit as the most important institution in society. It aims to foster stronger family bonds and to further enhance the capability of families to overcome challenges as well as in raising awareness regarding family-related issues. Accordingly, Negara Brunei Darussalam also observes and celebrates International Day of Families every year.
2. The theme for the 2024 International Day of Families is "Family and Climate Change: International Year of Family + 30." **The theme aims to raise awareness of how climate change impacts families and the role that they can play in climate action.** Climate-induced disasters are already impacting livelihoods and well-being of families as well as disruption to infrastructure, economies, ecosystems and global food security.
3. The theme is in line with **Goal 2: High Quality of Life, stated in the Brunei Vision 2035. The goal is to provide a high standard of living on par with the world's developed nations.** The focus is on providing a holistic ecosystem comprising of essential utilities and infrastructure, national security, **environmental care**, and social security for all walks of life.
4. **Climate change**, refers to the long-term changes in the Earth's climate patterns. This includes increased temperature and more frequent extreme climate-induced disasters that may potentially lead to decreased work productivity and increased health risks which will impact the community's overall livelihoods. Therefore, our community must be prepared and equipped with the right knowledge to help each other to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
5. When we are accustomed to **respecting** and caring for the environment and its components, indirectly, we are also trying to protect the well-being of society. This is where the role of family is as important as the saying in Malay, "*melentur buluh biarlah dari rebungunya*", (directly translated as 'to bend a bamboo, start when it is a shoot'). Our children need to be nurtured as best as possible **to care** for each other; **to love** and care for the environment encompassing a cleaner environment; and to develop a sense of responsibility for family and society. Therefore, living in a good environment leads to a healthy and prosperous family.

6. Alhamdulillah, Brunei Darussalam also celebrates **National Family Day (HKK) on every first Sunday in May since 2012** at the national level. This year, the celebration coincides with the glorious Syawal celebration, which falls on 25th Syawal 1445, corresponding to 5th May 2024, and has been celebrated with religious events including family prayer recitation after every fardhu prayer in all mosques and suraus, and a Thanksgiving Ceremony in conjunction with the National Family Day Celebration 2024, which was held on Saturday, 4th May 2024.
7. With the theme of '*Keluargaku Harapanku*' (My Family, My Hope), the **Focus of HKK** this year is 'Instilling the core values of Brunei Families: **Love, Responsibility, Respect, and Care.**' (The Core Values of Brunei Families: 'One Hope'). The focus is still very broad and relevant to be applied in the **planning and strengthening of the policy as well as** family development programmes, and as a platform in the National Plan of Action on the Family Institution under the National Council of Social Issues which has been updated for the years 2023–2027 and will be launched this year.
8. Several activities and initiatives have been planned throughout the year with the collaboration of strategic partners from government and non-government sectors, as a Whole of Nation approach, towards strengthening the family institution and providing opportunities for all of us to spend quality time with our families, as follows:
 - a. *Keluarga Harmoni* Festival (Harmonious Family Festival);
 - b. *Big Kem Family Run* organized by Big Kem Project Company in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports through the Department of Youth and Sports;
 - c. Mu'tamar International Fiqh Al-Usrah (MUAFIQ), organised by Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College;
 - d. Islamic Parenting Skills Workshop organised by Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College;
 - e. *Anakku Kesayanganku* Programme (My Child My Dearest Programme) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry on Religious Affairs in the form of activities that will involve students from kindergarten to higher institutions;
 - f. "Family Package Promotion" which will be offered by businesses and companies that will also help to stimulate economic activities in the country.
9. In addition, from the academic aspect, the family education programme is also offered by the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB) through the Al-Usrah Fiqh Study Centre Post-Degree Programme, Bachelor's Programme, and Diploma in Fiqh Al-Usrah

Studies, such as **Islamic Family Financial Management; Family Guidance and Counselling; and The Minor Islamic Family Education Programme.**

10. It is hoped that all parties, whether the government agencies, private sectors, organisations, institutions, penghulus, head villagers, and grassroots leaders, will continue to provide **integrated commitment and cooperation**, especially in **organising celebration events** at the national, district, mukim or village level, as well as at the level of organizations, associations, communities or among family members.

11. A stable and happy family that supports the education, well-being, and safety of the family members contributes to a healthy emotional, mental, and physical state as well as a productive workforce. All of these elements will contribute positively to the country's social and economic development. The Core Values of Brunei Families, which have been fostered within the family, can serve as the foundation for a stable and prosperous community. Insya-Allah, with the continuous efforts and cooperation, and prayers to the Almighty Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, may we all continue to progress in peace for our king, country, race and religion under the protection of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala as a happy family – a *Baladatun Tayyibatun Wa Rabbun Ghafur* country.

Happy International Day of Families 2024 to all families in Brunei Darussalam.

**“Brunei Family Values:
Love, Responsibility, Respect, and Care”**