

**MESSAGE**  
**BY THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS**  
**IN CONJUNCTION WITH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS 2025**

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1. Alhamdulillah, Brunei Darussalam once again commemorates the International Day of Older Persons which falls on 1 October. This year marks the 35th Anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons for the Member States of the United Nations (UN). This year, Brunei Darussalam celebrates the International Day of Older Persons at the national level with the theme: ***'Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Towards Successful Aging and Intergenerational Synergy'***.

2. Brunei Darussalam is no exception in experiencing the demographic shift towards an ageing society. According to the Brunei Darussalam Statistical Yearbook 2024, senior citizens comprise **10.9% (49,500 people)** of the country's total population, compared to **10.8% (48,800 people)** in 2023. This means that Brunei Darussalam is classified among countries that have an aging population. Although this increase may seem small, it has an apparent impact on various aspects of life and national policies, including social and economic aspects. Nevertheless, we are grateful that with the increasing number of senior citizens in this country, various efforts have also been strengthened to safeguard their welfare and well-being.

3. The growing number of senior citizens has become the basis for updating the **Senior Citizens Action Plan: Towards Successful Ageing**, under the National Council for Social Issues (MKIS). This plan focuses on the well-being, protection and empowerment of senior citizens, in line with the theme of this year's International Day of Older Persons. This theme emphasizes that senior citizens are not only beneficiaries, but also drivers and contributors in shaping the direction of the country and the global community. We must continue to value senior citizens as a source of wisdom, experience and role models, while encouraging collaboration between generations to achieve successful aging and build an inclusive, harmonious and prosperous society.

4. The concept of **'Towards Successful Aging'** reminds us that success in old age is not only measured through good physical health or well-being, but also encompasses physical, spiritual and afterlife balance. A healthy diet, an active lifestyle, and regular health check-ups are important foundations for well-being. At the same time, spiritual practices such as prayer, dhikr, reading the Quran, and self-reflection are essential provisions towards an eternal afterlife.

5. **'Intergenerational Synergy'** is also very important. We are aware that the elderly have a wealth of experience, wisdom and traditional values, while the younger generation brings a spirit of innovation, energy and a desire for change. When both generations work together, it strengthens societal harmony and opens up great opportunities for holistic national development, including in terms of health, social security, economy and mental well-being.

6. Senior citizens are a valuable asset to the nation. They play a vital role in strengthening family institutions, fostering bonds of kinship, and passing down culture, religion and traditions to the next generation. Their presence and active participation in the community reflects an inclusive society, which values the contributions of previous generations. Therefore, the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam will continue to empower the senior citizens through long-established schemes. As of July 2025,

a total of **45,256 senior citizens received the Old Age Pension**, of whom **1,092 also received Disability Allowance**. In addition, **558 senior citizens** were identified as caregivers of Disability Allowance recipients and also received Caregiver Allowance.

7. The government also welcomes intergenerational collaboration. Initiatives such as the involvement of Universiti Brunei Darussalam students with the Wargamas Association through the *Discovery Year Program*, as well as **“The Golden Amazing Race”** which is organized for the first time this year in collaboration with the Brunei History Centre and the Youth Development Centre, demonstrates that cooperation between senior citizens and the youth can foster beneficial experiences through meaningful cross-generational interactions, deepen understanding of the realities of ageing, and strengthen the culture of respect for the elderly.

8. The active participation of senior citizens in national activities demonstrates their perseverance and commitment as resilient pillars of society who remain relevant in supporting national agendas. For example, for the first time ever, members of the Senior Citizens' Activity Centre were entrusted to organise a Ceremony Marking the Conclusion of 41 Full Recitations of the Qur'an (Majlis Khatam Al-Quran 41 Kali) in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 2025 National Day celebrations. The event, involving 150 senior citizens from all four districts, further highlighted their vital role in contributing to spiritual development of the community and elevating the propagation of Islam in this country.

9. We also greatly value the commitment from various parties including government agencies, institutions of higher learning, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, local communities and volunteers, in raising awareness on the needs and challenges faced by senior citizens. Several initiatives for the well-being of senior citizens continue to be implemented, such as **the Care of Senior Citizen Project (Projek Memeduli Warga Emas)** organised by the Department of Community Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, non-governmental organisations and volunteers. As of July 2025, a total of **56 senior citizens** have received direct intervention assistance, while **94 senior citizens** have been receiving monthly supplies of diapers and milk which are delivered directly to their homes by the Community and Welfare Volunteer Group (Kumpulan Sukarelawan Komuniti dan Kebajikan).

10. In closing, **Happy International Day of Older Persons** to all senior citizens in Brunei Darussalam. With utmost humility, we extend the highest appreciation and gratitude, for the dedication, sacrifices and contributions for the Monarch, Nation, Religion and Country. May Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala continuously bestow blessings, health and prosperity upon all senior citizens, and grant them the strength to continue to be an inspiration to the present and future generations.

Amin Ya Rabbal Alamin.

**Intergenerational Synergy Towards Successful Aging.**