



MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM





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‘Whole of Nation Approach’

United in addressing the impact and challenges arising from the spread of
COVID-19 in Brunei Darussalam.

Steps undertaken are focused on 3 main components:

1

Maintaining the
well-being of
the public



Maintaining job
securities and
providing support to
individuals

2

3

Supporting and
assisting
businesses





**MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN
ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19**

MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC





MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC

HIGH QUALITY AND COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THAT IS EFFECTIVE,
EFFICIENT AND RESPONSIVE WITH SUFFICIENT MEDICAL AND SAFETY EQUIPMENTS

- **Construction of the new National Isolation Centre Building in Tutong District to treat and monitor confirmed positive-infected COVID-19 patients in this Centre.**



- **Construction of an additional National Virology Laboratory in Kampung Sumbiling, Bandar Seri Begawan, to increase the capacity and accelerate the testing process for COVID-19 in the country.**

- **Monitoring Centres for foreigners, citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam that have entered into Brunei Darussalam from abroad to undergo self isolation.**



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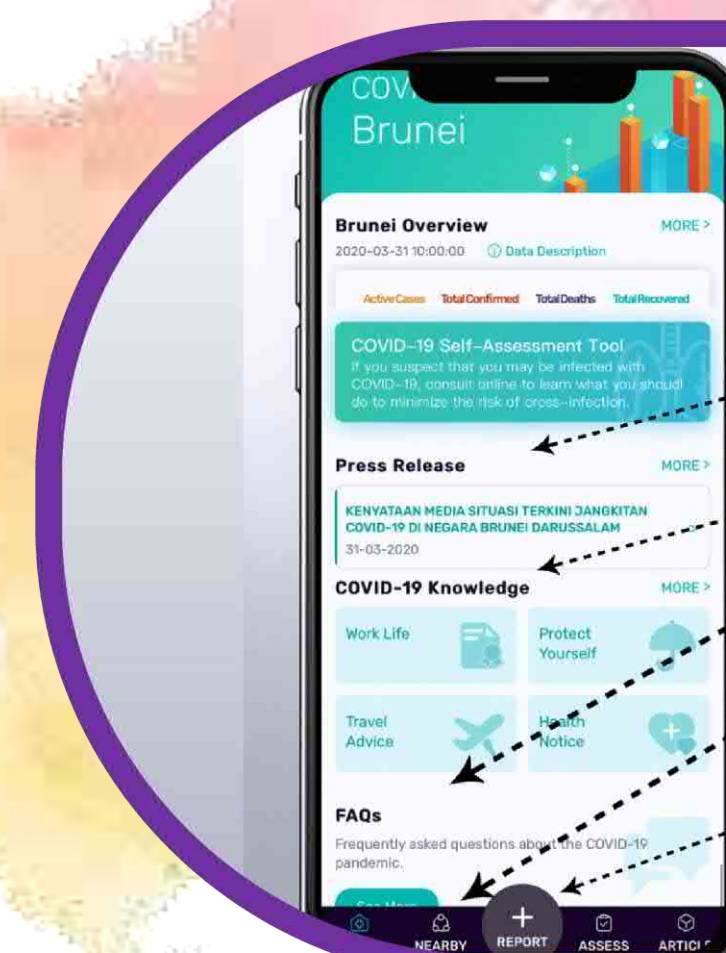
MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC

EFFECTIVE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION AND LATEST UPDATES ON CURRENT COVID-19 INFECTION IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



- **Press Conference conducted daily** to provide latest information on COVID-19 cases in Brunei Darussalam.
- **Health Advice Line 148** has been set up and can be contacted for further information and latest updates on COVID-19 cases in Brunei Darussalam.

- **Self Assessment Tool via healthinfo.gov.bn** to help individuals self-assess possible COVID-19 symptoms and assist Government's initiative to provide real-time Government dashboard.
- **Official launch of the mobile application Telegram for GOV.BN** for the dissemination of official Government information, including official Press Releases.



New features in the Home Page

- **Press Release** : Collection of Covid-19 Press Statements from all Ministries.
- **COVID-19 Knowledge** : Health Education Resources
- **FAQs** : General Information on what we know about Covid-19 so far.
- **Nearby** : Covid-19 Hotspots and Medical Resource Locations.
- **Report** : A comprehensive self reporting tool for anyone who has come in contact with Covid-19 confirmed cases or showing symptoms.



MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC

SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR FRONTLINERS



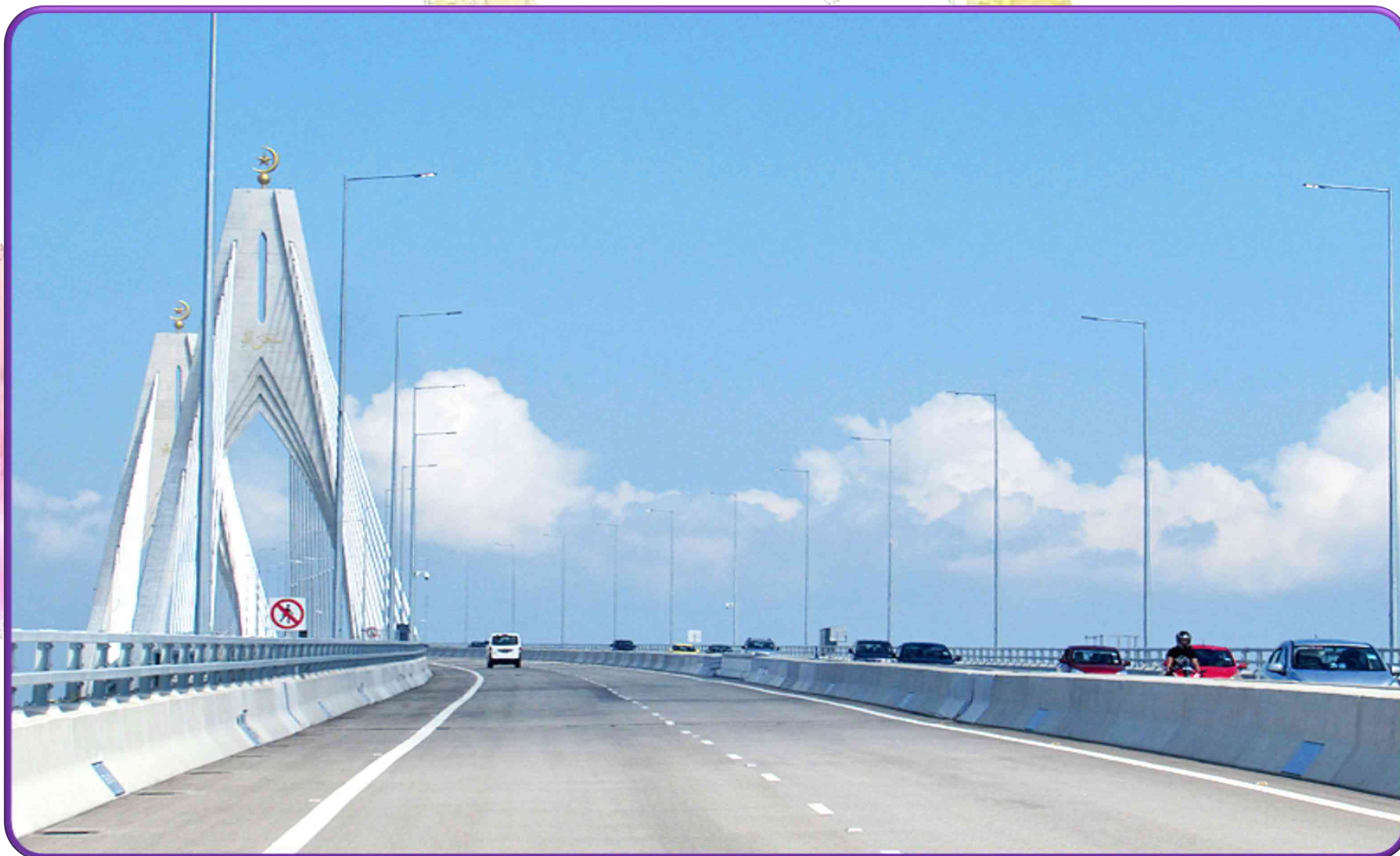
- **Monthly special allowance of B\$400 (Four Hundred Dollars),** specifically for doctors, nurses, paramedics, ambulance drivers, volunteers, hospital cleaners, security guards and all staff under the Ministry of Health, especially those working at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital, National Isolation Centre in Tutong and quarantine centres **as allocated by the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.** This monthly allowance started in **March 2020** and will be extended until the eradication of COVID-19 in Brunei Darussalam.



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MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC

EASIER ACCESS TO TEMBURONG DISTRICT



- **Temporary opening of the bridge linking Brunei-Muara District and Temburong District to provide easier access to Temburong District. The Bridge is open from 6 am to 6 pm daily from Thursday, 19th March 2020.**



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MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC

RESTRICTIONS OF EXIT AND ENTRY INTO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

- Travel ban out of Brunei Darussalam in effect starting 16th March 2020 has been included in all application guidelines for all citizens and permanent residents to prevent the spread of COVID-19 outbreak.



- Addressing the well-being and security of Bruneian students currently studying abroad to return into the country.

- All applications to recruit new foreign workers are temporarily suspended.
- All foreign nationals/visitors including those in transit are not allowed to enter Brunei Darussalam.





MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC

CONSUMER AFFAIRS



- Monitoring of product prices is continuously conducted for items such as rice, sugar and other essentials such as hand sanitizers and surgical face masks.

- Ensuring that stocks of rice and sugar are sufficient for the population's daily consumption.





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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

- Enhancing telecommunication services to meet the increasing demand.



- Bilateral negotiations between the Postal Services Department, Brunei Darussalam and Pos Malaysia, Malaysia have approved for Postal Services Department as representative for item collection in Pos Miri dan Pos Limbang for recipients based in Brunei Darussalam. To facilitate the process of shipping and receiving of items purchased online from abroad, the public is encouraged to use their addresses in Brunei Darussalam.



MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC

UNITED IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE

- COVID-19 Relief Fund has been set up to enable the general public to make financial contribution in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic.



- Establishment of the Youth Volunteer Ad-Hoc Committee to bring together volunteers who wish to assist in handling the outbreak as well as coordinate the distribution of volunteers to assist the Ministry of Health.



- Handing over financial assistance from the Brunei Islamic Religious Council (MUIB) through their General Administration Fund to micro businesses and self-employed whose income were affected due to the outbreak of COVID-19.



MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC

ONLINE LEARNING

- Schools continue to conduct Online Learning and Teaching following the announcement of school holiday dates in the month of Ramadhan and Hari Raya Aidilfitri as well as the date for the beginning of Second School Term.
- Online learning platform for students and teachers with provision of bandwidth and data to enable continuous learning.
- In support of online learning, the public is welcome to donate computers, laptops and tablets (new or used).
- Program Rancangan Pembelajaran di Rumah for Year 6 Students are shown through RTB Aneka and RTB GO (Every Monday to Thursday and Saturday from 8.30 am).



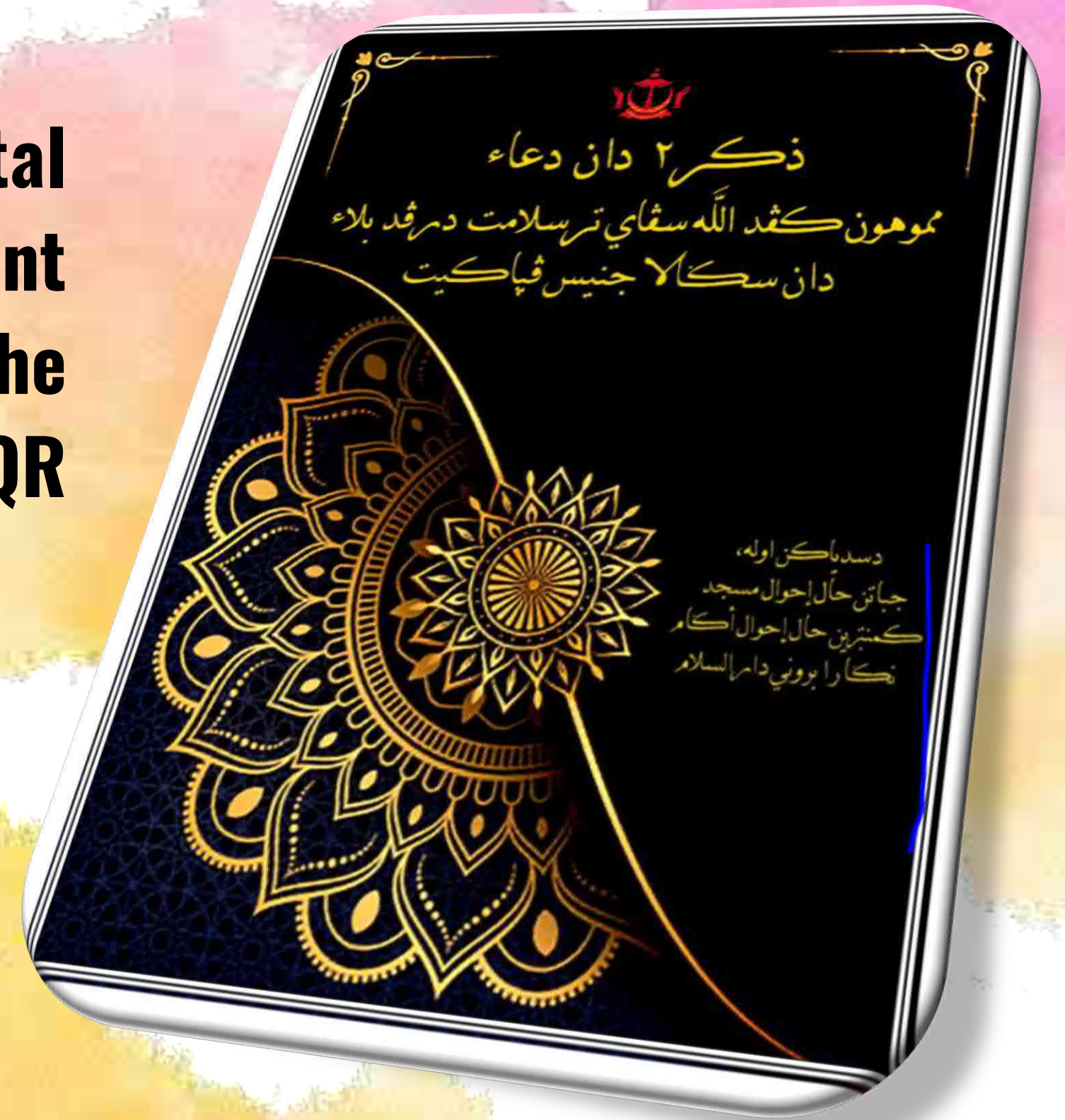


MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC

RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL INITIATIVES

- **Distribution of COVID-19 zikir and prayer books.** A total of 15 thousand copies were distributed to government and private sector in the country. A softcopy of the book in PDF format is accessible by scanning the QR code or through the website www.kheu.gov.bn.





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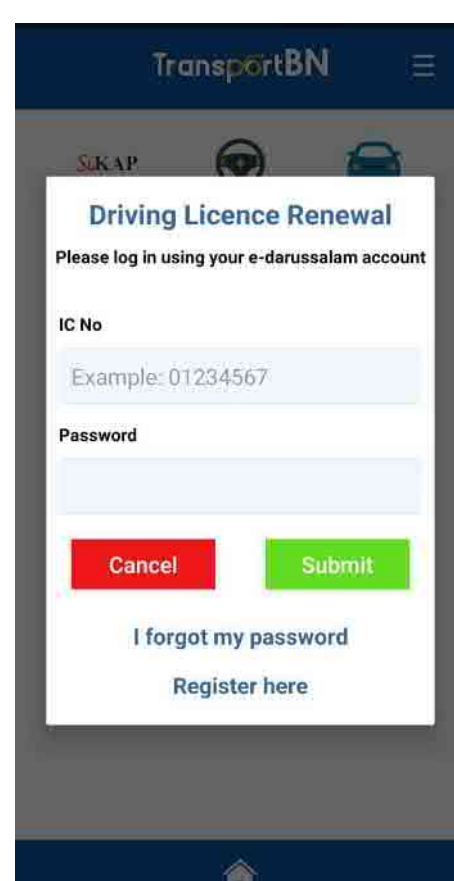
MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC

PROVIDING ALTERNATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY



- **Drive-Thru for service pension payments and descendants' pension to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection and prevent congestion and overcrowding.**

- **Old Age Pension payment is implemented in two methods, namely through bank as additional option and the current option of payment made through Penghulu and Village Heads.**



- **A number of Government agencies have started to provide online services for the convenience of the public.**


جمايڤن قرياءون مساركة
JABATAN PEMBANGUNAN MASYARAKAT
KEMENTERIAN KEBUDAYAAN, BELIA DAN SUKAN

PEMBAYARAN MELALUI BANK BAGI
PENCEN UMUR TUA, PENCEN ORANG BUTA, PENCEN HILANG UPAYA,
ELAUN BERCELARU MENTAL, ELAUN KUSTA, ELAUN KURANG UPAYA

- ① MUAT TURUN BORANG : bit.ly/elaunJAPEM
- ② IMBAS (SCAN) ATAU GAMBAR DOKUMEN:
  00-000-000
BORANG KAD PINTAR NOMBOR
PEMOHON & PENJAMIN AKAUN BANK
- ③ HANTAR MELALUI E-MEL:
BAHAGIAN.PENCEN@JAPEM.GOV.BN
ATAU
MASUKKAN KE DALAM:
PETI KOTAK, TINGKAT 1, RUANG LEGAR
KKBS
- ④ SEBARANG PERTANYAAN SILA HUBUNGI:
 HELPLINE **141**



MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC

SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

- Temporary closure of all mosques, suraus and worship halls throughout Brunei Darussalam.
- All public events and gatherings including weddings and sports events are temporarily not allowed.
- Temporary closure of several tamu/stalls in Temburong, Tutong and Belait Districts.
- Cancellation of all Gerai Ramadhan under the provision of the Municipal Department, District Department, and Youth and Sports Department.
- Suspension of the weekly Bandarku Ceria.





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MAINTAINING THE WELL-BEING OF THE PUBLIC

SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

- **Food premises** such as restaurants, cafes, food courts, tamu (hawker stalls/marketplaces) and its equivalent **are not permitted** to provide dine-in services and only permitted to provide takeaway services.
- Temporary closure of **cinemas** and **bowling centres**.
- Temporary closure of **all sports complexes** and facilities in the country, including **private gyms** and **golf courses**.
- Temporary closure of **museums** and galleries, youth centres and the Language and Literature Bureau's library and its branches.





**MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN
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MAINTAINING JOB SECURITIES AND PROVIDING SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUALS





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MAINTAINING JOB SECURITIES AND PROVIDING SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUALS

- Starting 1st April 2020, the Government provides **the full SCP contribution** for self-employed individuals for a period of six months.
- **Providing online training free-of-charge** through **Coursera**, an online learning platform that has over **300 courses** related to business matters.
- **Life-long Learning:** Companies are encouraged to conduct **upskilling dan reskilling** trainings for their local staff, as provided by Manpower Planning and Employment Council (MPEC).
- **Contract extension for i-Ready apprentices** for a period of **six months** especially for those whose contract expires before September 2020 in the public and private sector.





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MAINTAINING JOB SECURITIES AND PROVIDING SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUALS

- Expanding the i-Ready Apprenticeship Program to Level 5 Diploma (HND or Advanced Diploma) and Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET)
- Revamping of Job Centre Brunei (JCB) Website – Job Matching, real-time notifications for job matches, and companies would also be able to get talent profiles and compatibility reports based on the criterias of the jobs.
- JCB will be working with private companies, where a larger workforce is needed, by providing services such as sending SMS to local jobseekers and providing pool talent for the companies' reference and conducting interviews through its virtual platform.





**MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN
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SUPPORTING AND ASSISTING BUSINESSES





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SUPPORTING AND ASSISTING BUSINESSES

IN EFFECT AS OF 1ST APRIL 2020:

- **Deferment on contributions towards Employees Trust Fund (TAP) [5%] and Supplementary Contributory Pension (SCP) [3.5%] for local employees earning less than \$1,500 per month in all sectors under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with less than 100 employees – for a period of 6 months.**
- **Providing 25% salary subsidies for Bruneian employees in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with less than 100 employees – for a period of three months.**





MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

SUPPORTING AND ASSISTING BUSINESSES



IN EFFECT FROM 1ST APRIL 2020 TO REDUCE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN ON AFFECTED BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS

- **Deferment on principal repayments on loans** for businesses and individuals affected in all sectors.
- **Trade and payment transaction fees are waived until 30th September 2020** for companies in the tourism, restaurants/cafes, air transport and imports of food and medicine sectors.
- **Deferment on principal repayments on personal financing/loans and vehicle financing/loans**, or restructuring loans/repayments with a period of not exceeding 10 years.
- **Deferment on principal repayments on personal financing/loans related to land (hartanah)**, either for ownership or for investment purpose.
- **Conversion of outstanding balances on credit cards into a term loan** for a period not exceeding 3 years for affected individuals working in the private sector only, including the self-employed. However, this measure will not lead to an extension of the borrower's credit card limit within the 3 year period.
- **All bank and fee charges for deferment and restructuring applications** (including restructuring of outstanding balances on credit cards), excluding third party charges, will be waived until 30th December 2020.
- **Applications for loan/financing deferment and restructuring are valid until 31st December 2020.**
- **All charges and bank payments for interbank transfers**, except third party charges, will be waived until 30th September 2020.



MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

SUPPORTING AND ASSISTING BUSINESSES

IN EFFECT FROM 1ST APRIL 2020 FOR A PERIOD OF SIX (6) MONTHS:

- **Providing 30% discount on rental rates of government buildings** for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) according to the targeted sectors such as tourism, hospitality (including hotels and lodging houses), restaurants and cafes, and air and water transportation.
- **Providing 50% tax discount on corporate income tax** for the year of assessment 2021 for targeted sectors such as tourism, hospitality (including hotels and lodging houses), restaurants and cafes, and air and water transportation.
- **Providing 15% discount on water and electricity bills** for targeted sectors such as tourism, hospitality (including hotels and lodging houses), restaurants and cafes, and air and water transportation.
- **Temporary exemption of customs and excise duties** to assist retailers and consumers from the increasing demand on personal hygiene products, especially in combatting COVID-19.

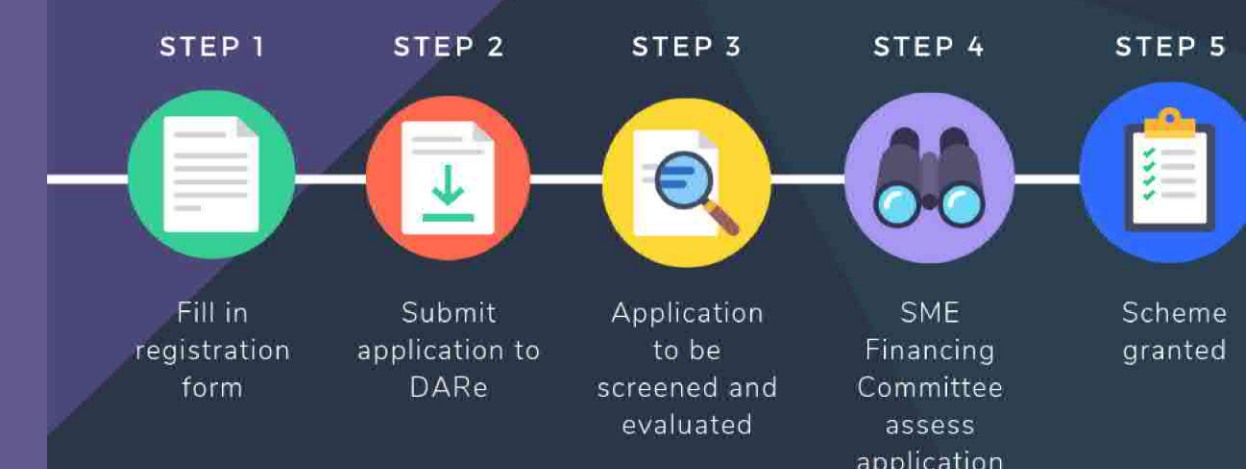


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SUPPORTING AND ASSISTING BUSINESSES

- The State of Sarawak has given their cooperation to allow Bruneian and foreign companies in Brunei Darussalam to enter and exit the country through land checkpoints for the purpose of trade or sending of goods. Brunei Darussalam has also approved similar arrangements for companies from Sarawak to send their goods through Brunei roads.
- Starting March 2020, rental charges for Tamu, Pasar dan Gerai under the Ministry of Home Affairs will be temporarily suspended for a period of six (6) months.
- Providing Co-Matching Grants for e-Commerce and logistic services.
- Providing 50% discount for glutinous rice for a period of one (1) month starting Wednesday, 8th April 2020 at the Supply and State Store Complex to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and self-employed businesses in their preparation and sale of local kulh and cakes using glutinous rice as the main ingredient such as kelupis, wajid, seri-muka and others.

CO-MATCHING GRANT STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS





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SUPPORTING AND ASSISTING BUSINESSES

- **E-commerce platform 'e-Kadai':** This aims to provide an alternative to businesses to market their products online.

eKadaiBrunei

- **'Community for Brunei'** provides a platform to bring Bruneian communities together to assist MSMEs in selling their products in the **'virtual market'** and for the general public to purchase goods virtually and make digital payments via debit or credit cards. **Community for Brunei has launched 2 projects, namely:**

1. **'Community for COVID'** to provide necessities to frontliners; and
2. **'Community for Ramadhan'** to purchase food items for Sungkai dan have it delivered to their respective houses/locations.



- **'Buy Local Produce Campaign'** aims to help local farmers and market vendors sell their agricultural produce and not to be affected by the temporary closures of markets/tamu. This initiative will also **ensure stability in prices of agricultural products such as vegetables and fruits; and promote continuous agricultural production.**

