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Positive SLP activities key to schools' success

Minister visits Datu Ahmad Primary School

By James Koon

THE Ministry of Education is encouraging schools nationwide to come up with their own best practices to further help students attain better results and share their success with other schools in the School Leadership Programme.

Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kema Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, the Minister of Education, during an interview with the media following his visit at Datu Ahmad Primary School in Kampong Buring Pinggai Ayer, said, "We encourage each school to come up with their own best practices under School Leadership Programme, we encourage school leaders to share their best practices with other schools so that schools can follow best practices and improve on them."

The minister further said, "I am encouraged by the initiatives taken by every school. This is because through the leadership programmes, more than three quarters of school leaders have chosen literacy and numeracy as their school projects and from the performance of the projects we have seen it has helped improve the performance of the students in the respective schools, encouraging them to enhance and improve further as well as look into other projects to help students to attain better performances."

Datu Ahmad Primary School has successfully come up with their own best practices in helping the students perform better. The school has initiated its own programmes called 'Bijak Sifir' or wise multiplication, 'inTalk' (SLP), reading programme and so on.

*To Page 16



The Minister of Education witnessing the students demonstrating the push and pull factor in a Science classroom

JAMES KOON

SELAMAT BERPUASA

PRAYER TIMES

Imuk	4.47am
Subuh	4.57am
Syuruk	6.16am
Doha	6.40am
Zohor	12.20pm
Asr	3.41pm
Maghrib	6.33pm
Isyak	7.44pm

* Add 3 minutes for Belait
* Add 1 minute for Tutong

INSIDE



6 BIBD'S GESTURE

3-17 HOMEPAGE

20-21 SE ASIA



29 ANTI-GRAFT HERO DETAINED



36-37 ENVIRONMENT

48-57 BUSINESS

62-63 TELEVISION

67-72 SPORTS



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Raya cheer for orphans

Over 2,000 receive donations in 3 districts

By Rokiah Mahmud & Liza Mohamad

THE holy month of Ramadhan is the time of giving. As in previous years, hundreds of orphans in all districts yesterday received donations.

With Hari Raya Aidilfitri a fortnight away, the donations by National Orphans Fund, District Orphans Fund, banks and generous individuals go a long way in helping the orphans celebrate the festival just like other people do in the country.

Over 2,000 orphans received donations yesterday in Brunei-Muara, Belait and Temburong Districts, with the highest number (1,807) from the Brunei-Muara District.

In Brunei-Muara, the orphans received donations from the District Orphans Fund, and from generous individuals, Pehin Kapitan Lela Diraja Dato Paduka Awang Goh King Chin, the Managing Director of Goh Hoek Kee, and Nazeez Ahmed bin Mohamed Zackariah, Managing Director of Nazmi Textile Mall.

In Belait, each of the 366 orphans received donations of \$100 from the National Orphans Fund, \$50 from Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam, \$150 from Belait Orphans Fund and Tabung Amal. The orphans also received contributions from Malai Mashhor Group of Companies and Syarikat Menari Engineering Services Sdn Bhd who made over \$11,000 and \$3,000 in donations.

In Temburong, 140 orphans received \$300 each from the Temburong Orphans Fund, \$100 from National Orphans Fund, \$50 from Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam, \$50 from a generous donor and contribution of goods and cash from 16 private companies.



The Brunei-Muara District Officer presenting an envelope to an orphan. (See Pages 5 & 17)

RAYHANAH BAKAR

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*Offers are not valid with FOS CARD.
*Serving featured is for illustration purposes only.

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3rd Flr, Hua Ho Mall Manggis, Jln Muara

* SugarBun Times Square Tel: 233 0022
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* SugarBun Gadong Tel: 244 0068
Unit 4, Grd Flr, Bk D, Abdul Razak Complex, Gadong

* SugarBun Kuala Belait Tel: 333 1642
No. 5, Spg 194, Jln Maulana, Kuala Belait

GCA looks to support 2035 education mission

By Danial Norjidi

GROUP Colleges Australia (GCA) Sydney has voiced its intention to help strengthen Brunei's private sector through human resource development by focusing and investing in the education infrastructure.

The announcement was made during a press conference organised by the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) at the Australian High Commission yesterday.

Mr Gerard Newcombe, Marketing Director of GCA Sydney, echoed the recent Titah of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, which called for improvements to be made in the aforementioned field through the investment in education infrastructure.

Mr Newcombe is here in Brunei on a two-day visit facilitated by Austrade to explore various options in equipping Bruneian students with the vital skills and knowledge sensitive to the needs of the society.

"GCA is here to support and assist the country in providing the appropriate human resource training and development and to assist the country in providing the appropriate human resource training and development in order to produce educated and highly skilled Bruneians, which will in turn open up more job opportunities in the private sector and thus realise the nation's 2035 education mission for quality education towards a developed, peaceful and prosperous nation," he said.

"GCA is a well-established, professional Registered Training Organisation (RTO) that provides support services to educational and associated institutions, such as Marketing, Financial and Technological support services," Mr Newcombe explained.

For more than 35 years, GCA has been launching careers and

playing host to 5,000 Australian and international students from Southeast Asia, the Middle East, South America, Central Europe, Pakistan and India.

According to Austrade, GCA is an education consortium consisting of three major colleges: UIC Sydney, Central College and Metro English College, all of which provide quality education to both international and domestic student markets in Australia.

Courses offered at these colleges include academic and general English courses, IELTS preparation, certificates, diplomas and advanced diplomas for vocational education such as information technology, tourism, accounting business and multimedia, and Bachelor degree programmes in accounting and business are also offered.

During the press conference, Mr Newcombe also highlighted its 'Moodle' online learning platform, electronic library facilities and learning systems that are accessible to students at their own convenience.

"It is essential for all students to have ease of access to information as we are in constant pressure to acquire the most recent information in order to be abreast in the competitive work environment," he said.

"GCA differentiates itself from other colleges by providing tailored programmes specific to student needs.

"In fact, students are offered supplementary courses such as Business Ethics, Business English and CV preparation free of charge in order to provide them with practical tools to face actual work environments," he added.

Last Monday, Mr Newcombe, accompanied by Austrade Senior Business Development Manager Josie Abdullah, had a meeting with the Ministry of Education (MoE).

According to Mr Newcombe, the MoE expressed interest in



Gerard Newcombe (L) and Wes Knight at the press conference

engaging with GCA to conduct IELTS preparation courses for Vocational and Technical Education instructors who want to strengthen their English language proficiency for further career development.

He said that in line with the new requirement of the Brunei government to have IELTS at a score of 6.0 or above, GCA can offer a means of achieving such a target by having the students do their IELTS either in Australia or online.

Mr Newcombe has also met with key education providers, as well as private institutes to seek their interest in possible educational collaborations in the near future.

He said one of the possible collaborators/private institutions was Laksamana College of Business and several education agents.

Mr Wes Knight, the Acting High Commissioner of Australia, was also present at yesterday's press conference.

This is Mr Newcombe's first visit to Brunei and he said that he was awed by the peaceful serenity of the country as well as the friendliness and politeness of its people.

RBPF awards top notch students, hands over Raya gifts to departments

By Azlan Othman

THE offspring of Royal Brunei Police Force personnel who passed their recent major examinations with flying colours were yesterday acknowledged in a ceremony that coincided with the handing over of Raya gifts to departments, formations, stations and units of the force.

Commissioner of Police Pehin Orang Kaya Pendikar Alam Dato Paduka Seri Hj Hasrin bin Dato Paduka Hj

