



Alhamdulillahi Rabbil 'Alamin Wassalatu
Wassalamu 'Ala-Asyarafil Anbiya'e Wal
Mursalin Saidina Muhammadin Wa'ala Alihi
Wasahbihi Ajma'in



and Salam Sejahtera

My Lord Honourable Chief Justice, Yang Amat
Arif Chief Syarie Judge, Honourable Judges,
President of the Brunei Darussalam Law Society,
Members of the Bar, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

My Lord

Alhamdulillah, we gather here today to mark the Opening of the Legal Year 2018 after a brief hiatus last year. This annual tradition signifies the solidarity and commitment of the legal fraternity in upholding the Rule of Law. Such solidarity and commitment is more meaningful and important in the context of the momentous occasion in October 2017 as we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan's accession to the throne. The historic occasion serves to remind us of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan's unrelenting commitment to upholding the rule of law and the safeguarding of a fair and independent judiciary. The development of our country as a whole in the

last 50 years under the wise guidance of His Majesty has been mirrored by a myriad of important developments in the legal and judicial history.

One thing however remains. In whichever court a case is heard, the requirement that it is subjected to due process of the law and the cardinal principle, that someone is innocent until proven guilty, prevails.

The Attorney General's Chambers is proud and honoured to be a significant part in the nation's journey. I am fortunate to inherit a dedicated and committed team. Many men and women (mostly women) in AGC when I assumed the office in 2009 to continue the instrumental role of the AGC to Brunei Darussalam's legal

system. Alhamdulillah many more have joined us since. (again, mostly women). If Jack MA, the founder of ALIBABA is correct in saying that one of the 'secret sauce' of ALIBABA's success is **"hire as many women as possible"** then AGC is on the right track!

Anyway, let us now focus on the future. As we move to the future together towards achieving vision 2035, I remind my officers to adapt to a changing world by deepening their skills but must always remain to be guided by principles, integrity and humility. Forward thinking but not to change for the sake of change but prepared to deal with new legal landscapes. I call upon my officers to deliver their best to protect and enhance our country's interests. We will continue to build our human

capabilities and competence development, transformation and improvement initiatives, technology opportunities, revision of our strategic plan and succession planning even within the budgeting challenges.

We intend to enhance our good rapport and understanding with the ministries, engagement with our enforcement agencies, schools stakeholders and the public including on the issues such as the risks and challenges posed by social media. We will also continue the good rapport with our regional and international counterparts.

In the interest of time, I would invite you to visit our website agc.gov.bn for our Biennial Reports and more facts and figures on the highlight of

our various services and initiatives in 2016 and 2017 be it in drafting, advisory and prosecution.

Congratulations and Acknowledgment

Before I end my speech I take this opportunity to convey our gratitude to two Solicitor Generals who have left Chambers during the past two years namely Puan Naimah Md Ali and Dato Paduka Hj. Muhammad Juanda bin Hj. Abdul Rashid. I wish to record my sincere appreciation to them for their contribution during their respective tenure as Solicitor General. I wish them the best in their life and future endeavours.

I am also pleased to welcome Datin Hajah Hasnah binti Haji Ibrahim and Awang Haji

Abdullah Soefri bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Abidin as Assistant Solicitor General and Haji Mohammad Yusree bin Haji Junaidi as the new Solicitor General, after his short stint as the Acting Director of the State Judiciary.

I am sure they will discharge their responsibilities and provide good leadership especially to our enthusiastic new recruits with professionalism and integrity. I also join Your Lordship in congratulating all the various officers in the Judiciary mentioned by Your Lordship and the newly elected President of the Law Society. On behalf of AGC, we give our pledge to support the good initiatives by the Judiciary and the Law Society for the better administration of justice in Brunei Darussalam.

With tawakal to Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala, we, as a team, the women and men in AGC including our non-legal support staff, who form the backbone of AGC will continue 2018 with an optimistic and positive mood, ready, equipped and looking forward to carry out our responsibilities and to face any challenges that lie ahead. As the Malay proverb says: "Bersatu kita tegoh, bercerai kita runtuh. Berat sama dipikul, ringan sama dijinjing". (United we stand, divided we fall).

Ladies and Gentlemen

As we gather this morning to mark the Opening of Legal Year, let us remind ourselves again as esteemed members of the legal profession,

members of the Bar and officers of the court of our duty and our pledge to maintain and uphold a respected and trusted legal system which is incorruptible and of the highest quality and integrity for the country's stability and prosperity, both as our professional duty and as our personal duty.

Finally on behalf of my Chambers, I wish Your Lordship, members of the legal fraternity and all who are present today a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018.

وبالله التوفيق والهداية والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Thank You