

OPENING REMARKS

BY

**THE HONOURABLE
DATIN SERI PADUKA HAJAH HAYATI
BINTI POKSDSP HAJI MOHD SALLEH
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

AT

**THE 9TH ASEAN LAW MINISTERS MEETING (ALAWMM)
22 OCTOBER 2015
BALI, INDONESIA**

HONOURABLE CHAIRMAN

HONOURABLE MINISTERS

EXCELLENCIES

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

A VERY GOOD MORNING TO EVERYONE

ALLOW ME FIRSTLY TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE
APPRECIATION TO YOUR ESTEEMED GOVERNMENT,
HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON, FOR THE EXCELLENT
ARRANGEMENTS IN ORGANIZING THIS IMPORTANT
MEETING. MY DELEGATION AND I TRULY
APPRECIATE THE GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY THAT
HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO US.

TODAY, IT IS AN HONOUR FOR ME TO ADDRESS THIS MEETING ONCE AGAIN. MY FIRST WAS BACK IN 2011 DURING THE 8TH ALAWMM MEETING IN PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA. I AM HAPPY TO BE REUNITED WITH COLLEAGUES AROUND THE TABLE, MORE OVER ON THIS BEAUTIFUL LAND OF BALI.

HONOURABLE MINISTERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

AS WE ALL KNOW, THE LONG JOURNEY TO REGIONAL INTEGRATION OF ASEAN WILL REACH AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASEAN COMMUNITY 2015.

OVER THE PAST YEARS, MANY HAVE BEEN DONE IN SUPPORTING AND FACILITATING ASEAN COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION EFFORTS. WE HAVE SEEN ACHIEVEMENTS AND EVOLUTION OF ASLOM AND ALAWMM IN THE AREA OF LAW AND LEGAL COOPERATION WHERE OUR MANDATE HAVE EXPANDED FROM EXCHANGE OF LEGAL INFORMATION TO ONE THAT IS MORE SUBSTANTIVE WITH EFFORTS TO FIND WAYS TO HARMONIZE OUR DIVERSE LEGAL SYSTEMS.

AS THE 2015 DEADLINE LOOMS, HOWEVER, WE MUST NOTE THAT THIS WILL NOT BE THE END OF ASEAN'S INTEGRATION EFFORTS. APART FROM

MEETING THE REMAINING TARGETS, BIGGER CHALLENGES OVER THE YEAR AHEAD LIE IN ENSURING ALL NECESSARY STEPS HAVE BEEN DONE TO ALLOW THE ASEAN COMMUNITY TO TAKE EFFECT. THUS, I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE IN WHAT WE DO IN FACILITATING AND REINFORCING SUCH OBJECTIVE.

IN LINE WITH ITS OBJECTIVES, ASLOM SHOULD CONTINUE ITS WORK BY FURTHER EXPLORING AND IDENTIFYING AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST, WHICH CALL FOR LEGAL COOPERATION AMONG ASEAN MEMBER STATES OR ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK. IN DOING SO, CURRENT DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGES SHOULD

BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION NOT ONLY WITHIN THIS REGION BUT ALSO INTERNATIONALLY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OUR OWN NEEDS.

FURTHER TO THAT, I ALSO BELIEVE THAT CLOSE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION WITH OTHER ASEAN SECTORAL BODIES AS WELL AS ENTITIES ASSOCIATED WITH ASEAN, INCLUDING THE ASEAN LAW ASSOCIATION IS IMPORTANT IN REALIZING ASEAN GOALS TO STRENGTHEN THE RULE OF LAW, JUDICIAL SYSTEMS AND LEGAL INFRASTRUCTURE. SUCH COOPERATION AND COORDINATION MAY BE INTENSIFIED BY STREAMLINING EACH OTHER'S WORK PROCESSES, ENHANCING INFORMATION

EXCHANGE AND EXPERIENCE SHARING AND
OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN,

ISSUES RELATING TO TRANSNATIONAL CRIME
REMAIN A HIGH PRIORITY FOR BRUNEI
DARUSSALAM. ON THIS, I AM PLEASED TO NOTE
THE WORK OF ASLOM AND ITS WORKING GROUP
ON THE MODEL ASEAN EXTRADITION TREATY. I
WOULD LIKE TO URGE FOR ALL OF US TO
CONTINUE OUR EFFORT AND COMMITMENT IN
REALIZING ASEAN GOAL TO PUT IN PLACE LEGAL
AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK TO INTENSIFY
INTEGRATION AND ENHANCE COOPERATION ON
THE ISSUE OF EXTRADITION.

I ALSO NOTE ON THE DEVELOPMENT ON THE TREATY ON MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS WHERE NECESSARY RATIFICATION PROCESS HAD BEEN COMPLETED BY ALL ASEAN MEMBER STATES. HOWEVER, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM VIEWS THAT THE WORK OF ASLOM DOES NOT END HERE. AS STATED IN THE APSC BLUEPRINT, OUR OVERALL GOAL IS NOT ONLY LIMITED TO THE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY BUT ALSO TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ITS ELEVATION TO AN ASEAN TREATY. THIS MANDATE NEEDS TO BE ACHIEVED FULLY BEARING IN MIND THE CURRENT ROLE OF ASLOM AS THE SECTORAL

BODY GUARDING ISSUES RELATING TO MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I WOULD LIKE TO TOUCH ABIT ON THE ISSUE OF LIBERALIZATION OF LEGAL SERVICES SECTOR IN ASEAN, WHICH IS ONE OF THE OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE AEC BLUEPRINT TO BE FULFILLED BY 2015.

IF I MAY RECALL THE 6TH ASEAN LEGAL FORUM ON THE PROGRESSIVE LIBERALIZATION OF TRADE IN LEGAL SERVICES IN ASEAN, HOSTED BY BRUNEI DARUSSALAM BACK IN 2011, WE HAD INVITED OTHER ASEAN MEMBER STATES TO CONSIDER THE

DEVELOPMENT OF THIS ISSUE BEARING IN MIND OUR COLLECTIVE OBLIGATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON BY OUR LEADERS UNDER THE ASEAN CHARTER AND MORE SPECIFICALLY THE AEC BLUEPRINT.

HAVING NOTED THAT TRADE IN LEGAL SERVICES COULD FALL UNDER THE PURVIEW OF OTHER ASEAN SECTORAL BODIES, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM STILL VIEWS THAT IT IS AS MUCH RELEVANT TO US AS THE OTHER AGENDA ITEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN UP AND DELIBERATED BY THE ASLOM MEETING. IN LINE WITH THE MANDATE OF ASLOM MEETING, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US, AT THE LEAST, TO BE UPDATED ON ITS DEVELOPMENT

PARTICULARLY ON THE POLICIES, LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF EACH AND EVERY ASEAN MEMBER STATE RELATING TO LIBERALIZATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONS.

ON THIS NOTE, I AM PLEASED TO SHARE THAT BRUNEI DARUSSALAM HAS TABLED ITS OFFERS FOR LEGAL SERVICES SECTOR UNDER THE ASEAN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON SERVICES (AFAS). PURSUANT TO THE OFFERS, A FOREIGN NATIONAL OR SERVICE SUPPLIER MAY PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM IN RELATION TO INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HOME COUNTRY LAW THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH AT LEAST ONE

BRUNEIAN ADVOCATE AND SOLICITOR
ESTABLISHED IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM.

HONOURABLE MINISTERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
LET ME CONCLUDE BY SAYING THAT BRUNEI
DARUSSALAM GREATLY APPRECIATE THE WORK
OF THIS MEETING AND ITS WORKING GROUPS. WE
MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER, TO BUILD
ON OUR AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST, LEARN
FROM OUR LESSONS AND REINFORCE AND
STRENGTHEN OUR COMMITMENT AND
COOPERATION.

I LOOK FORWARD TO LISTEN TO VIEWS OF OTHER
HONOURABLE MINISTERS AROUND THE TABLE,

AND TO THIS END I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL
HAVE SUCCESSFUL DELIBERATIONS AND FRUITFUL
CONCLUSION.

THANK YOU.

