



OPENING REMARKS

YANG BERTHORMAT

**DATIN SERI PADUKA HAJAH HAYATI BINTI PEHIN
ORANG KAYA SHAHBANDAR DATO SERI PADUKA HAJI
MOHD SALLEH**

ATTORNEY GENERAL

SEMINAR ON

**“ENHANCING PROFESSIONALISM IN PROSECUTION AND
INVESTIGATIONS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE”**

on

24 OCTOBER 2015

at

**OFFICERS' MESS, ROYAL BRUNEI POLICE FORCE
HEADQUARTERS**

Yang Mulia Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Mohd Jammy bin Haji Mohd Shah Al-Islam, the Acting Commissioner of Police,

Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office

Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Juanda bin Haji A. Rashid, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office,

Our Esteemed Speakers, the Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Macrae, Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal in Hong Kong and Mr Sekher Warriar, Deputy Director of Criminal Investigations Department, Singapore Police Force,

Other Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamuaalaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Good Morning

It is a great honour for me to stand before you today to officiate this seminar. As the Attorney General, enhancing professionalism in prosecution and investigations in the administration of justice, as is the title of our seminar today, is a matter which I regard with high priority and concern in carrying out my role and responsibility.

The importance of an efficient and effective criminal justice system in any community can never be emphasized enough. There are many components to a criminal justice system – legislation, investigations, prosecution, judicial decisions, punishment, rehabilitation, and the list goes on. Today's seminar focuses on two of these components – investigations and prosecution. These, I believe, are two very important aspects in any criminal justice system and it is therefore vital that the conduct of prosecutions and investigations continuously develop and operate in a dynamic manner to ensure that justice is upheld fairly, impartially, effectively and efficiently. This includes constantly evolving our crime prevention strategies to ensure that they are up to date and capable of combating crime more effectively. For example, it is observed that most crimes committed in Brunei Darussalam are profit-driven, so it is imperative that we also focus our strategies on removing the profits from the perpetrator by better utilization of our laws on money-laundering and asset recovery. I therefore urge law enforcement agencies to actively pursue financial investigations in cases where there has been wrongful gain of assets and for prosecutors to actively consider and conduct asset recovery proceedings, as I believe that asset

recovery is an underutilized yet such a valuable tool that can be used to further our objectives in crime prevention.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is very important to remember that as the key players in our criminal justice system, the Chambers and the Police not only bear the responsibility to constantly enhance the administration of justice, but we also bear the responsibility to uphold the integrity of the criminal justice system. This was a key point made by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *Titah* delivered during his visit to the Royal Brunei Police Force Headquarters recently. In his *Titah*, His Majesty emphasized that it is imperative that officers upholding justice in Brunei Darussalam do so with full integrity and should always ensure that they do not neglect their duties and embarking on illegal activities. His Majesty also stressed the importance of effective management within the criminal justice system to ensure that all criminal cases are investigated and therefore prosecuted in an efficient manner.

My Chambers has made continuous efforts to enhance the quality of prosecution in Brunei Darussalam. This can be seen in the constant training my officers attend to develop their prosecution skills, the training that they conduct for prosecuting officers from other government departments as well as ongoing projects to enhance knowledge-sharing amongst my prosecutors. Our efforts have not been limited to the development of prosecution skills; in a bid to enhance professionalism in the public service as a whole, we recently enacted the amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act, Chapter 131, which govern the misconduct of public officials. These new laws aim to pave the way for prosecution against civil servants who fail to carry out their duties to a “high ethical standard”, whether it be by use of public funds for private purposes, by giving undue preferential treatment or by willful misconduct or neglect of duty to a degree which amounts to abuse of public trust. With these amendments, the law will serve as a moral compass for public servants and it is hoped that it will instill a strong sense of accountability in all public officers to maintain and preserve the integrity of the public service at all times.

With His Majesty's *Titah* in mind, this seminar today is evidence that both my Chambers and the Royal Brunei Police Force continue to strive to achieve effective implementation of our duties within the criminal justice system with full integrity and professionalism. We will have the privilege to hear from our distinguished speakers, the Honourable Mr Justice Andrew Macrae and Mr Sekher Warriar, who will share with us their own perspectives on how the conduct of prosecution and investigations can be further enhanced. I am certain that with the calibre and experience that both our speakers possess, we will walk away from this seminar acquiring valuable knowledge that would not have been possible without this seminar. I thus fully support joint initiatives such as these by my Chambers and the Royal Brunei Police Force, clearly demonstrating our determination to work together to ensure a fair and effective administration of the justice system in Brunei Darussalam.

To this end, I would like to convey my sincerest appreciation to all involved in making this seminar come to fruition and I hope there will be more to come. I would also like to express my utmost gratitude to His Majesty's Government and the support and encouragement from the Prime Minister's Office my Chambers has

received thus far for our training needs, in support of our aim to achieve excellence in our knowledge and skills. I hope that such support will only continue and thrive in the future.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the kalimah Bismillahi Rahman Nirrahim, I hereby officiate the Seminar on “Enhancing Professionalism in Prosecution and Investigation in the Administration of the Justice System”.

Wabillahit Taufeq Walhidayah, Wassalamu ‘Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.