



Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Defence II Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof in a group photo.
PHOTO: JAMES KON

Syariah course expands participants' knowledge

James Kon

Brunei Darussalam has a dual legal system - Syariah and civil. The Syariah basic advocacy course demonstrates the equal importance of both legal systems and their role in upholding justice and due process.

Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Defence II Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof said this during the opening ceremony of the course that began yesterday and ends tomorrow.

The minister recalled His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's titah on November 9, 2020 at the 10th Hafl Al-Takharruj ceremony at Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) where the monarch expressed hope that graduates should seize opportunities and cultivate self-development attitude as obtaining a degree is not the end of acquiring knowledge but a lifelong obligation, according to Islam.

The course provide Syriah graduates with an opportunity to develop and refine their advocacy skills as part of their preparation for a career in Syariah law.

Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi said the course was first organised last year and the feedback was positive.

The minister said the course participants are the future of the Sultanate's legal system that ensures the rule of law is upheld.

Therefore, he added, exposure to and development of advocacy skills must be prioritised.

Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi said the course can increase the marketability of the participants to employers and clients in need of a Syar'ie lawyer's service.

The minister said the participants as successors of Syriah legal sector should aim to uphold the national philosophy of Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB), incorporate *Negara Zikir* concept and aspire to make Brunei a *Baldatun, Tayyibatun, Wa Rabbun Ghafur* country that is peaceful and prosperous, with *redha* and forgiveness from Allah the Almighty.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong, Deputy Minister (Energy) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw, Deputy Minister (Security and Law) at the PMO Dato Seri Paduka Haji Sufian bin Haji Sabtu were also present during the ceremony.

Among the speakers and trainers at the Syriah basic advocacy course were Syriah court judges and officers as well as Syar'ie prosecutors and lawyers.

Participants comprised UNISSA graduates and students from overseas universities.