



## The Existence of the State of Brunei Darussalam in Advancing Education, Economy and Social Governance “Learning Reflections at the Sultan Syarif Ali University UNISSA Brunei Darussalam”

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### Abstract

As a prosperous and developed country, of course the State of Brunei Darussalam has implemented a very good education, economy and government system in accordance with the state ideology that is firmly held, namely Malay Islam Beraja (MIB). In the aspect of education, socio-economics and leadership in Brunei Darussalam embody Islam that is *Rahmatan lil alamin* according to the explanation we have conveyed. Education in Brunei Darussalam is characterized by the dominance of Islamic Religious Education which is specifically managed by Kesultanan in the Haji Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (YSHHB) as well as at the tertiary level such as at UBD (Universiti Brunei Darussalam), KUPU (Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama) Seri Begawan and UNISSA (Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University).

The Sultanate government as fully responsible for the education process also integrates Islamic religious education with science, where according to the teachings in the Qur'an and Hadith, all have a connection and are beneficial to humans. Likewise with progress in the economic sector, where the State of Brunei Darussalam is a producer of oil and gas in Southeast Asia and even globally, which supports the welfare of its people. A government system that continues to maintain security and stability by adhering to the MIB ideology, carrying out Islamic teachings very well, this can be seen from every policy and regulation delivered by the Sultanate.

**Keywords: State Existence, Education, Economy and Social Government, Reflections on Learning Learning**

### Preliminary

Experiences as a form of reflection in Brunei Darussalam (Sumarto, Experience of Reviewers and LPPM Strengthening Activities at UNISSA Brunei Darussalam, 2019), to be precise at Sri Begawan Airport, we are faced with Islamic nuances, namely there is a large mosque at the airport which is used not only as a place of worship, but for recitation activities, the learning process and deliberation. The mosque is magnificent and the infrastructure design is charming, clean, beautiful

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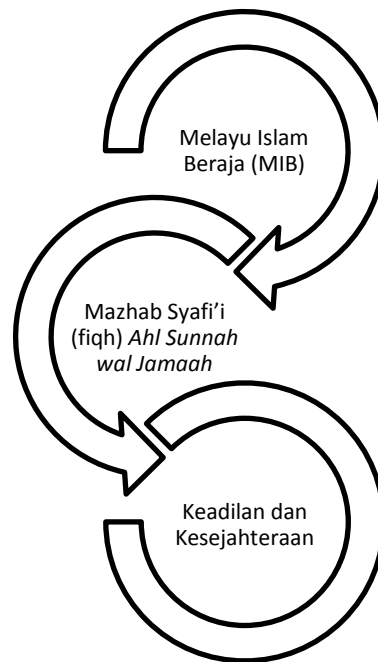
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and neat, so that tourists or visitors who come from various countries can immediately enjoy the beauty of the mosque which is a symbol of the State of Brunei Darussalam. The atmosphere of Islam is very thick, very close to the visitors, starting from the officers who wear Muslim and Muslim clothes who are friendly and modest to every visitor.

Of course, all developments and advances in the country of Brunei Darussalam are based on the country's philosophy, namely Malay Islam Beraja (MIB), including the leadership system by the Sultan which is now led by Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah. The Malay Islamic philosophy of Beraja makes the Sultan as the Head of State to be the main figure in every policy and regulation applied, as well as the Sultan's personality and family to become a role model or role model for all his people. Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah always applies an attitude of justice for all his people, this is reflected in every policy set by the State ranging from providing education, health, employment, open space for learning, deliberation, trade and other activities that must be rooted in Islamic teachings, namely Al Qur'an and Hadith. Then the determination of the Shafi'i School (fiqh) and the School *Ahl Sunnah wal Jamaah* which is also contained in the Malay Islam Beraja (MIB). This is what, according to the author's view, makes Islam that is *Rahmatan lil alamin* in Brunei Darussalam.



Brunei Darussalam highly prioritizes Islamic education, starting from the level of early childhood, madrasas to tertiary institutions. The State guarantees the education of every citizen of its society, of course, by providing scholarships and awards to every student who has good achievements. Then the leadership system carried out by Sultan Hasanul Bolkiah reflects the attitude of a fair leader for his citizens, so that there is very little poverty, hunger, criminal or civil action, let alone radical thoughts and *separatism*, this is a picture of Islam that *Rahmatan lil alamin*.



The socio-economy in Brunei Darussalam is that the people are unpretentious, pay respect to their brothers and sisters, give awards and reprimand when something is wrong or it is not in accordance with Islamic teachings. The concept of peace, orderly and orderly life exists in Brunei Darussalam, where we have never seen criminal acts on the road, every car driver does not *honk* loudly and even becomes noisy, beggars or beggars are not found - asking for donations on the road.

Everything is provided with adequate facilities and life by the Sultanate, because it is the responsibility of the State. Likewise with the rapid economic development in Brunei Darussalam, where the main natural producers are oil and gas, so that Brunei Darussalam has many exports to countries in Southeast Asia and even the world. This is a big income or income for the State to prosper its people properly and prosperously. Then the economic life of the people in Brunei Darussalam also has no obligation for the population to pay individual taxes, and only the obligation to pay taxes for companies (oil).

## **The existence of the State of Brunei Darussalam**

Brunei Darussalam is a small country located in the ASEAN region to be precise in the Southwest of the Island of Borneo (Sabah) (Ghofur, 2015). The area is  $\pm 5,765$  km<sup>2</sup> with the capital city of Bandar Sri Begawan. The government system in Brunei uses an absolute monarchy system, which is based on Islamic Law with the Sultan serving as Head of State and Head of Government, then as is known concurrently as Prime Minister and Minister of Defense assisted by the Sultanate Advisory Council and several Ministers.

The Sultan of Brunei (yang Dipertuan Negara) is part of a lineage of sultans who have ruled continuously for 600 years. The current sultan, haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, is the 29th ruler. Brunei Darussalam has a small population of around 400 thousand people, consisting of 66% Malays and its territory is divided into two parts, each part of which is surrounded by the eastern state of Malaysia, Sarawak. After reaching the peak of power in the 16th century, the sultanate weakened and in the 19th century, its territory became increasingly dwindling due to pressure from Brooke Rajah (the "White King"; James Brooke) from neighboring Sarawak. (Talib, 2013).

The Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, which was founded in 1402 AD, was led by the king or sultan who had occupied it until now (Ghofur, 2015). As for several kings who had an important role for the development of Islam, including; 1) *Sulthan Muhammad Syah* the 1st sultan (before converting to Islam he was better known as Awang Alak Betatar). He ruled from 1402-1408. At that time, the officials and apparatus of the kingdom of Brunei Darussalam 2) *Sulthan Bolkiah* (1485-1524) became the 5th sultan. During his leadership, Islam was spread *intensively* to enter the area of Borneo (Kalimantan) including the sultanate of Sulu (Philippines) 3) *Sulthan Abdul Mubin (Momin)* the 12th sultan, ruled in 1852-1885. At that time, the official stipulation of the mazhab as a mazhab in the kingdom, namely for fiqh with *syafi'i mazhabkan*, namely the *expert sunnah wal jamaah*.

This was done because of frequent disputes over religious issues in society and 4) *Sulthan Hassanal Bolkiah*, the 19th sultan, who ruled from 1968 to the present. At that time, the philosophy of the kingdom of Brunei Darussalam was established as a pillar of government, which was known



as MIB (Malay Islam Beraja). After Brunei Darussalam became independent in 1984, Brunei was led by Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Wadaulah the 19th sultan. Since 1991 the Sultan has implemented MIB (Melayu Islam Beraja or the Malay Islamic Kingdom) as the state ideology, the goal is that people are loyal to their king, carry out the teachings and Islamic law and making it a way of life associated with the characteristics and characteristics of the true Malay people, including making Malay as the main language. The entire population of Brunei, both culturally and psychologically, is able to cope with the diversity that exists. The ethnic diversity of the majority of Malays includes local, hamlet, murut, kedayan, bisayah, and other ethnic Malays from Malaysia and Indonesia. *Second*, the existence of a bureaucratic process in the formation of a modern state, which must be understood and obeyed by the community. *Third*, there is a phenomenon that seems the need to build a national ideology and articulate it in national culture amidst existing ideologies in Southeast Asia or other parts of the world.

## **Policies of the Sultanate Brunei Darussalam**

Government policies regarding law, order, welfare, education and economic development dominate people's lives. This social process enables the people of Brunei to be able to have a tolerant, harmonious and cohabiting lifestyle. The Malay Islam Beraja (MIB) is basically closely related to the evolution of Bruneian Malay customs and traditions as well as religious ceremonies that are widely listed in the Muslim calendar which provide insight into how national ideology is expressed in the life of the nation and state. Quoted from the *Form of Courtesy of Brunei Darussalam*, 1991. (Ghofur, 2015).

Of course, the various policies of the Sultanate always lead to community welfare, peace and progress. From the observations we made while in Brunei Darussalam. The Sultan's policies are policies that must be obeyed by all his people, from educational, socio-economic to politics and government policies. As the implementation of the Conference of the Parties Islam Borneo Ke - 12 (Kaib 12) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Borneo International Halal Showcase (BIHAS 2) with the theme Science and Charity Determinants Kebitaraan Ummah, we follow in Brunei Darussalam attended by several campus in the region of Southeast Asia, including Campus - There are campuses in Indonesia, Mulawarman University, Lambung Mangkurat University, IAIN Samarinda, IAIN Palangkaraya, IAIN Pontianak and UIN Antasari. Then there is also a campus from Malaysia, namely UTM Serawak, UTM Sabah. From Brunei Darussalam there is the UNISSA campus, KUPU SB. (Royal Printing Office, 2019).

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah's speech at the KAIB 12 and BIHAS 12 activities conveyed several policies in Brunei Darussalam as well as his gratitude to all the spreaders from each country who attended the conference, including; Public welfare must be done by upholding Islamic law, teaching about the Qur'an and Sunnah, understanding and applying the knowledge obtained in the deeds of daily life, because knowledge is a big part of accepted charity. Then the importance of maintaining halalness every meal and drink because that which enters our bodies becomes part of our flesh and blood, affects the deeds we do, so this is obligatory and important to do. Bringing blessings and mercy from Allah Subhana Wata'ala. (Royal Printing Office, 2019).

After the inauguration of the Inter-national Conference, Sultan Hasanul Bolqiah was officially opened, with a wisdom program, opened with the chanting of the holy Qur'an, followed by a lecture



from the Sultanate Mufti and remarks from the Minister of the State of Brunei Darussalam, namely Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti, Brunei Darussalam. There are several things that were conveyed in the inauguration of the Conference between nations, among them; 1. Together thinking about the interests of the people, for progress and prosperity 2. Knowledgeable people must do good 3. Borneo (Borneo archipelago) has many cultures and societies in Islamic studies, can be in terms of commerce, social and education 4. Science and charity must go hand in hand 5. The Sultan expressed his gratitude to the organizers and attendees who came, a form of appreciation for the Sultan at the Conference.

Then the - 6. People with knowledge of charity - Do not take usury assets 7. People with knowledge of charity - Do not leave prayer 8. People are knowledgeable about charity - Do not eat syubhat 9. People charity with their knowledge 10 Story of a friend of Abu Bakr; Having a servant, and eating the food that the maid brought, it turns out that the food that the maid brought was the result of shirk, Abu Bakr tried to get the unclean food out of his mouth, until he was half dead, Alhamdulillah the food could be vomited. 11. Borneo halal food exhibition 12. Do not take it for granted that cutting matters of halal and haram food, requires strong and mighty assertiveness. 13. The conference activities were attended by thousands of people, the people of Brunei enthusiastically joined it. (Ngainun Naim, 2020).

### **Ideology of Brunei Darussalam Melayu Islam Beraja (MIB)**

As an Islamic State with Great Influence in Southeast Asia and Global, the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam adheres to the principle of Malayu Islam Beraja (MIB) where the Qur'an and Hadith are the principles in guiding and the fortress of life towards the safety of the world until the afterlife with Imam Syafe'i, where the government system of policies and regulations is based on the Malayu Islam Beraja ideology (MIB) in all aspects of life, namely education, socio-cultural and economic laws that live and are obeyed by all the people of Brunei Darussalam "(Sumarto, Analysis of Brunei Darussalam Sultanate System, 2020).

The Malayu Islam Beraja Ideology (MIB) with the aim of increasing the loyalty of the people to the state. This ideology has become an important basis for the sultan's political legitimacy, this ideology elevates Islam as the national religion, guarantees the rights of the ethnic Malay community, and justifies the sultan's lineage as a relevant government system (Talib, 2013). This ideology allowed the sultanate to position itself as the protector of Islam and thereby gave the Sultan's government even greater legitimacy. Brunei's sultanate system is patrilistic and private. The sultan is depicted as a symbol of the state and a subject of loyalty to citizens. The sultan had a deep interest in public matters, and he visited remote areas to monitor the progress of planned development projects. The Sultan paid visits to places of worship for Friday prayers at mosques across Brunei Darussalam to demonstrate his close relationship with Allah Subhana Wata'ala and his strong commitment to Islam and the people of Brunei Darussalam.



## *Conclusion and Reflection on Learning at UNISSA Brunei Darussalam*

What makes people curious apart from the religious, social, cultural and educator situation in Brunei Darussalam is the existing campuses, although they are not classified as many, there are only less than 10 campuses, with 2 large campuses there is the University of Brunei Darussalam and Sultan Syarif Ali University, what makes people curious is how the publication and publication process carried out on the Brunei Darussalam campus, in this case at UNISSA, turns out that among the information received through the observation process and sharing discussions with several lecturers at UNISSA, the publication process and Book publishers are done selectively, assessing and empowering royalties for each author as a form of appreciation.

Explanation from Prof. Hajjah Ross Director of Scientific Publications, Publishing and Khidmat, every entry entered is a research study (Brunei calls it "investigation") through the assessment process to the publishing process, but publishing books is very expensive in Brunei, so he offers cooperation for book printing as well apart from research collaborations and joint seminars and conferences. (Darussalam, 2019).

Journals are published in English and Arabic as well as books but some are in Malay, such as the Dictionary of Terms of the Sharia Law (Hudud, Qisas and Taksir), the State Encyclopedia of Recitation, and other books, are interesting but the price is expensive too, around 23 Brunei dollars, 13 dollars, 15 dollars, 21 dollars, the prices vary. Have the opportunity to give a book one of our works and students entitled Pancasila and NKRI, a book that discusses the basic ideology of the Republic of Indonesia which is a view of life, scientific philosophy and culture of mutual cooperation of the Indonesian people, the book is submitted as a symbol of togetherness and kinship to Go ahead and prosper together to Dr. Ismail Abdullah Deputy Director of the Center for Research and Publication UNISSA.

There are several notes that were the result of the meeting with fellow lecturers at UNISSA Brunei Darussalam, including; 1. Publishing UNISSA Press 2. Every book from UNISSA Press, for sale, for author royalties and costs for printing books 3. The process of publishing books or journal articles through the process at UNISSA Press, assessment, including selection of manuscripts, looking for the best, then when it is accepted Editing and Lay out, up to the royalty contract, marketing and costs for printing. 4. Solemn activities or community service at UNISSA are still carried out like in Indonesia KKN, around 20 days (but usually 100 hours can be more too), students and lecturers go to the community, lectures and other service activities usually when on leave. 5. In December, lecturers and students are on leave, starting lectures in January. Can be carried out for refreshing activities or service activities. 6. Printing books in Brunei Darussalam is expensive, so it is necessary to joint with several countries, including an offer to Indonesia, to print but a permanent license from UNISSA Press.

7. What is important, and the price of books is expensive because they get a license from UNISSA Press, because every book manuscript is well processed, through the assessment of experts, to the revision process, it must be corrected by the author until the process of Lay out, editing, ISBN. 8. Journal at UNISSA International Journal of 'Umaranic Studies' Journal of International Studies' Umaran. ISSN 2617-9407. 9. There were several discussions that we examined in the research and publishing center of UNISSA: Islamic Financial System, there is a diversity of ughama in



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Brunei but not very diverse, there are only 2 churches in Brunei but small churches, because the church existed before the 'Brunei became independent,' and did not develop, because it was not allowed, but still respected each other, as well as the place of worship of the Chinese people, did not develop, had been around for a long time. 10. Gerant = Budget Fund, Brunei 11. Book publishing in Brunei is not too many, around 32 books at most. 12. Organizing a workshop or workshop: selecting thesis best to become a book, calling experts on analytical studies and writing a good book. OJS workshop. 13 Book publishing; available in 3 languages, Arabic, English and Malay. 14. Matching Grant Between UNISSA; Open joint research funded by UNISSA; from other countries, which we saw a lot of joint from USIM University Sains Islam Malaysia, USM University Sains Malaysia. Opened to other countries, it can also be financed by the two countries, such as the UNISSA and Indonesian Grants. (Darussalam, 2019)



Conference between 12 Bornean countries of Brunei Darussalam KAIB 12, Borneo International Halal Showcase. Attended; 1. Sultan Hasanul Bolqiah 2. Son of Sultan Hasanul Bolqiah 3. Minister of Ugama 4. Mufti of the Sultanate 5. Embassy of friendly countries. The activities of the international conference in Brunei Darussalam, attended by Sultan Hasanul Bolqiah and the Prince of Kingdom, were enthusiastic from each university and the Brunei Darussalam Society in participating in the Conference. There were about thousands of people who came to the Conference event, a friendly and warm reception from UNISSA and other campuses. Delivering an important message for the glory of the Muslim ummah that benefits the entire universe.



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