



SPEECH BY

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ROYAL BRUNEI ARMED FORCES
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**ROYAL BRUNEI ARMED FROCES
COMMAND AND STAFF COURSE 8
OPENING CEREMONY**

**THURSDAY
24 RABIULAKHIR 1439/ 11 JANUARY 2018**

**RBAF DEFENCE ACADEMY
KAMPUNG TANAH JAMBU**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Alhamdulillah Rabbil 'Alamin. Wassalatu
Wassalamu 'Ala Asyrafil Anbiya'i Wal
Mursalin, Sayyidina Muhammadin Wa'ala
Alihi Wa Sohbihi Ajma'in.**

Representative from the Royal Brunei Police
Force,
Service Commanders,
Directors, Commandants,
Distinguished Guests,
Defence Advisors and Attachés and
representatives from each participating
countries,
Officers and Course Participants of the Royal
Brunei Armed Forces Command and Staff
Course,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

And a very good afternoon.

Firstly, allow me to thank the Commandant and the Defence Academy Royal Brunei Armed Forces for giving me the opportunity to officiate this year's course - the 8th Royal Brunei Armed Forces Command and Staff Course 2018.

I had the privilege of attending my Command and Staff Course in Malaysia in 1997. I will not tell you now that the course itself changed my life because the reality is, it did not. However, what it did was provide me with some new knowledge and skills, and confirmed some others. It was part of my sequential and progressive development as an officer and leader. I am sure that you will also

be going through the same experiences, whereby at the end of the next 10-months, you would have each progressed a little further than where you are today. Life is a journey and this course is part of that journey.

I am pleased to welcome the new cohort, all 32 of you from the military and security agencies, especially our long-standing participants from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United Kingdom and the United States of America. And as of this year, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Command and Staff College will include our first participant from Saudi Arabia, whom I extend my warmest greetings. This year we will miss the participation of Bangladesh and China. I do hope that they will join us next year.

In line with our organisation's **life-long learning** policy, I cannot stress enough the significance of **diversity** in this learning environment. We believe that different perspectives enable us to listen and learn from one another, gain new insights, skills, and information that will help us better confront challenges in the years ahead. Your Lecturers and Directing Staff will help you along the way and facilitate your learning. But without taking personal ownership and committing yourself fully through hard work, you may find the journey less enjoyable and even miserable. Lifelong learning is a matter of psychological conditioning that requires your individual commitment to grow intellectually. I therefore urge you to speak up, share your ideas freely, and not be afraid to challenge each other professionally. Adopt the attitude, "**Assume Nothing, Question Everything**". Only then

will you find the learning exciting and fulfilling.

Distinguished guests,

We are constantly being faced with complex and unpredictable threats that are continuously evolving. Some of these threats are beyond our control and cannot be resolved simply by force, such as climate change and natural disasters. Hence, in addressing the changing situation, firstly, **we ourselves must change too**. We should take these challenges as promising opportunities to become more flexible and to develop resilience in order to stay ahead for our tasks. Adaptation to the situation is key. It is, therefore crucial to equip our military officers with the right military knowledge, enhanced competency in operational planning and more importantly, prepare them to be twenty-first century literate,

which is part of the curriculum of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Command and Staff Course.

Secondly, **we cannot face these challenges alone.** I believe that regional and global partnerships are important. I am pleased to note that the Defence Academy Royal Brunei Armed Forces has been actively participating in bilateral and international activities such as the continuous participation in the Asian Regional Forum Heads of Defence/ Universities/ Colleges Meeting, with the latest being held in the Philippines last September, as well as collaborations in the past with the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre, Malaysian Armed Forces Staff College, the Bangladesh Defence Services Command and Staff College, the Pakistan Military Academy and the Centre of Leadership Development, SAFTI Military Institute. In fact, even the Royal Brunei Armed

Forces Command and Staff Course with participation from the Internal Security Agencies, as well as our international friends is part of our effort for collaboration. Such collaborations help in various ways, but mostly in terms of networking, sharing of ideas and experiences, as well as creating a line of communication to help solve problems and face challenges together.

At the regional level, Southeast Asia has been regarded as a peaceful and stable region despite the emerging challenges. This enduring peace is what ASEAN has been pursuing over the many years since it was established on 8th August 1967. Under its various defence and security frameworks, we are provided with various platforms to learn from one another, identify common interests, and what needs to be done. The reality can be harsher, therefore we must always be ready to defend national

interest, and ensure diplomacy is at the forefront of our defence policy.

The ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting and the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus, as well as the ASEAN Regional Forum have proven to be the most appropriate venues to foster cooperative efforts and strengthen capacity building measures amongst their participants, in a pace comfortable to all.

On that note, I hope the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Command and Staff Course too can serve as a platform to enhance partnerships and relationships amongst all participants of the course, and help to widen your understanding and knowledge about the security challenges around the world, mainly through the sharing of experiences. In leveraging on your networks with one another, it will benefit the effective management of

security challenges, and contribute to the cooperation, peace and stability across the regions and beyond.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Massey University's role and contributions for the past 7 years towards the development of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Command and Staff Course. My sincerest appreciation also to the Directing Staff for their continuous commitment and dedication to ensure the smooth running of the course.

This will be the third year that the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Command and Staff Course will be delivered here at the Defence Academy Royal Brunei Armed Forces site, and I am pleased by the progress that has been achieved thus far. This year, for the very first

time, we are accommodating our international students in the new accommodation block built in this scenic camp. I hope that your stay will be comfortable and you will enjoy the facilities provided. I would like to thank the Defence Academy Royal Brunei Armed Forces and to all involved in getting this project up and running this year.

Course Participants of the 8th Command and Staff Course 2018,

Once again, I wish you all the very best in the course, as you embark on another new chapter in your military career. I encourage all to apply the lessons learned from this course and to learn from each other. Your respective organisations consider you well-placed to shoulder more demanding duties as senior officers, in a manner that will serve to uphold your nation's future interests. In carrying out

your responsibilities, it calls for the highest standards of leadership espoused by the values of courage, integrity, trust, respect, and humility.

May the force be with you!

**With that, with the
Kalimah Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim,
I now officially declare the start of the
8th Command and Staff Course 2018.**

**Wabillahit Taufik Walhidayah
Wassalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Ta'ala
Wabarakatuh.**