

Keynote Speech
by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mat Suny
Bin Haji Mohd Hussein
Minister of Energy, Manpower and Industry
At the BRUNOX Air Separation Unit Plant Launch

02nd August 2018
8.30am

Kuala Belait Industrial Complex, Brunei Darussalam

Bismillah Hirrahman Nirrahim,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh and a very good morning to everyone today,

Ms. Virginie Cavalli, Industrial Merchant Vice-President and Chief Executive Officer for Southeast Asia of Air Liquide,

Mr. Albert Lau, Chairman of QAF Brunei,

Mr Stephen Supan, Chief Executive Officer of Brunei Oxygen Sdn Bhd,

Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners to Brunei Darussalam,

Permanent Secretaries, and government officials,

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an honour to be here today at the **inauguration of the new Air Separation Unit Plant for Brunei Oxygen Sdn Bhd (BRUNOX).**

Allow me to first thank Ms Virginie Cavalli for her welcoming remarks and for enlightening us on the history of the collaboration between Air Liquide and QAF Brunei.

(Introduction to BRUNOX)

1. BRUNOX has a long history of operating in Brunei, with almost 60 years of experience in the country as a reliable and leading manufacturer, marketer, and distributor of industrial, medical, and special gases. As Ms Cavalli has highlighted, its products are indispensable in a wide range of industries in Brunei, be it in factories, hospitals, airlines, the armed forces, tourism and agricultural sectors, as well as in the oil and gas sector.
2. This plant marks an important milestone for BRUNOX, and is also a step towards improving Brunei Darussalam's supply chain for industrial gases by now being able to produce liquid nitrogen, oxygen, and argon which have previously been largely imported. The Air Separation Unit plant has an anticipated production of 40 tonnes of gas per day, which will be valuable to industrial activities across the country. It is also expected to double BRUNOX's current storage capacity. We hope that BRUNOX leverages on this increased capacity to further explore overseas export opportunities. Seeing a Bruneian brand, like yourselves, succeed in the regional and international stage would be a great achievement and source of pride for the country.

(Industrial Sites Expectations)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. In order to achieve Brunei Darussalam's economic diversification targets, the Ministry of Energy, Manpower and Industry, together with Darussalam Enterprise, encourage the private sector to consider how to generate more value-added activities to maximise economic benefit, local value creation and employment opportunities, especially in Government-supported industrial sites like this one.

(Emphasis on Bruneianisation)

4. In the pursuit of economic gain, we hope that companies keep their fellow Bruneians and the future of truly Bruneian companies in the forefront of their minds.
5. Companies must strive to not only recruit local talent, but also to equip them with the skillsets, coaching, and exposure to the experience that would be necessary to grow the company and add economic value by contributing to the development of a competent Bruneian workforce and future Bruneian leaders of industry. This development of capable and experienced industry leaders is a priority for Brunei Darussalam and has been emphasised many times by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam, most recently in His Majesty's Titah during the Official Opening of the 1st Meeting of the 14th Session of the Legislative Council in March this year.

6. We commend BRUNOX's commitment to localization, which is evident in BRUNOX's 30-strong total workforce, where more than 90 percent (%) are locals.

7. His Majesty has recently consented to the Bruneianisation Directive in the oil and gas sector, which has been recently communicated to the relevant companies. The Directive will require operators in the oil and gas sector to deliver clear actions for at least five (5) to ten (10) percent (%) annual improvement with the ultimate goal of achieving 90 percent (%) Bruneianisation at all levels and disciplines. We urge the relevant operators to own, lead, and drive the implementation of this Directive. Insyah Allah, we also look forward to extending this Directive to the rest of industry beyond the oil and gas sector.

(Local Business Development/Business Environment)

8. In addition to job creation for locals, we also hope that private sector developments, like BRUNOX's new plant, reap economic spin-off through their business partners, customers and other players in their value chain. These spin-off effects represent increased opportunities for other surrounding local businesses and workers.

9. Industry will be critical in moving the country forward and we urge local businesses to grow the non-oil and gas sector and to also

look beyond Brunei into overseas markets as mentioned earlier. The Government and relevant agencies, including Darussalam Enterprise, remain committed to supporting the growth of local businesses. As such, we encourage businesses to draw on the resources and support programmes that are available, be it in order to develop human resources capacity, development of standards that are key for penetrating export markets, easing access to credit, and many more.

10. We also encourage feedback from the private sector on how to further improve our business environment and thus ensure that business services and support are rendered as effectively and as efficiently as possible. Brunei has improved in the World Bank's Doing Business ranking, and as reported in yesterday's news, Brunei Darussalam's ranking has improved from 55th place in 2017 to 2nd place this year for the Ease of Getting Credit Indices under the 2018 Global Innovation Index. However, this must serve as a motivator for us to push for more real change and progress that will be felt at the grassroots level of businesses operating in Brunei. Ultimately, we would like Brunei to truly be a pro-business destination, whether it is for foreign investors or local entrepreneurs.

(Emphasis on HSE)

11. Finally, we urge that you also keep the safety of all your workers as a top priority. Ensure that in your business pursuits, you do not lose sight of providing a safe and healthy workplace for your

workers. The Government is committed to ensuring that everybody gets to go home safely to their families and would like to urge all stakeholders and industry in Brunei to uphold this commitment. We need to work together to make sure that safety is a priority at the workplace, for safety awareness to be embedded as part of organisational culture, and for this awareness to translate into everyday practices.

12. In closing, I once again congratulate BRUNOX on the opening of this new Air Separation Unit Plant as this is a good example of how the local private sector can play a critical role in realising key industrial milestones to bring us closer to Brunei Darussalam's Wawasan 2035 Goals. We look forward to BRUNOX's continued success.

Sekian. Wabillahi Taufiq Wal Hidayah. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh.