

HRH Princess Hjh Masha honours women marksmen

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

HER Royal Highness Princess Hjh Masha (pictured, L), the Commandant of Women Police, yesterday presented awards to winners of the annual shooting competition amongst the various policewomen squads.

The prize presentation ceremony was held at the Gadong Police Headquarters' Officers Mess.

The three-day competition was held from November 12 to 14 and was won by Team D, followed by Team E in the second place and Team B winning third place. The best shooter amongst the officers was WPC Roziani Hj Timbang of the Sengkunrong.

The Brunei Times



New cable colour codes to be implemented in March

Dewi Mohd Sofri

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

BRUNEI will start implementing mandatory international cable colour codes for fixed wiring in March 2010, this was announced during a forum at the Training Centre of the Ministry of Development yesterday.

Dr William Voon from Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Brunei was invited to enlighten the audience on the new colour coding together with Acting Assistant Director of the Department of Mechanical and Electrical Services, Public Works Department, Dennis Wong.

Representatives from bodies in the public and private sectors involved in electrical and construction work attended the forum.

Dr Voon talked about issues identified which must be taken into consideration when implementing the changes in colour coding.

The first and most important thing is safety so as to not create hazard. "Mismatch and wrong connections of equipment from various countries due to colour code confusion can create phase to phase voltage instead of phase to neutral voltage, causing overvoltage, overheating and fire," said Voon.

It can also lead to a wrong rotation of rotating equipment (for example, for equipment driven by three phase motor), so test rotation is important as well.

Failure to observe the correct colour codings will endanger those depending on critical safety equipment (such as lift, fire pump, medical and rescue devices) as well as safety concerns over possible injury and electrocution. Thus colour deficiency cannot be disregarded.

A test which was conducted recently in Kuala Belait



Dennis Wong (R), Acting Assistant Director of the Department of Mechanical and Electrical Services, Public Works Department and Dr William Voon (2nd R) from the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) at a forum on cable colour codes in Brunei held at Training the Ministry of Development yesterday. Picture BT/Dewi Mohd Sofri

revealed that six in 300 people are colour blind. "You only need one guy to make a mistake," Voon explained.

The rationale behind the move to change the colour codes is to harmonise Brunei's current standard to common international standards such as IEC and Cenelec as well as harmonising the colour codes for fixed and flexible wiring to that of European countries.

"It's nothing new actually. It has been with us since 1969," he said.

The UK, who are the owners of the wiring regulations, had started implementing the new colour codes as early as the late 1960s.

The existing colour code which is red, yellow, blue, black and green/yellow that is used in Brunei originates from the British standards. The IEE Wiring Regulations have harmonised with the IEC and Cenelec Standards since 2006 and the new colours are now brown, black, grey, blue and green/yellow.

"It was only in the 2001 edition that this change extended its scope to fixed wiring," said Voon.

He added that a standardised colour coding system such as this will also act to facilitate international trade.

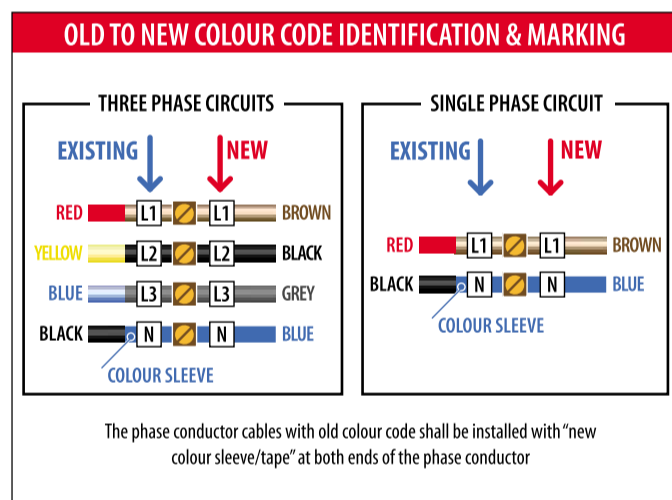
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the buildings. In addition, the changes do not just apply to AC Power Circuits but also to DC Unearthed Circuits.

"Existing wirings (with old colour codes) can stay. You are not compelled to change it," said Wong. Labelling is also very important and during the transition period between 2010 and 2011, the existing phase conductor cables together with the old colour codes are to be covered with colour sleeves with the new colour codes identifications and markings.

Great care must also be taken during alteration (changing the cable colours) by sticking on a yellow label to caution and warn the public on the colour changes in the wiring, added Voon.

The implementation date and the grace period of a year before the new colour codes become mandatory provides ample time for consultants and contractors to order new colour codes as well as clear all stocks.

"If work commence before 2011, it is okay to proceed as normal. Any new installation works, projects are to be tendered based on the new colour codes," Wong cleared the worries of some of the contractors who have already tendered projects to begin next year and end some time after 2011.

Voon reminded contractors and electricians to avoid mixing the old and new colour codes during installation for current projects.

During the question and answer session, an inquiry was made as to whether the colour for the two-way switch would be changed as well. Wong replied that this topic would be addressed further in the next discussion by the technical committee who will decide on the best practice for Brunei.

The decision will be announced during the launch of the new colour codes next year.

The Brunei Times

IN BRIEF

YSHHB donates to humanitarian funds

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: The Sultan Hj Hassanah Bolkiah Foundation (YSHHB) has donated \$100,000 to the humanitarian funds for the Indonesian earthquake and the Philippines typhoon victims yesterday. The ceremony held at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, saw the foundation's Chairman of the Board of Directors, Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Hj Abu Bakar Hj Apang presenting the contribution to the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Dr Hj Ahmad Hj Jumat. With the new contributions, the total fund that has been collected so far is amounted to \$151,242. The Community Development Department as well as the fund's committee encourage the public to continue to contribute to the humanitarian fund through the donation boxes that are located at shopping complexes, mosques and suraus throughout the country before the closing date on January 9, 2010.

ACB hands over 2010 calendar

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: An event commemorating the handing over of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Brunei Gas Carriers Sdn Bhd and Brunei Shell Tankers Sdn Bhd (ACB-BGC-BST) 2010 calendar was held at the conference room of the bureau's headquarters yesterday. Incorporated into these calendars are reminders of anti-corruption messages as well as important contact numbers for the public to lodge complaints about corruption. This is the third year in succession that Brunei Gas Carriers Sdn Bhd and Brunei Shell Tankers Sdn Bhd have collaborated with the ACB as part of their corporate social responsibility in support of eradication of corruption. Present was the Acting Director of ACB, Hj Abd Raub Hj Mohd Yassin, Brunei Gas Carriers and Brunei Shell Tankers Administrative Executive, Noryani Nani Hj Mohd Azni, representing the Managing Director, and senior officers of the bureau.

Bruneian man charged with extortion

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: A Bruneian man was brought before the Magistrate's Court yesterday on two counts of alleged extortion, one charge of impersonating a government officer and another charge for causing damage to government and private property, according to a statement issued by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). The statement said that Adimodaamin Hj Mokhtal went to Bangunan Halimatul Sa'adiyah in Gadong and pretended to be a government officer between 1am and 5am on October 17. He later entered the living quarters of an Indonesian man to be examined and searched, the statement said. The defendant allegedly threatened the Indonesian man by claiming he would arrest him, said the statement, which also alleged that Adimodaamin the same day went to Kg Berbatik in Bengkurong between 5am and 7am and allegedly threatened a female Indonesian in the same manner. On November 2, Adimodaamin allegedly committed mischief by causing \$1,586 worth of damage to two vehicles, one government and the other private, in the vicinity of Jalan Kiulap. The case will continue in court on December 22.

Berakas crash: Court to decide on Jan 6

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: The Magistrate's Court will hand down its ruling on January 6, 2010 on the defence counsel's request for the acquittal of Fahmi Hazmi Hazami Asli, who is charged with reckless or dangerous driving that caused the death of Hj Junuin Hj Mokti and Dyg Norliana Azimah Hj Junuin. The prosecution yesterday submitted their reply to the defence counsel's written submission that he had "no case to answer". In the accident, Fahmi's red Nissan Silvia veered out of control while rounding a curb at the T-junction on Jln Pasir Berakas on March 6, 2007. His car landed on top of a Toyota Corolla, with Hj Junuin and Dyg Norliana inside. If found guilty of the charges against him, Fahmi Hazmi faces a fine of \$20,000 and seven years in prison.

The Brunei Times

Tutong youths complete fire safety course

Zareena Amiruddin TUTONG

THIRTY-FIVE youths from Tutong completed a fire-fighting course for volunteers hosted by the Tutong branch of the Fire and Rescue Department yesterday.

The three-day course which took place at the Tutong Sports Complex was organised by the Department of Youth and Sport where youths aged between 15 and 30 took part.

Public Relations Officer of the Tutong Fire and Rescue Department told *The Brunei Times* that the course is part of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the department's yearly target to get 50,000 volunteers to participate in such courses throughout the country.

This is the second session conducted this year in Tutong, with the third to be undertaken by members of the Scouts Association.

Groups that wish to participate in the course may apply in writing to the Fire and Rescue Department. Head of the Department of Youth and Sport Tutong branch, Hj Mohd Rosfazilah Hj Yusly said in his closing speech that the course was tailored to meet the requirements of the youth, and was aimed to provide aware-

ness on the importance of basic knowledge about fire prevention and control. "Knowledge and guidance on emergency are very important in producing youths that are positive, dynamic, proactive, committed and able to defend themselves," he added.

Nurul Hoda Muhd Iskandar, representative of the course participants, said that the course had taught them how to provide assistance to the Fire and Rescue Department when necessary.

"Three days is not enough for us to learn everything but the course is helpful, and useful for us in facing emergencies," said Nurul Hoda.

Guest of honour, Acting Assistant Technical Director, Fire and Rescue Department Bandar Seri Begawan, Hj Japar Hj Tahir was on hand to present certificates to the participants.

Salmi Isal and Dk Abdatul Muzillah Pg Jarus Kamal Ariffin received special awards for being the best male and female participants in the group.

Dk Abdatul Muzillah said that she had enjoyed the experience, adding that it was a good way to spend the school holidays.

The Brunei Times

MoF holds SCP roadshow for private sector

Hana Roslan

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

THE question of whether the guidelines of the recently introduced retiree scheme coincides with the policies of private companies came into light yesterday during the question and answer session of the Supplemental Contributory Pension (SCP) roadshow held for the private sector in the country.

"In companies we have policies where locals can be in service until they are 55 years of age, the problem is the scheme is different because it states the contributions will continue until they are 60 years old," one of the male representatives from the private sector posed a question to Hjh Muna Diyana Hj Ibrahim, Finance Officer from the Investment Division of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) as well as other members of the presenting panel.

He said that this was a worry for most companies because the policies are different and asked for more clarity on the guidelines when it came to contributions in private sector.

Hjh Muna stated that a Retirement Act which will come out soon will touch on the retirement services.

"For your information, in the public sector, we as Employee's Trust Fund (TAP) members, who work in the government, must adhere to the retirement plan. There has also been a circular that states that anybody who wants to retire at 55 years old can do so," she said, adding: "But on the private sector's side, it will be touched in the retirement order that is due to come out soon."

With a total of seven per cent deductions made every month on the salary for TAP and SCP, the male representative also asked about the basis of the calculations.

In reply, Hjh Muna said that the scheme has been reviewed for four years by top government officials. "There have been several round table discussions on the seven per cent and we have even gotten help from the world bank. It's not just a number that we picked out of a hat. I think the decision-making process of how the seven per cent came

about is not for me to say and it's the Ministry of Finance's policy not to disclose," she added.

Another employee had inquired about where and when the SCP contribution was supposed to be paid.

In response, a members of the panel said that they could not officially disclose it just yet as the implementation will take effect on January 1, 2010. "It will be very similar to TAP in terms of contribution. We will announce this once things are in place," she added.

Other questions such as inquiries on the SCP scheme, "survivorship protection" clause which requires part of the SCP contribution to go into a separate fund that will guarantee coverage of the beneficiary obligations in the event of his/her death before the mandatory retirement age, and contributions on the informal sector were also discussed.

Employees from 50 companies were invited to attend the talk. The ministry will continue to conduct SCP roadshows from time to time to give the public a better understanding of the scheme.

The Brunei Times



One of the participants listens carefully to the briefing on the Supplemental Contributory Pension during a roadshow for private sector held at the Ministry of Finance, Commonwealth Drive yesterday. Picture: BT/Saifulizam

Correction

WITH reference to the reports published on December 17, 2009 on Page 4, titled "Bangladesh celebrates 39th Victory Day" and "Expanding Bangladeshi trade relations".

In the first report, the Bangladesh's Minister of Foreign Affairs is Dr Dipu Moni and not as reported. Meanwhile, in the other report, the story should have read as "... the sector is worth US\$700 million" and not as reported. We apologise for the errors.

The Brunei Times