

## COUNTRY REPORT ON SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

### 1. BRIEF:

The issue of the welfare and protection of children falls under the Community Development Department of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, and it works closely with all other relevant government agencies and non-government bodies towards the implementation of the protection of children's rights.

To ensure the rights of the child including their access to education, health, shelter, security and other human rights, several legislations were introduced and passed by the government. One such legislation is **Children and Young Persons Orders 2006 (CYPO)**, which provides for the protection and rehabilitation of children and the establishment of Juvenile Courts and Action Teams on Child Protection.

### 2. WELFARE AND POLICIES

To implement the policies adopted and welfare outline by the Community Development Department, it has:

- 2.1 The Strategic Plan that includes Plan of Action on Children and programmes which provides for the promotion, protection and rehabilitation of children. The Organisation Goals includes the promotion the well-being of individual, promotion a resilient and responsible individual, build caring and compassionate community for family resilient and survival and to strengthen family unit as the basic building block of society.
- 2.2 The Strategic Goals is to combat social ills includes by reducing the incidence of divorce, domestic violence, juvenile, delinquents and other social ills. To increase the accessibility of counseling services, motivation programmes for youth at risk, civil society participation through partnership with the Department and others.

Other relevant government agencies, such as Royal Brunei Police Force, Department of Community Development, Ministry of Health and the Public Prosecutor's Office have cooperated in intervening and handling of children issues. Road show on social ills including Brunei Police, Narcotic Control Bureau, Prison Department, Department of Schools (Guidance and Counseling Section) and The Ministry of Religious Affairs.

### **3. WELFARE HOME**

The Department of Community Development has also run a Welfare Home with the objectives of:

- 3.1 To help in rehabilitating the moral of those who have involved in negative social activities;
- 3.2 To engage these youth in task oriented learning and skills development; and
- 3.3 To give them shelter as a temporary safe place for the victim of domestic violence and family problem.

The programmes implemented in these welfare homes include motivational programmes, academic class, counseling, religious and moral education, vocational training, sports and recreation.

### **4. SOCIAL SAFETY NETS**

The government provides financial assistance and emergency relief assistance to the needy people such as widows/divorcees, orphans, fund for school children and the disabled as well as natural disaster victims. The children and mothers suffering from abuse and families with problem are also being protected.

### **5. NATIONAL COUNCILS OF SOCIAL ISSUES**

The National Council of Social Issues was also established consisting of several Cabinet Ministers with the aims of tackling social issues prevailing in the country, ensuring that policy, act or action plans to address these issues are acted on.

### **6. ROLES OF COMMUNITY AND FAMILY**

One of the most important priorities for social development is to evolve capability for responding and coping with the varied social challenges and it will not come about at initiative of the government alone but require the involvement and commitment of society itself.

The family is the prime layer in eradicating social ills, and it should play a role in maintaining family cohesion. In realization of this, one of the main policies of the Government is to strengthen the family institution.

The role of the civil society is acknowledged to complement and supplement government efforts. The government is therefore adopted the community participation approach in tackling social problems. It is believed that society

as a whole can play an important role in providing a better and secure future especially for the socially vulnerable groups of society.

In addition to the above, the establishment of the Councils of Village Consultation constituted by Penghulu (Heads of Province) and Ketua Kampong (Village Heads) enhanced the proximity between these heads and the people of the villages in proximity between these heads and the people of the villages in promoting values of shared responsibility towards the realization of caring society.

Brunei Darussalam has acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) and is committed to many other international and regional declarations on children including among others, the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action.