



**OPENING REMARKS FROM CHAIRMAN OF BTB
YANG BERHORMAT
DATO SERI SETIA AWANG HAJI ALI BIN APONG
MINISTER OF PRIMARY RESOURCES AND TOURISM
LAUNCHING OF BRUNEI GASTRONOMY WEEK**

Wednesday, 13th February 2019

Bismillah hir Rahman nir Rahim
Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners;

Yang Mulia Permanent Secretaries;

Yang Mulia Deputy Permanent Secretaries;

Members and Representatives of the Brunei Tourism Board;

Ladies and Gentleman,

1. A very good afternoon to all and thank you for taking the time to attend the launch of the Brunei Gastronomy Week 2019. This is the third year that we have organized such an event in conjunction with the 35th National Day of Brunei Darussalam. This event will be held for two (2) weeks starting from the 23rd February until the 10th March 2019
2. The purpose of the Brunei Gastronomy Week is to celebrate diverse tastes of Bruneian cuisine. The objective of this event is to raise the profile of Brunei's culinary diversity and expansive gastronomy. In this regards, I would like to encourage more hotels and restaurants to serve Bruneian cuisines in a more sophisticated way such as to elevate the

presentation of Bruneian dishes to be served as part of a fine dining experience or during receptions held within or outside the country. It is important to provide a unique Bruneian gastronomical experience for those in the country and to those who are visiting.

3. Gastronomy is a major driver for tourists when choosing a destination. Tourists' wishes to experience the local tastes in the destinations and accommodation facilities have prepared the ground for the development of gastronomy tourism. Tourism businesses that realized the importance to gastronomy tourism given by local and foreign tourists have featured the gastronomic factors in their facilities. By having an event such as Brunei

Gastronomy Week helps push the product further.

4. The highlight of Brunei Gastronomy Week 2019 is to feature dishes which are turmeric based as part of their special menu during the Brunei Gastronomy Week. Turmeric is often a main ingredient found in many Bruneian dishes. Bruneian cuisines which are typically known to use turmeric are *Daging Kunyit masak kampong* (Turmeric Beef kampong Style) or *Ayam masak kunyit* (Turmeric chicken). This year, I am pleased to inform that we have 10 hotels and restaurant companies including our national carrier Royal Brunei Airlines participating in Brunei Gastronomy Week. Throughout the two (2) week period, participating restaurants

will be promoting their own signature dishes, such as a De-constructed Laksa by Radisson Hotel, Trio Duck served with turmeric sauce by Anjung Saujana and Udang Sambal Kunyit by the Longhouse Training Restaurant. You will be able to sample some of these amazing dishes here in this room today.

5. During this Gastronomy Week, we will continue to have a rating program in terms of presentation, taste, innovativeness, wholesomeness and creativity of the signature cuisines served by each restaurant during the event. The Judges will be sampling the dishes served at all the participating hotels and restaurants during the Gastronomy Week and the

winners will be announced at the next Brunei Gastronomy Week in 2020.

6. Shortly after my speech, we will be awarding the winners of last year's Brunei Gastronomy Week who have won on the various categories I mentioned earlier.

7. I hope that with these winnings that it will encourage our talented, experienced as well as young budding chefs to build a more innovative and vibrant food industry for Brunei Darussalam. We want to heighten the level of skilled personnel within the F&B industry and support Bruneians who are driven and passionate in the culinary industry, who want to further excel and gain international

experience in order to achieve world class recognition.

8. To conclude, I would like to thank Members of the Board and our partners such as the Brunei Association of Hotels, Association of Travel Agents Brunei, CHMP Media, Eko Kampung, Royal Brunei Airlines, Radio Television Brunei (RTB) and local media for their strong support and cooperation to make this event a success.

Wabillahi taufiq wal hidayah wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wa barakatuh

Thank you.