



اتوريٲي كبشأان كسلامتن  
كصيتن . دان عالم سكيتز  
Safety, Health and Environment  
National Authority

**OPENING SPEECH BY GUEST OF HONOUR  
YANG BERHORMAT PEHIN DATU LAILARAJA MAJOR GENERAL (R)  
DATO PADUKA SERI HAJI AWANG HALBI BIN HAJI MOHD YUSSOF  
MINISTER AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE II  
AS MINISTER-IN-CHARGE FOR SHENA**

**LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF SAFETY MONTH 2023 IN CONJUNCTION WITH WORLD DAY  
FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK  
15 MAY 2023  
MAIN AUDITORIUM, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY BUILDING**

**بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ**

**Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Sufian bin Haji Sabtu, Deputy  
Minister (Security and Law) at the Prime Minister's Office and Chairman of  
SHENA Board of Directors,**

**Yang Mulia SHENA Board of Directors,**

**Yang Mulia Datin Zubaidah binti Hj Mahmud, Interim CEO of SHENA,**

**Yang Mulia SHENA Senior Management Team,**

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**



اتوريٲى كٲسائن كسلامٲن  
كصٲٲٲن . دان عالم سكيٲر  
Safety, Health and Environment  
National Authority

**Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera and a Very Good Morning.**

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work marks an important day for all workers in Brunei Darussalam and across the world. We celebrate a global event emphasising the importance of instilling safety and health measures in the workplace. It is a pleasure to be able to join you at today's launching ceremony to officiate SHENA's Safety Month 2023 organised in conjunction with this event celebrated every year on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April.

It is pleasing to see representatives from diverse sectors with us this morning, including government ministries and agencies, various industry sectors, chambers of commerce and institutions of higher learning.

Looking back at the 110<sup>th</sup> session of the International Labour Conference that was held last year, Brunei Darussalam joined other member states in the collective decision to include "**a safe and healthy working environment**" as a fundamental principle and right within the International Labour Organization's framework. This significant decision emphasises that every worker, regardless of the industry or job nature, has the right to a safe and healthy working environment.



اوتوريٲى كبشآن كسلامتن  
كصيتن دان عالم سكيتر  
Safety, Health and Environment  
National Authority

This ties in eloquently with this year's World Day for Safety and Health theme which is "**A safe and healthy working environment is a fundamental principle and right at work**" that puts emphasis on how the world has become increasingly cognisant of health and safety at the workplace. It calls for us to reflect on our performance and address the challenges we are facing to reduce incidents surrounding workplace injuries and fatalities. In the past decade, there were 70 work-related fatalities reported in the country, where 61% came from the construction industry. Falling from height represents one of the main causes. Although a downward trend in the fatality rate is recorded over the recent years, it does not mean that it will continue to fall. Coupled with under reporting and increase in construction activities, the need to ensure compliance with workplace safety and health regulations become more critical.

As we speak, SHENA is in the process of finalizing the draft regulations on work at height with the Attorney General Chambers. SHENA is also looking at one of the key factors contributing towards non-compliance with the existing safety regulations, which is the lack or even absence of proper supervision at work sites. It is insightful of SHENA to implement the Workplace Safety and Health (or WSH) Officers and WSH Co-ordinators Regulations where these individuals appointed by SHENA play an important role in ensuring that there



اوتوريٲى كبشآن كسلامتن  
كصيتن دان عالم سكيتر  
Safety, Health and Environment  
National Authority

are acceptable levels of compliance with the prevailing laws. This is where SHENA seeks the cooperation of all its stakeholders such as ABCi, Ministry of Health, Labor Department amongst others but most importantly, from the industries themselves.

Another important regulation that plays a crucial part in ensuring the rights of workers is not neglected especially in the event of work related incidences, is the First Aid Regulations 2021. SHENA is planning to roll-out a phase-by-phase implementation of the regulations that has started with the launching of the industrial guidance note in March 2023.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the less tangible side of workplace safety and health, we learn from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health of our workforce. Over the last 3 years, the world has embraced occupational health and hygiene measures so earnestly that it has led to a dynamic transformation in the way we work. Moreover, with the current climate change and extreme weather events, it is anticipated that there will be profound effects on occupational safety and health, such as heat stress. It does not come as a surprise when mental health appears as a forefront of global concerns with the impact of unsafe or unhealthy working conditions on psychological well-being.



اتوريٲى كېسائىن كسلامتن  
كصمىٲىن دان عالم سكىٲىر  
Safety, Health and Environment  
National Authority

It is eminent to put in place effective Occupational Safety and Health (**OSH**) policies, management systems and action plans to address these diverse risks to ensure that acceptable working conditions is attained. Again, this is an area that requires a whole of nation approach.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Improving workplace safety and health in Brunei Darussalam is a mandate under Goal 2 of Wawasan Brunei 2035. It is instilled in SHENA's 5-year strategic plan that is designed to be in alignment with the Maqasid Syariah, and the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. This will be stamped once the national OSH policy is made available. Compliance with the regulations for safety and health at the workplace is a shared responsibility between SHENA as the regulator; and facility owners, workplace occupiers, employers and workers as the operators. In this regard, SHENA and the Ministry of Home Affairs are working together towards Brunei Darussalam's ratification of the ILO Conventions on Occupational Safety and Health No.155 and Promotional Framework on Occupational Safety and Health No.187.

I commend SHENA for organising Safety Month 2023 and leveraging the global event of World Day for Safety and Health at Work to engage with



اوتوريبي كېڤساڻن كسلامتن  
كھيٽين دان عالم سكيتر  
Safety, Health and Environment  
National Authority

various stakeholders. Through the roadshows and seminars that will be organised across all four districts of Brunei Darussalam, SHENA aims to raise awareness by leveraging on technology to promote the importance of health and safety in the workplace as a fundamental principle and rights at work. The improved SHENA website is part and parcel of the promotion efforts to enable users to be more interactive with the functions of SHENA.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your commitment in prioritising a safe and healthy working environment in your organisations is crucial for protecting workers from potential hazards, diseases, and injuries related to their work. By taking such actions, it will not only enhance productivity but also improve your safety performance to safeguard the well-being of approximately 200,000 workers nationwide.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I approach the end of my speech, it would be meaningful to have policy makers, employers and workers collaborate to establish safe systems of the workplace by cultivating a preventive culture that recognises the importance of a safe and healthy working environment, which in turn will support a dynamic economy for the country.



اتوريٲتي كبشأان كسلامتن  
كصيتن دان عالمسكيتر  
Safety, Health and Environment  
National Authority

It is only through our collective efforts, steadfast compliance, and public-private collaboration that Brunei Darussalam can reduce serious workplace accidents, achieve zero workplace fatalities, and become a safe place to work and live.

Thank you and Wabillahi Taufik wal Hidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

***[Yang Berhormat Pehin to remain on stage  
to launch SHENA's official website]***

With the kalimah

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

As part of the SHENA Safety Month 2023, in conjunction with  
the World Day for Safety and Health at Work,  
I hereby officially launch SHENA's new website.