



اوتوريٲتي كبغسان كسلامتن
كصيٲتن. دن عالم سكيٲتر
Safety, Health and Environment
National Authority

FORUM ON EMPOWERING WOMEN IN SAFETY AND HEALTH IN CONJUNCTION WITH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

18TH MARCH 2024, 9.00 -11.30 AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**YANG MULIA HAJAH FARIDA BINTI DATO SERI PADUKA HAJI TALIB
PERMANENT SECRETARY (ENERGY) AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND
MEMBER OF SHENA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Yang Mulia Haji Mohd Yussof bin Haji Mohd Taufik, Acting Interim Chief Executive Officer of SHENA,

Yang Mulia SHENA Senior Management Team,

Yang Mulia Invited Penalists,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh.

Ramadhan Kareem and a very good morning.

- First and foremost, I am very pleased to be with you today to celebrate the International Women's Day. This year's theme "*Inspire Inclusion*" is incredibly relevant to today's forum which aims to promote inclusive workplaces and give recognition to women who have

made a considerable impact in the occupational safety and health field within their organisations as well as providing a platform for progressive discussions on the future of women in the field of health and safety in Brunei Darussalam.

- A career in the field of safety and health has typically been perceived as less attractive given the high percentage of male participants. More female representation in the safety and health profession particularly in occupational health and safety will provide the opportunity to bring different perspective, heighten empathy and understanding towards this profession. This is especially beneficial when it comes to identifying potential hazards.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- In the protection of women's safety and health in the workplace, work-related risks to women's safety and health have been underestimated and neglected compared to men's. In light of this, special considerations will need to be taken as women face challenges different to that of men in the working industry such as adjusted work tasks for pregnant women, ensuring the proper fit of personal protective equipment (PPE), reduced total weight limits for manual handling, limiting exposures of hazardous substances that may affect women's fertility and fetal development, as well as being mindful of psychosocial hazards specifically impacting women due to hormonal changes, among others. Therefore, applying a gender perspective is another holistic approach towards the workplace in order to make everyone feel safer and protected in their workplace including women.
- As mentioned by Yang Mulia SHENA's Acting ICEO earlier, the representation and contribution of women play a pivotal role in ensuring that matters such as policy and decision-making related to workplace safety and health are gender inclusive. Historically, the field of safety and health is perceived to be a male-dominated area; however, with the changes in society expectations and beliefs, room and spaces is created for women to have a seat at the table.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Having said that, we must not be complacent as more can and should be done to further support and encourage women in achieving their aspirations and reach their full potential. This is in line with Wawasan 2035 which is committed to ensuring equal opportunities towards developing a highly skilled workforce as well as achieving world-class health and safety.
- Today's forum agenda features prominent women panelists with vast experience and expertise in the field of safety and health: from raising awareness on specific considerations for women in the workforce to the organisation's role in ensuring gender-inclusive workplaces and even discussions on safety and health as a potential career pathway for women.
- Lastly, it is my hope that today's event will not only encourage businesses and organizations to improve women's safety and health protection but also inspire other women to be a part of their organisations' safety and health teams and initiatives. Thank you.

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