



اوتوري تي كبعسا ن كسلامتن  
كصيتن. دان عالم سكيتر  
Safety, Health and Environment  
National Authority

**SOCIALISATION ON ENFORCEMENT OF WORKPLACE  
SAFETY AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS  
WEDNESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 / 20 SAFAR 1443**

**Welcoming Remarks by  
Yang Mulia Haji Junit bin Haji Zakaria  
Director of Strategic Planning Division, SHENA**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Yang Mulia, Ar. Dayang Hajah Haslinawati binti Haji Abd Halim,  
Head of Authority for Building Control and Construction Industry (ABCi)

Yang Mulia, Esteemed representatives from  
Government agencies and Industry Professionals,

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,  
Salam sejahtera and a very good morning.

It is indeed an honour to welcome all of you today. I am delighted to see the participation from the various Government Ministries and relevant agencies as well as professionals from the construction industry. Your attendance this morning is key towards setting safety standards and making a difference in the safety performance of the construction industry.

The construction industry remains one of the main concerns for safety, especially considering the number of workplace incidents involving injuries and fatalities that occur in construction sites. Since 2013, a total of 44 workplace fatalities were recorded in the construction sector and this represents 61% of the total workplace fatalities recorded in the country. In terms of work-related injuries, the construction industry constitutes 40% of the total number over the same period.



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In light of this, the Safety, Health and Environment National Authority (SHENA) and the Authority for Building Control and Construction Industry (ABCi) have been working closely over the last few years to address the issue, involving several initiatives to raise awareness and improve the workplace safety and health standards and compliance across the construction industry.

One of the initiatives we are embarking on is the incorporation of SHENA's Safety and Health Notification Form on Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (BOWEC) into the OneBiz portal under ABCi's Form C application process. This will include mandatory requirements for the appointment of Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Officers or Co-ordinators, as well as safety and health training as stipulated under the Workplace Safety and Health Order, 2009 (WSHO, 2009) and its regulations thereunder.

Today's event marks the first series of socialisation sessions to construction contractors to provide a common understanding on these requirements, as well as to provide clear information for the implementation of its enforcement.

Taking into consideration the limited pool of qualified persons in the country, with the relevant technical training and experience to act as WSH Officers and Co-ordinators, SHENA will be implementing grace periods to allow time of proper planning by construction companies – Contractors with registrations class 4-6 will be given grace period of 6-months, while class 1-3 contractors will have 2 years to prepare for these necessary requirements.

To further alleviate the issue on the shortage in the supply of WSH Officers and Co-ordinators, we are privileged this morning to be joined by counterparts from the Manpower Planning and Employment Council (MPEC) Secretariat to present on the HSE Competency Apprenticeship Programme. This programme will provide support to companies in developing the required competency for their identified staff, through subsidised professional training in IOSH Managing Safely and NEBOSH International General Certificate of Occupational Health and Safety Training. These training courses are the minimum requirements for WSH Officers and Co-ordinators respectively. I therefore urge all of you here today to pay attention and listen intently to the important information to be presented by the MPEC representative later.



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Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I end my speech, I would like to thank the taskforce members from both SHENA and ABCi for all the hard work in realising this whole initiative, as well as for the organising of this event. I also would like to thank ABCi for their logistical support and provision of this venue, and special appreciation to MPEC for their participation and contribution in together making this event a success.

In conclusion, I hope all participants attending today's session will gain good understanding and knowledge on the legal requirements for the appointment of WSH Officers and Co-ordinators as well as on the new process of Safety and Health Notification for Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction. With the right planning and effort on your part and by taking full advantage of existing initiatives such as the programme provided by MPEC, Insyaa Allah we can make a difference in ensuring the construction sector a safer place to work, in line with SHENA's vision, "Ensuring Brunei is a Safe Place to Work and Live".

Thank you for your kind attention

Wabillahi taufik wal hidayah assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

**-END-**