



اوتوريٽي كبعساان كسلامتن  
كصيتن دان عالم سكيتر  
Safety, Health and Environment  
National Authority

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

18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024, 9.00 -11.30 AM

### WELCOMING REMARKS BY

**YANG MULIA HAJI MOHD YUSOF BIN HAJI MOHD TAUFIK  
ACTING INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
SAFETY, HEALTH ENVIRONMENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY (SHENA)**

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

*Selawat serta salam ke atas junjungan besar kita Nabi Muhammad SAW dan sahabat-sahabat baginda yang jujur hingga ke akhir zaman.*

1. Yang Mulia Puan Hajah Farida binti Dato Seri Paduka Haji Talib, Permanent Secretary (Energy) at the Prime Minister's Office and an honoured member of the SHENA's Board of Directors as today's guest of honour,

Yang Mulia Puan Dr Hj Haziah binti POK Saiful Mulok DSP Haji Abidin, Director of Manpower Planning Office at the Prime Minister's Office,

**Yang Mulia Puan Hajah Salawati binti Haji Kassim, HSE Manager at TotalEnergies EP (Brunei) B.V,**

**Yang Mulia Puan Siti Nuranati binti Haji Saman, HSE Manager at Berakas Power Company Sdn Bhd,**

**Representatives from the SHENA Senior Management Team and staff,**

**Distinguished Speakers and Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Assalamualaikum warahmatullah hi wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera, Selamat Berpuasa and a very good morning.**

- 2. First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your presence at today's forum on "Empowering Women in Safety and Health" in conjunction with International Women's Day which is celebrated annually every 8<sup>th</sup> March. This event is the first of its kind organised by SHENA to show SHENA's support towards raising the profile of women in the field of safety and health.**
  
- 3. Today's forum is aligned with this year's theme for International Women's Day which is "*Inspire Inclusion*", where the information shared and topics discussed today are aimed at encouraging and promoting gender-inclusive workplaces, specifically in ensuring adequate protection of safety and health of women in the workforce.**

**4. Before touching the broader context of female workforce in Brunei Darussalam in the area of safety, health and environment, I would like to share my personal reflections on my past professions in the oil & gas industry that can be related to today's theme of "Inspire Inclusion". Back in 2005 to 2008 and early 2013, I have initiated a number of initiatives in the first recruitment of females in the HSE advisory and officer jobs in the Operational Safety, Environment, Project / Construction HSE and LNG Ship Management respectively. In addition, I was also part of the working committee for the first recruitment of females in the area of plant operations and deck operations of LNG vessels. These jobs on the front line and HSE jobs demand physical, psychological, mental and emotional resilience at all times. I am also pleased to learn that the female workers who have been hired have steadily risen to higher positions.**

**5. Whilst it is noted that about 40% of the total workforce in Brunei Darussalam are women, based on the Department of Economic Planning and Statistics report, however, the data gathered by SHENA to date proves otherwise where 21% of women are registered Workplace Safety and Health Officers and 16% of women are registered Workplace Safety and Health Co-ordinators. Even so, only specific workplaces are required to appoint Workplace Safety and Health Officers and Co-ordinators, where this disparity in numbers could possibly highlight the risk of under-representation of women in safety and health-related policy and**

decision-making which may inadvertently impact the protection of women in the workplace.

6. **The Workplace Safety and Health Order, 2009 and its regulations thereunder as well as the Radiation Protection Act, Chapter 228 are in place to ensure the general safety and health protection of all workers; however, in compliance with these laws, employers should still conduct their due diligence to ensure their safety and health management systems, procedures and initiatives are gender inclusive. An example of this is the inclusion of women as part of the risk management team to develop a comprehensive risk assessment which takes into consideration the associated hazards, risks and necessary controls for vulnerable groups such as pregnant women which may otherwise be overlooked.**
  
7. **Nonetheless, today we are proud to feature prominent women, in the field of safety and health, to exchange best practices and ideas to improve safety and health standards for women which in turn may inspire other women to actively be a part of and contribute towards the management of safety and health within their respective organisations.**
  
8. **To end this speech, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Yang Mulia Puan Hajah Farida binti Dato Seri Paduka Haji Talib, Permanent Secretary (Energy) at the Prime Minister's Office and honoured member of the SHENA's Board of Directors for her support in gracing today's forum. In conclusion, I would like to**

reiterate the crucial role that women play in the protection of workers' safety and health in the workplace, and I hope everyone will have a productive session today. Regardless of gender and background, together we can make a difference in ensuring Brunei is a safe place to work and live, Thank you for your kind attention.

9. Wa billah hi Taufik wal hidayah, assalamualaikum warah matullah hi wabaraktuh.

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