



Keynote Address

Yang Mulia Hajah Rashidah binti Haji Sabtu

Managing Director, Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB)

BIBD INAUGURAL SUKUK OFFICIAL LAUNCH AND INVESTORS' FORUM

Monday, 5 October 2026

Balai Khazanah, Bandar Seri Begawan

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim
Alhamdulillah Rabbil 'Aalameen,
Wassalaatu Wassalaamu 'Alaa Asyrafil Ambiya E'walmursaleen,
Sayyidina Muhammadin Wa'alaa Aalihee Wasahbihee Ajma'een

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin
Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies and
Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
as Chairman of the Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB) Board of
Directors

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman
Coordinating Minister for Social Policies and Manpower and
Minister of Home Affairs
as Chairman of Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD)

Yang Mulia
Haji Mohammad Yusri bin Wahsalfelah,
Acting Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of BIBD

Yang Mulia
Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries,
Senior Government Officials and Senior Executives of the Financial
Institutions,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera, and a very good afternoon.

1. Alhamdulillah, it is a great pleasure to be here today at the inaugural launch of BIBD's sukuk programme. Allow me to extend my warmest congratulations to BIBD Group on this milestone – marking the significant progress of our financial sector over the years. I would also like to thank BIBD for inviting me to deliver today's keynote address.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. Globally, the Islamic finance industry is growing at a remarkable pace. According to the Islamic Finance Development Report 2025, global Islamic finance assets reached nearly USD6 trillion in 2024, growing by 21 per cent from the year before. Far from slowing down, the industry continues to gather pace, even amid global uncertainty, with the industry projected to rise even further to USD9.7 trillion by 2029, growing at an average of 10 per cent a year.
3. For Brunei Darussalam, Islamic finance has always been woven into the fabric of our financial sector development agenda. Since the establishment of the first Islamic financial institution in 1991, Islamic finance in Brunei Darussalam has grown steadily, with total Islamic

financial assets standing at BND16.3 billion as of Q2 2026, accounting for more than half of total financial sector assets.

4. Internationally, Brunei Darussalam has also gained recognition for its strength in Islamic finance. Alhamdulillah, since 2020, Brunei Darussalam has consistently ranked among the top 15 jurisdictions in the Islamic Finance Development Report, holding 13th place globally in 2025 – a testament to the continued resilience and strategic advancement of the nation's Islamic finance sector. These achievements were not built overnight. In fact, they reflect three decades of deliberate institution-building, including continuous efforts to strengthen our regulatory and governance framework, uphold robust Syariah oversight and cultivating talent at every stage of our journey.

Distinguished Guests,

5. While our journey in Islamic finance has translated into a well-established Islamic banking sector, the need to progress towards a more dynamic and diversified financial sector has become more imminent over the years – in particular, one that can mobilise long-term savings, broaden sources of financing, and connect domestic capital with productive investment in line with the country's economic needs. A deeper sukuk market is central to this ambition, particularly for investors seeking Syariah-compliant instruments.
6. Across the world, the sukuk market continues to grow both in scale and resilience. In 2025, global sukuk outstanding crossed the USD1

trillion mark for the first time, representing an unprecedented milestone for the Islamic finance industry and a clear reflection of the accelerating expansion of the global Islamic capital markets.

7. Our region is increasingly at the heart of this growth and is fast emerging as a leading global hub for sukuk and Islamic finance. This presents a timely opportunity for Brunei Darussalam to build on its strong Islamic finance foundations and unlock the full potential of sukuk to support the next phase of our financial sector's growth.
8. Indeed, since the maiden issuance of the Government Sukuk Al-Ijarah in April 2006, Brunei Darussalam has made significant progress in developing its capital market ecosystem. Allow me to highlight five (5) key initiatives that have supported this development:
 - a. First, the enactment of the Securities Markets Order in 2013 and the Securities Markets Regulations in 2015 provided the legal and regulatory foundation for a robust capital market. Over the years, we have continued to ensure this framework is fit for purpose and responsive to the evolving needs of the market through ongoing regulatory enhancements and close engagement with industry stakeholders and government agencies;
 - b. Second, the implementation of the Central Securities Depository in 2017 modernised the manual book-entry process for debt securities,

supporting the financial infrastructure required to facilitate electronic trading in the secondary market;

- c. Third, building on the sovereign sukuk issuance, the introduction of the BDCB Islamic Bills in 2020 further deepened our Islamic money market. This provided our financial institutions with a safe, liquid and Syariah-compliant instrument for managing their funds while broadening the range of Syariah-compliant money market instruments;
- d. Fourth, our engagement with the industry has highlighted several barriers to corporate sukuk issuance. Among them is the high cost of structuring and documentation. On this, BDCB recently issued a set of standardised legal documentation templates for corporate issuance of Sukuk Ijarah, to address cost efficiency associated with sukuk agreements. In shaa Allah, with the Government's effort to launch the country's stock exchange, we hope this will incentivise further development of Islamic investment products;
- e. Finally, the strength of a market lies in its talent. Through the Brunei Institute of Leadership and Islamic Finance (BILIF) and our partners, the introduction of the Continuous Professional Development Regulatory Examination for Capital Market and the Fiqh Mu'amalat Professional Programme (FMPP) ensure a steady pipeline of skilled professionals and expertise for our capital market.

At the same time, platforms such as today's event, play an important role in knowledge sharing and promoting best practices across our market.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. Building on the developments over the last decade, today's launch opens the door of our capital market to a wider segment of the public. In shaa Allah, through this new offering, the ordinary Bruneian – such as young professionals building their savings, a family planning for their children's education, or a retiree seeking steady and Syariah-compliant returns – will now have greater access and opportunities to manage their wealth. At the same time, we hope that the funds raised through this sukuk can be channelled into more productive use, supporting the growth and diversification of our economy in line with Wawasan Brunei 2035.
10. The recently launched Financial Sector Blueprint 2026–2035 underscores the importance of developing a deep, inclusive and vibrant sukuk market. Thus, this milestone represents an encouraging early step towards realising the ambitions outlined in the Blueprint and we look forward to seeing more issuers follow suit. For our part, BDCB remains committed to working hand in hand with the industry to strengthen the foundations of the market, enhance investor participation, and foster an ecosystem that is deep, inclusive, resilient and capable of supporting the nation's long-term economic development.

11. As we celebrate today's milestone, our hope is that it will serve as a catalyst for broader participation in Brunei Darussalam's capital market, demonstrating that sukuk is not only a viable financial instrument, but also an attractive avenue for raising funds to support investment, business expansion and economic development. Beyond this, a growing sukuk market will also create opportunities for the supporting ecosystem to flourish – such as legal and Shariah advisory services, auditors and custodians, building local expertise and generating high-value employment within the country.
12. In closing, allow me to extend my sincere appreciation once again to BIBD for inviting me to deliver the keynote address this afternoon. I would also like to congratulate all those involved in bringing this initiative to life. May today's launch contribute to the continued development and deepening of Brunei Darussalam's capital market and indeed, pave the way for many more sukuk issuances in the years ahead.

Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah,
Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Thank you.