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THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS POLICY

UNDERSTANDING THE LAW : ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT





RULE OF LAW

The exercise of public authority must be backed by source in law. The executive authority does not have unfettered discretion.

➤The Constitution, the enabling law and common law provides legal limits to the discretionary powers of the executive authority.



STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

Interprets law

Judiciary (Courts) Legislature (Legislative Council/ His Majesty)

Executive
Cabinet
Government departments
Public officers

Creates law

Implements/enforces law



GOVERNMENT OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

In a Constitutional Monarchy government, all executive authority derives from the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam and other written law.

National Philosophy: Malay Islamic Monarchy (Melayu Islam Beraja)



Legislature (Legislative Council and His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan)

- Bills are passed by the Legislative Council and assented to by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan
- So far as the Proclamation of Emergency is in force, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan can make such Orders which he considers desirable in the public interest
- Orders made by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan are laid at the meeting of the Legislative Council and either cease to have effect or be passed by the Council
- The laws empowers the executive authority to perform its functions and enforce the law



LEGISLATURE

- Article 39 His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan shall have the power to make laws for the peace, order, security and good government of Brunei Darussalam.
- Article 40(1) Subject to this Constitution and to the Standing Orders, any Member of the Legislative Council may introduce any Bill or propose any motion for debate in, or present any petition to the Legislative Council; and such Bill, motion or petition shall be debated and disposed of in accordance with the Standing Orders.
- Article 45(1) When any Bill has been passed by the Legislative Council, such Bill shall only become law either in the form in which it was passed or with such amendments as His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan shall think fit, if His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan assents to, signs and seals the Bill with the State Seal.
- Article 83(3) When a Proclamation of Emergency has been made and so long as such Proclamation is in force, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan may make any Orders whatsoever which he considers desirable in the public interest; and may prescribe penalties which may be imposed for any offence against any such Order; and may provide for the trial by any court of persons charged with such offences.
- Article 83(7) Every Order made under this Article shall, at the next meeting of the Legislative Council, be laid before that Council and that Council may resolve that any such Order shall, to the extent and as from such date as may be specified in such resolution, either cease to have effect (and any such cessation shall, if assented to by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan, have the same effect as the repeal of a written law) or be passed by that Council.



STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

Executive Authority

- Administrative powers are statutorily vested in Ministers and other designated authorities
- Ministers are assisted by Government departments and public officers
- Executes Government policy in accordance with the law
- Ministers are accountable to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan and the Legislative Council



EXECUTIVE

- Article 4(1) The supreme executive authority of Brunei Darussalam shall be vested in His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan.
- Article 4(1A) His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan shall be the Prime Minister.
- Article 4(3) His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan may appoint from among citizens of Brunei Darussalam any number of Ministers and Deputy Ministers who shall be responsible solely to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan for the exercise of executive authority and who shall assist and advise His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan in the discharge of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan's executive authority.
- Article 10 There shall be established a Council of Ministers (to be known in Malay as the Majlis Mesyuarat Menteri-Menteri), constituted in accordance with the provisions of this Part.
- Article 11 The Council of Ministers shall consist of the Prime Minister and the Ministers appointed under Clause (3) of Article 4.
- Article 70 Save as otherwise provided in this Constitution, every person holding office in the public service of the Government shall hold office during His Majesty the Sultan and Yang <u>Di-Pertuan's pleasure</u>.



STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

Judiciary (Courts)

- The Judiciary applies and interprets the laws and resolves disputes that arise under the laws
- There are two court systems in Brunei Darussalam : Civil Courts and Syariah Courts
- Supreme Court (High Court and Court of Appeal); Intermediate Courts; Subordinate Courts (Courts of Magistrates, Juvenile Courts, Small Claims Tribunal); Syariah Courts (Syariah Subordinate Courts, Syariah High Courts, Syariah Appeal Courts)



ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

- ➤The Ministry and departments are responsible to implement and enforce the laws within its authority.
- ➤The Ministry and departments are responsible to determine the policy it wishes to adopt and in line with the national policy outlined by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the Prime Minister of Brunei Darussalam and Head of State.
- ➤The policy ideas will be incorporated in the written law, when legislation is considered necessary. This ensures harmonisation of the policy and our laws.



WHAT IS POLICY?

The art, study or **practice of government or administration**

Oxford English Dictionary

Policy is a particular **course of action** supported by a specific decision or a series of decisions, that will meet a set of objectives to **generate a desired outcome**.

Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Policy is the expression of the **practices of government or administration**, in the form of instructions that we (legislative drafters) receive and that, once drafted and made, will **give effect to the action** that the government has decided upon as those it wishes to carry out.

Elizabeth Grant



WHY DO WE NEED POLICY? WHAT IS GOOD POLICY?

- ➢ If there is no policy our organisation and us do not have a purpose for our existence in the organisation.
- A good policy allows us to have a clear purpose of what our organisation is all about. We understand the **expectations** that our organisation and our stakeholders have about what we all are doing and why we are doing them.
- ➤A good policy illuminates our work, guides, explains and clarifies. It is transparent and democratic. Otherwise it can cause confusion, inefficiency, misleading and even dangerous.
- It becomes the reference point for the culture we live by and becomes the foundation of our daily activity in a way that is clearly understood by everyone in our organisation across the board.



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Local News

Improving Policy Making In Brunei

By Sobrina Rosli

Bandar Seri Begawan - There is still room for improvement in the sultanate's policymaking process, said Dr Azaharaini Hj Mohd Jamil, Executive Director of Brunei's Centre for Strategic and Policy Studies.

He said in the absence of a central policy-making body dealing with "common" policies such as on human resources development (HRD) each ministry formulates its own (HRD) policies, resulting in a wide diversity in objectives and practices. Dr Azaharaini further said apart from the problem of policy coordination and incoherence there is also potential of duplication of programmes and wastage of resources.

He said that the current process appears to be made by individual officers at various levels of the hierarchy of different government ministries. Some policies also emerge from the speeches of His Majesty and other top government officials such as the Departmental Directors and their officers. Policies formulated at Departmental level need approval from the Minister of the department concerned. Policies, which require state-wide implementation or have financial implications, need approval from His Majesty via the Prime Minister's Office.

"It is hoped that in the future the policy of ministry can be incorporated into the main theme policy," he said.

Dr Azaharaini also commented on policy-making effectiveness in Brunei.

"Many people do not know the formal policy-making process and consequently they are not able to meaningfully influence the policy decision," he said.

He elaborated that policy development in general, has been dominated by the "topdown" model where policymaking is the domain of a select group at the top and the job of those at the lower level is to implement it.

"If the degree of openness and private consultation in policy discussion is limited, it is expleted that commitment to policy implementation would also be variable," he added.

• He also touched upon the need for a national policymaking body dealing with "common" policies such as in terms human resources development (HRD).

"In the absence of such a focal, coordinated structure, the existing administrative machinery (eg Heads of Department meeting and Permanent Secretaries' or SUT forum) is the main avenue for making policy decisions and often key stakeholders are not well represented," he added.

According to him, due to this the private sector representatives in the administrative machinery are not included and members are often appointed on the basis of the positions they hold, eg heads of department and institutions.

"The limited representation of implementers in the formulation of policies has meant that the likely implementation constraints cannot be realisticallyidentified or aired," he said.

Policy options analysis is rarely conducted to assess the feasibility, suitability and acceptability of policies before their adoption.

"Policy information is not always disseminated by policymakers down the hierarchy and across the sections of the organisation and shared with other ministries, organisations and departments tend to focus their energy on purguing their own goals and other agenda with little articulation of the needs of the others," he said.

According to Dr Azaharaini, it may be due to the lack of analytical skills and knowledge for not doing research and analysis. Another reason could be that the policy-makers may be attending to many duties and therefore do not have the time or full information. In such a case, programmes are therefore implemented in an ad hoc manner, where implementation difficulties are handled along the way.

The process of policy making also needs available and reliable data.

"As a result, some policy decisions are made on the basis of intuition and past experiences, without having a clear idea of the preparations needed or the outcomes expected from implementing the decisions," he said.

He added that the discretion at the departmental/institutional level to make financial decisions is very limited. The `unavailability' of financial resources affects programme implementation because of the lengthy and inflexible financial procedures.

"It is usually the case that support given to newly introduced policy is rather superficial and not necessarily accompanied by a serious commitment in implementation," he added.

He said there is also another problem regarding participation and consensus in policy decision \mathbf{m} aking.

"Consensus or Syura (dialogue and consultation), according to Islamic belief, is important in the process of formulation and administration of public policy,



IMPROVING POLICY MAKING IN BRUNEI

Dr Azaiharani Hj Mohd Jamil

- Absence of a central policy-making body dealing with "common" policies such as on human resources development (HRD) each ministry formulates its own (HRD) policies, resulting in a wide diversity in objectives and practices.
- The problem of policy coordination and incoherence. There is also potential of duplication of programmes and wastage of resources.
- The limited representation of implementers in the formulation of policies has meant that the likely implementation constraints cannot be realistically identified or aired.



IMPROVING POLICY MAKING IN BRUNEI

- Policy options analysis is rarely conducted to assess the feasibility, suitability and acceptability of policies before their adoption.
- > Process of policy making also needs available and reliable data.
- Some policy decisions are made on the basis of intuition and past experiences, without having a clear idea of the preparations needed or the outcomes expected from implementing the decisions.
- The private sector participation in policy making is minimal and public feedback is weak.



Undang-undang mesti utama kepentingan umum Penggubalan perlu kajian sebaik mungkin epentingan umum hendaklah mencemar prinsip hak asasi itu perlu di -menjadi' dasar, kepada, apa juga jubah atau dimansuh kita hendaklah meng penggubalan undang-undang. Ke kajinya sebaik mungkin. Selain itu, tapisan w pentingan umum itu merujuk ke- ketat perlu diberikan kepada apa juga hu-I N pada kepentingan latar masyara-kat dengan mengambil kira keadaan sosial budaya kita atau menggadai keselamatan. masyarakat dan kemakmuran kita. Kita mahukan se-Ahli falsafah sudah lama berbahas me-ngenai hubungan antara 'undang undang berkan kesan bali kepada kemamingan berkan kesan bali kepada kemamingan lan masyarakat. Mereka kemukakan peldan keselamatan negara. bagai teori. Semua teori dan falsafah itu tidak menolak kepentingan undang-un- **Kesediaan khalayak** dang dalam masyarakat. Tidak ada satu Dalam aspek berkaitan, antara perkai SHAMRAHAYU A AZIZ pun yang menafikan hubung kait antara yang perlu diberi perhatian ketika me undang-undang dan masyarakat, bahkan nentukan sama ada kita memerlukan atau Penulis 375 menekankan keperluan undang-undang. cherg 15 ialah Prof Madya di Universiti Islam Dipersetuju juga bahawa undang undang 111111 1 Balli Antarabangsa hendaklah dijelmakan bagi menyelesaikan 🦳 Sekiranya kita fikir warga kita sudah kuat ins. kesulitan dalam masyarakat. Mereka ber- dan mampu dalam mengendali atau men setuju bahawa matlamat terakhir setiap disiplin diri, mengendali perbezaan antara sistem perundangan ialah untuk menda- satu sama lain, menghormati antara satu tangkan kebahagiaan kepada masyarakat sama lain serta gagah mempertahan jatita Ini menjadikan kedudukan dan fungsi diri, nilai, adat resam dan budaya negara undang-undang itu begitu jelas. Undang- dan bangsa, kita mungkin tidak lagi me-undang diperlukan bagi menjamin ke- merlukan undang-undang yang membera teraturan masyarakat dalam semua aspek rikan gambaran negatif kepada kebeba-ba kehidupan – sosial, ekonomi dan juga po- san. Dalam konteks prinsip umum hubungan seperti itu telah sebati dengan warga kita antara sosiologi dan undang-undang, un dang-undang juga adalah tindak balas ter-dang-undang yang ketat untuk menjaga bar 1881 J. B. S. W. 12 281 hadap permasalahan masyarakat yang ber- tingkah laku warga dan keselamatan serta 2004 kongsi kepentingan, mempunyai hubungan antara satu sama lain serta memiliki 🗠 budaya. Perlu atau tidaknya sesuatu un- Dari segi pelaksanaan, undang undang si dan dipromosi dan dilayan se in hendaklah dipromosi dan dilayan se in se SIDANG kepada pertimbangan sewajarnya ke atas bagai mana tujuan penggubalan undang duran REDAKSI latar sosiologi itu. Semua aspek latar sosial masyarakat per- diperlukan dalam pelaksanaannya supaya kinati Pengarang Urusan Kumpulan NSTP Datuk Abdul Jatil Hamid Jahlemediaprima.com.my lu diberi pertimbangan sewajarnya sebe- tidak ada pihak mengambil kesempatan 🕵 lum kita membuat atau memansuhkan/ dan menyalahgunakannya. sesuatu undang-undang. Lebih-lebih lagi Pengarang Kumpulan BE Datuk Mior apabila membabitkan undang-undang Menghalang perkara buruk Pendekatan untuk mewujudkan atau me ngekalkan undang-undang demi kepenti se yang menjadi pemangkin kepada kesela-Kamarul Shahid mkamarul@medlaprima.com.my matan negara, sama ada keselamatan yang ngan awam ini umpama ungkapan lama sediakan payung sebelum hujan. Sebelum mungkin terancam dari dalam atau dari Timbalan Pengarang Kumpulan BH Mahlar Ali luar. kita mengharungi masa sukar, kita hen Kajian tuntas sebelum pemansuhan daklah merancang atau bersedia meng-Pengarang Eksekutil Berita Norhayati Md Said yatisaklemediaprima.com.m Dalam perkembangan semasa di Malaysia, harunginya. kita dapati banyak perubahan dilakukan terhadap perundangan negara. Apa yang Pengarang Eksekutif Rencana saya perhatikan ialah kita masih lagi raguragu mengenai kesan baik pemansuban berlaku dan sekiran undang-undang. Ini dapat dilihat melalui dang-undang itu jug kenyataan menteri terbabit dan juga pihak menyelesaikannya. Zainor Said Pengarang Eksekutif Pengeluaran Badrulhisham Othman polis sebagai agensi penguat kuasa utama. Oleh itu janganlah kita terburu-buru me-Oleh itu, untuk mengelakkan perkara banetagenediaprima.com.m seperti ini berlaku, kita perlukan perse-8H diterbitian oleh The New diaan besar sebelum perubahan dilaksaditerbitkan oleh The New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd, Jalan Riong 59:00 Kuala Lumpur, Tel: 1-300 22 5787 Faks: 03 20567081 nakan. Seperti yang saya sebut dalam rua- itu sehingga menggadaikan kemakmuran ngan ini minggu lalu, kita amat memerlukan kajian tuntas sebelum kita kita nikmati ini. mengambil keputusan berkaitan pindaan atau pemansuhan sesuatu undang-un-E-mel ke bhrencana@mediaprima.com.my Laman Web: www.bharian.com.my dang Sama ada sesuatu akta yang dikatakan untuk berkongsi pendapat anda

tidak sesuatu undang-undang ialah kese diaan khalayak kita. Antara perkara pokok: yang kita harus teliti ialah kekuatan dan kelemahan dalam latar sosial kita. 🗥 in the mest Tetapi, sekiranya kita tidak fikir kualiti atau 'kemakmuran kita. Atas dasar kepentingan, sata umum, kita perlukan undang-undang ini 🐒 🏦

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undang. Kawalan ketat dan terperinci itu ta - 103dasmis

Dalam konteks ini, undang-undang yang kita mahukan ialah undang-undang yang dapat menghalang perkara buruk daripada berlaku dan sekiranya ia berlaku juga, un dang-undang itu juga hendaklah berupaya ngambil pendekatan hak asasi yang ber sandarkan kepada prinsip kebebasan yang luas dan tidak terkawal dan kesamarataan dan keselamatan yang telah dan sedang



Penggubalan undang-undang perlu berdasarkan kepada kepentingan umum.

- Undang-undang diwujudkan bagi menyelesaikan kesulitan dalam masyarakat.
- Undang-undang perlu menjamin keteraturan masyarakat dalam semua aspek kehidupan – sosial, ekonomi dan politik.



- Semua aspek latar sosial masyarakat perlu diberi pertimbangan sebelum membuat atau memansuhkan undang-undang, lebih-lebih lagi yang melibatkan keselamatan negara.
- Dalam menentukan sama ada perlu untuk mengwujudkan sesuatu undang-undang perlulah diketahui kesediaan khalayak kita terutamanya kekuatan dan kelemahan latar sosial kita.



- Undang-undang perlu dipromo dan dilayan menurut tujuan penggubalannya.
- Undang-undang perlu dapat menghalang perkara buruk daripada berlaku, dan jika berlaku juga udang-undang perlu berupaya menyelesaikannya.



Undang-undang yang memberikan gambaran negatif kepada kebebasan mungkin tidak diperlukan jika warga kita sudah kuat dan mampu mengendali atau mendisiplin, diri, mengendali perbezaan antara satu sama lain, menghormati antara satu sama lain serta gagah mempertahan jati diri, nilai, adat resam dan budaya negara dan bangsa.



Jangan terburu-buru mengambil pendekatan hak asasi yang bersandarkan kepada prinsip kebebasan yang luas dan tidak terkawal dan kesamarataan sehingga menggadaikan kemakmuran dan keselamatan yang telah dan sedang kita nikmati.



CHARACTERISTICS OF SOUND POLICY

LEGAL : The policy should be in compliance with current legal requirements or new law need to be introduced.

CLEAR : The policy should be clear, precise, definite, sufficiently comprehensive and understandable.

COMMUNICATED : The objective of the formulation of the policy should be understood by those who will implement them.

WRITTEN : Written policies reveals the intention of top management and this allows it to be communicated easily. NOT based on assumptions.



CHARACTERISTICS OF SOUND POLICY

▶PRACTICAL : Resources of the organisation should be carefully considered. All the people who are going to use the policy should be involved.

WISE : The policy should be properly planned, coordinated, consistent and balanced. Instead of opportunistic decisions.

➤CONSISTENT : The various types of policies, operations, activities and functions of the organisation and of other stakeholders should be consistent and in agreement with each other.



FLEXIBLE BUT STABLE : Even though a stable policy serves as a guide for its compliance, but the policy should be able to be adjusted with a change in the objective and allow room for judgment and interpretation required according to the situation.

RELEVANT : The policy should be reviewed to ensure they remain relevant and up-to-date.

CULTURE : The policy should conform to the norm of the ethical standard of the Government and the behaviors which prevail in our society.



CHARACTERISTICS OF SOUND POLICY

ACHIEVEMENT : The policy should contribute towards the achievement of the policy objectives.

THE 10 GOLDEN RULES OF POLICYMAKING:

Policy is a particular course of action supported by a specific decision or a series of decisions, that will meet a set of objectives to generate a desired outcome.

> Choose policy/action that is evidence-based & grounded in reality

• Decide policy based on existing research.

Obtain financial support for new/ongoing

research to formulate optimal policy.



- Discern the possibility of a policy failure due to operational/ implementation issues.
- Detect the likelihood of the policy's inability to solve the problem. • Chalk out the policy viability based on the consequences.

Take into account interest & feedback of stakeholders

- Involve both direct & indirect stakeholders in the decision making process.
- Assess policy impact on those at the receiving end.
- Be open to feedback from both policy implementers & policy beneficiaries.



Communicate policy objectives & outcome to the public

- Develop & implement a comprehensive communication strategy.
- Facilitate smooth dissemination of information to all interested parties.



Establish 9 implementation monitoring mechanisms & continuously review performance

- Track successful implementation of new policies & highlight obstacles to policy makers.
- Continuously monitor whether existing policies are serving their purpose.
- Allow policy implementers & policy beneficiaries to register their feedback.
- Identify failing policies.

Evaluate success & failure of new policy

- Design an evaluation model with the requisite parameters.
- Do a comparative analysis of the actual outcome vs. desired outcome.

Ten Commandments of good policy making: A retrasportive by Sir Gus O'Donnell, London School of Economics





Identify the problem

Study the problem & its causes in detail.

Understand its impact on the public &

Identify the stakeholders: Those who can

gauge public awareness of it.

Define a course of action for public good & define success based on outcome

- Review alternative means to achieve desired outcome.
- Choose the best option.
- Ensure the action adopted is for
- on outcome.

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- Consciously assess & manage the risk.
- associated.
- public good. Qualify/quantify success based



• Have a sustainable long term policy. • Plan at least a 5 year timeline to assess

> Ensure that it's 5

- Set clear-cut objectives for execution
- Identify the people & organisations
- Design a framework with the right.
- Have a nimble framework that adapts to goals/environmental & regional

the outcome & impact.

implementable



- accountable for implementation.
- tools and resources.
- differences.
- Ensure it works seamlessly with people of different backgrounds & interests.





• Define success in the model.

SOURCES What are the Steas in the Public Policy Process?



POLICY MAKING

- 1) Identify the problem.
 - Study the problem and its causes in detail.
 - Understand its impact on the public and gauge public awareness of it.
 - Identify the stakeholders: Those who can rectify the problem and those who will benefit from the problem solving solutions.





- 2) Define a course of action for public good and define success based on outcome.
 - Review alternative means to achieve desired outcome.
 - Choose the best option.
 - Consciously assess and manage the risk associated.
 - Ensure the action adopted is for public good.
 - Qualify/quantify success based on outcome.





3) Choose policy/action that is evidence-based and grounded in reality.

- Decide policy based on existing research.
- Obtain financial support for new/ongoing research to formulate optimal policy.





- 4) Adopt a long-term mindset. Do not go for short-term fixes.
 - Have a sustainable long-term policy.
 - Plan at least a 5-year timeline to assess the outcome and impact.





- 5) Ensure that it is implementable.
 - Set clear-cut objectives for execution.
 - Identify the people and organisations accountable for implementation.
 - Design a framework with the right tools and resources.
 - Have a nimble framework that adapts to goals/environmental and regional differences.
 - Ensure it works seamlessly with people of different backgrounds and interests.





- 6) Have deep understanding of the policy consequences.
 - Discern the possibility of a policy failure due to operational/implementation issues.
 - Detect the likelihood of the policy's inability to solve the problem.
 - Chalk out the policy viability based on the consequences.





- 7) Take into account interest and feedback of stakeholders.
 - Involve both direct and indirect stakeholders in the decision making process.
 - Assess policy impact on those at the receiving end.
 - Be open to feedback from both policy implementers and policy beneficiaries.





- 8) Communicate policy objectives and outcome to the public.
 - Develop and implement a comprehensive communication strategy.
 - Facilitate smooth dissemination of information to all interested parties.





- 9) Establish implementation monitoring mechanisms and continuously review performance.
 - Track successful implementation of new policies and highlight obstacles to policy makers.
 - Continuously monitor whether existing policies are serving their purpose.
 - Allow policy implementers and policy beneficiaries to register their feedback.
 - Identify failing policies.





10) Evaluate success and failure of new policy.

- Design an evaluation model with the requisite parameters.
- Define success in the model.
- Do a comparative analysis of the actual outcome versus desired outcome.





ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS

The Attorney General shall advise on all legal matters connected with the affairs of Brunei Darussalam referred to him by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan or by the Government.

Article 81(2) of the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam



ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS

- Civil Division
- Criminal Justice Division
- International Affairs Division
- Legislative Drafting Division









ROLE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS IN DEVELOPING POLICY

- The Attorney General's Chambers is interested in policy development that results in changes to the law of the country.
- Legal advisers assist in the process to develop sound policy.
- > Legal advisers can provide information on the present statutory law and the relevant judicial decisions.
- > Legal advisers can draw attention to any legal principles that concerns the particular subject matter.
- Legal advisers considers the common law and whether there are any international obligations relevant to the policy proposal.
- > Legal advisers identify outstanding issues that were not spotted by the client or unintended ambiguities.
- Legal advisers guide on what the law ought or ought not to be.
- Legal advisers guide on the drafting of the instructions to legislative drafters.
- > Legal advisers considers how the new law fits with the rest of the existing law.



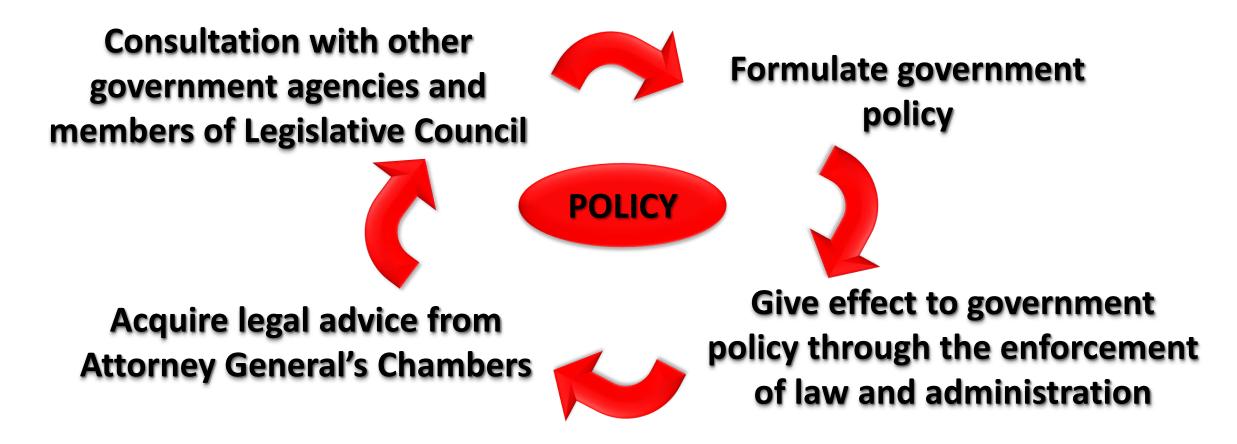
ROLE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS IN DEVELOPING POLICY

LIMITS :

Legal advisers ARE NOT responsible for the final policy decision.
 Legal advisers cannot fill the gap in the instructions without reference to whoever is deciding the policy.



POLICY MAKING PROCESS





LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL





LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Article 83(7) of the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam

Every Order made under this Article shall, at the next meeting of the Legislative Council, be **laid before that Council** and that Council may **resolve** that any such Order shall, to the extent and as from such date as may be specified in such resolution, either cease to have effect (and any such cessation shall, if assented to by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan, have the same effect as the repeal of a written law) or be **passed by that Council**.



POLICY OBJECTIVES

NEW requirement :

Ministries, departments and statutory bodies are required to submit the policy objectives of the proposed Article 83(3) Orders **before signature copies are prepared by the AGC**.

➤ALL policy objectives of Orders that have been signed by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan will be compiled and submitted to His Majesty before being forwarded to the Legislative Council, together with copies of the *Gazette* publication, and laid before the Council at the next meeting.



ORDERS MADE BY HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN AND YANG DI-PERTUAN

Article 83(3) of the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam

When a Proclamation of Emergency has been made ... His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan may make any Orders whatsoever which he considers **desirable in the public interest**



CONTENT OF POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 1. **Purpose** of legislation eg. to fulfill international obligation.
- What does the legislation seek to achieve? including the impact to the socio-economy or development of the country eg. employment.
- 3. Any other **vital information** that concerns public interest that you wish to share with the members of the Legislative Council.



THANK YOU

www.agc.gov.bn