



# ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS

A Brief Introduction

NORISMIZAN BINTI HAJI ISMAIL

# FUNCTIONS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

By virtue of Article 81 of the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam, the Attorney General –

- is the adviser 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;
- is vested with the power to institute, conduct or discontinue any proceedings for an offence other than proceedings before a Syariah Court or proceedings before a Court Martial, subject to the provisions of any written law to the contrary;
- in the exercise of this power, is not subject to the direction or control of any person or authority;
- has the right of audience in, and takes precedence over any other person appearing before, any court or tribunal in Brunei Darussalam.

# VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

## VISION

*Excellence in legal service*

## MISSION

- *To provide sound legal advice*
- *To conduct fair and independent criminal prosecution*
  - *To draft quality legislation*
- *To provide efficient registry services*

## CORE VALUES

- *Professionalism*
  - *Integrity*
  - *Teamwork*

# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

ATTORNEY GENERAL

SOLICITOR GENERAL

LEGAL DRAFTSMAN

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR GENERAL

ASSISTANT SOLICITOR GENERAL

LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING DIVISION

COMMUNICATIONS & STRATEGY DIVISION

CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DIVISION

BRUIPO

CIVIL DIVISION

# LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING DIVISION

- Provides legislative drafting services to Ministries, departments and statutory bodies to give effect to the policies of the Government of Brunei Darussalam
- Provides legal advice on matters relating to the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam, including the preparation of legal instruments related thereto
- Provides advice relating to the preparation and process of law-making and legislative drafting, including the need for a law to be amended or introduced
- Conducts seminars, talks etc. to Ministries, departments, statutory bodies and other relevant stakeholders relating to the above
- Responsible for the uploading of the laws of Brunei Darussalam onto the Attorney General's Chambers' website
- Responsible for the preparation of *Gazette* template of signed principal and subsidiary legislation, excluding Notifications
- Prepares the updated revised texts of all types of laws of Brunei Darussalam under the Law Revision Act (Chapter 1), including the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam, through the law revision process

# COMMUNICATIONS AND STRATEGY DIVISION

- Oversees the performance of the Attorney General's Chambers' Strategic Plan and handles matters as directed by the Attorney General
- Deals with the registration for Powers of Attorney under the Powers of Attorney Act (Chapter 13) and the registration of marriages under the Registration of Marriages Act (Chapter 124)
- Does legal research for the Attorney General and Solicitor General
- Translates the Revised Edition of the Laws of Brunei and provides translation service to other Divisions

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

- Conducts criminal prosecutions at all levels of Court in Brunei Darussalam
- Conducts criminal appeals and revisions in the High Court and Court of Appeal
- Provides legal advice in relation to Investigation Papers received from law enforcement agencies
- Renders legal advice on criminal law matters to Ministries and Government Departments
- Conducts trainings, seminars, lectures and dialogues to the relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies and other government agencies as well as outreach programs to the public, educational institutions and other non-governmental organisations
- Works closely with other divisions in reviewing and studying international agreements from the context of domestic criminal law and in the drafting of criminal legislation and amendments to existing criminal-related legislation

# INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

- Provides legal advice to Ministries and Government agencies on all matters relating to public international law
- Undertakes legal research, analysis and comprehensive studies on the implications of international agreements and conventions *viz a viz* domestic laws prior to signing, accession or ratification
- Vets Agreements and MOUs at the G-to-G level and with international organisations and provides inputs on Brunei country reports, working papers and other documents involving international legal issues
- Prepares international instruments such as Instrument of Ratification or Accession and Instrument of Full Power
- Represents Brunei Darussalam at international meetings on legal matters and legal cooperation as well as the legal adviser to the Government in the negotiation of free trade agreements
- Represents the Attorney General in various national committees, task force and advisory bodies involving international issues



# BRUIPO

- Responsible for the administration and registration of intellectual property rights in Brunei Darussalam
- Provides legal advice to Ministries, departments, Universities and GLCs on intellectual property laws and related services
- Attends international meetings on intellectual property law and policies and prepares official reports and recommendations thereon
- Prepares working papers on agreements and conventions relating to intellectual property, including making recommendations whether to accede to the agreements and conventions
- Conducts seminar, workshop etc. to raise awareness and understanding on intellectual property rights, including the importance of intellectual property commercialisation, its value and relevance in innovation
- Establishes partnership with relevant stakeholders in support of the national innovation ecosystem

# CIVIL DIVISION

- Drafts, vets and negotiates contracts, memorandum of understanding and other legal documentations
- Provides legal advice, including statutory interpretation to Ministries, departments and statutory bodies
- Represents and assists the Government in any civil proceedings or alternative dispute resolution involving the Government, including debt recovery claims
- Represents the Attorney General in meetings with Ministries, departments, statutory bodies, committees, boards of inquiries, taskforces etc.
- Represents the Attorney General in matters and proceedings under the Legal Profession Act (Chapter 132)
- Conducts seminars, talks etc. to Ministries, departments, statutory bodies and other relevant stakeholders

# ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DIVISION

Generally to manage and administer the administration and finance affairs and comprises –

- Human Resources Unit
- Management Unit
- Archive Unit
- ICT Unit

# LAW LIBRARY UNIT

- Statutes keeper
- Provides library services to AGC officers and support staff
- Provides services for the sale of Laws of Brunei Darussalam, Constitutional Documents and Courts Judgments



THANK YOU