



BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



KEY FACTS

POPULATION (estimate 2017):

428,990

AREA (UN 2006):

5,765 sq km

CAPITAL:

Bandar Seri Begawan

CURRENCY:

Brunei dollar (BND)

HEAD OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT:

HM Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah

FORM OF GOVERNMENT:

constitutional monarchy

STATE STRUCTURE:

unitary

LANGUAGES:

Malay (official)

NATIONAL ELECTIONS:

last: March 1968, turnout: na

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT (2017):

9.1%

LOCAL ELECTIONS:

there is no elected local government

WOMEN COUNCILLORS:

na

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE as a percentage of total government expenditure 2017/18:

na

SUMMARY

Brunei Darussalam is a constitutional monarchy with no local government.

1. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Negara Brunei Darussalam is a constitutional monarchy. The Sultan of Brunei Darussalam is appointed by the Council of Succession. The Council of Ministers is appointed by and presided over by the sultan. His Majesty is assisted and advised by six councils, namely the Privy Council, the Religious Council, the Council of Ministers, the Adat Istiadat Council, the Legislative Council and the Council of Succession. The Council of Ministers handles executive matters; the Privy Council advises His Majesty on the appointment of people to customary ranks, titles, honours and positions; and the remaining four councils advise on other state matters. In early 2017, 9.1% (3/33) of council members were women. After being dissolved in 1985, the Legislative Council was re-established in 2004 and is partly and indirectly elected^{8.1c} with the elections being overseen by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

2. LEGAL BASIS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

2.1 & 2.2 Constitutional and legal provisions

There is no constitutional or legislative provision for local government.^{8.2a}

2.3 Proposed legislative changes

No known proposed legislative changes.

2.4 National urban policy

The Bandar Seri Begawan Development Master Plan^{8.2b} was adopted in 2010 and guides the government's land use allocation, transport systems development, and environmental protection. This is developed in line with the Wawasan Brunei 2035^{8.2c} Brunei Darussalam's national vision and has significant cross over with the SDGs.

The vision includes thirteen (13) strategies that have been identified to ensure all aspects of development are implemented accordingly and effectively they are: (i) education, (ii) economy, (iii) security, (iv) institutional development, (v) local business development, (vi) infrastructure development, (vii) social security, (viii) environment, (ix) health, (x) religion, (xi) land use, (xii) infrastructure and information technology, and (xiii) manpower planning. Medium term planning is over seen by the Tenth National Development Plan (2012-2017).^{8.2d}

3. STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

3.1 Local government within the state

There is no local government in Brunei, although local administration takes place through the four districts and three municipal boards responsible for urban areas.

3.2 Ministerial oversight

The district and municipal boards are overseen by the Ministry of Home Affairs.^{8.3c}

3.3 Council types

No further information on the district and municipal boards is available.

3.4 Traditional leadership

At the local level, people are represented by their respective (heads of villages) and heads of longhouses. The village leaders and heads of longhouses are elected by the residents themselves in their respective areas, and have responsibility for their respective communities' welfare and wellbeing. Any concerns which cannot be resolved are brought to the attention of either the district officer of the local village (Kampongs), the Kampong's Consultative Council or the Legislative Council, by the appointed district representatives.

4. ELECTIONS

There is no elected local government.

Table 8.1. Distribution of wards and population

Districts (Daerah)	Mukim (wards)	Towns/ municipalities	Kampongs (villages)	Population 2011 Census	Population 2017 estimate
Brunei Muara	17	3	151	279,842	na
Belait	8	4	52	60,609	na
Tutong	8	3	70	43,855	na
Temburong	5	1	56	8,856	na
TOTAL	38	11	329	393,162	428,990

Source: 2011 Census^{8.3a} and Economic Planning and Development, latest figures^{8.3b}



5. SYSTEMS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

5.1 Modes of citizen participation

The Government of Brunei Darussalam has undertaken a number of initiatives to encourage citizen participation in governance.^{8.5a} These include the Open Forum online platform for citizen feedback and discussion, a series of interactive online surveys and polls on electoral reform, the government's own, Social Media Hub, the Talian Darussalam 123 – non-emergency line for citizen enquiries, and, the Business Support Centre, a one-stop-shop for all business-related assistance to the general public, providing information on such as starting up a business, getting approvals for business premises, getting halal certification for food imports, and other processes needed for business activities.

5.2 ICT for citizen engagement and service delivery

The government has developed a Digital Government Strategy 2015-2020^{8.5b} which has six focus areas: service innovation; security; capability and mind-set; enterprise information management; optimisation; and, collaboration and integration.

REFERENCES AND USEFUL WEBSITES.

- 8.1a Government of Brunei Darussalam www.gov.bn
- 8.1b Women in national parliaments. Inter-Parliamentary Union www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm
- 8.1c Brunei Darussalam: an electoral feint www.eastasiaforum.org/2012/05/26/brunei-darussalam-an-electoral-feint
- 8.2a 1959 Constitution of Brunei Darussalam with amendment to 2006 www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Brunei_2006.pdf
- 8.2c Wawasan Brunei 2035 www.hok.com/design/service/planning-urban-design/bandar-seri-begawan-development-master-plan
- 8.2d Tenth National Development Plan (2012 – 2017) <http://depd.gov.bn/DEPD%20Documents%20Library/NDP/RKN%20English%20as%20of%2011.12.12.pdf>
- 8.3a Population: Census 2011 www.depd.gov.bn/projects/BPP/Preliminary_Report_of_BPP_2011_updated_20Feb2012.pdf
- 8.3b Economic Planning and Development: Prime Minister's Office: Latest Key Indicators www.depd.gov.bn/SitePages/National%20Statistics.aspx
- 8.3c Ministry of Home Affairs www.home-affairs.gov.bn
- 8.4 No references for this section
- 8.5a Citizen Participation www.brunei.gov.bn/SitePages/Participation.aspx
- 8.5b Digital Government Strategy 2015-2020 www.digitalstrategy.gov.bn/Themed/index.aspx
- 8.7 No references for this section
- 8.8 No references for this section
- 8.9 No references for this section
- 8.10 Wawasan Brunei 2035 www.brunei.gov.bn/SitePages/Wawasan_Brunei_2035.aspx
- 8.11a UN 2012 statistics surface area <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2006/Table03.pdf>
- 8.11b Commonwealth Local Government Knowledge Hub www.clgf.org.uk/resource-centre/knowledge-hub
- 8.11c UNDP HDR Brunei Darussalam country profile <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/BRN>

Annex 8a Summary of service provision in different spheres of government in Brunei Darussalam

Services	Delivering authority			Remarks
	Central government	Towns/municipalities	Kampongs (villages)	
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION				
Police	■			
Fire protection	■			
Civil protection	■			
Criminal justice	■			
Civil status register	■			
Statistical office	■			
Electoral register	■			
EDUCATION				
Pre-school (kindergarten and nursery)	■			
Primary	■			
Secondary	■			
Vocational and technical	■			
Higher education	■			
Adult education	■			
SOCIAL WELFARE				
Family welfare services	■			
Welfare homes	■			
Social security	■			
PUBLIC HEALTH				
Primary care	■			
Hospitals	■			
Health protection	■			
HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING				
Housing	■			
Town planning	■			
Regional planning	■			
TRANSPORT				
Roads	■			
Transport	■			
Urban roads	■			
Urban rail	■			
Ports	■			
Airports	■			
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SANITATION				
Water and sanitation	■			
Refuse collection and disposal	■			
Cemeteries and crematoria	■			
Slaughterhouses	■			
Environmental protection	■			
Consumer protection	■			
CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORTS				
Theatres and concerts	■			
Museums and libraries	■			
Parks & open spaces	■			
Sports and leisure facilities	■			
Religious facilities	■			
UTILITIES				
Gas services	■			
District heating	■			
Water supply	■			
Electricity	■			
ECONOMIC				
Agriculture, forests and fisheries	■			
Local economic development/promotion	■			
Trade and industry	■			
Tourism	■			

■ sole responsibility service ■ joint responsibility service ■ discretionary service