



The local government system in

Brunei Darussalam



Key facts

POPULATION¹: Census 2001: 332,844

AREA²: 5,765 sq km

CAPITAL: Bandar Seri Begawan

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO GDP: -

CURRENCY: Brunei dollar (BND)

HEAD OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT: Sultan and Prime Minister Sir Hassanal Bolkiah

FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Constitutional sultanate

STATE STRUCTURE: unitary

LANGUAGES: Malay (official)

NATIONAL ELECTIONS: last: March 1968

LOCAL ELECTIONS: There is no elected local government in Brunei Darussalam.

SUMMARY

Brunei Darussalam is a constitutional sultanate with no local government.

1. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Negara Brunei Darussalam is a constitutional sultanate. The Sultan of Brunei Darussalam is appointed by the Council of Succession. The Council of Cabinet 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 is appointed and presided over by His Majesty and handles executive matters; the Privy Council advises His Majesty on the appointment of persons to customary ranks, titles, honours and dignitaries, the remaining four councils advise on other state matters.

2. LEGAL BASIS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There is no constitutional or legislative provision for local government.

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. These are both sections within the Ministry of Home Affairs.

3.2 Traditional leadership:

At the local level, people are represented by their respective "Penghulus", "Ketua Kampung" (heads of villages) and the heads of longhouses. The village leaders and heads of longhouses are elected by the residents themselves in their respective areas, and have responsibility for and over their respective communities' welfare and wellbeing. Any concerns which cannot be resolved are brought to the attention of either the respective District Officers of the local village, the Consultative Council, or of the Legislative

Council by the appointed District Representatives.

References and useful websites

- 2001 Census data <http://new.unctad.org/upload/Bangkok/Brunei%20Darussalam.pdf>
- UN statistics <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2008/Table03.pdf>
- IMF statistics www.imf.org/external/data.htm
- Government of Brunei website www.home-affairs.gov.bn/department/
- Department of Economics, www.depd.gov.bn
- UNDP Human Development Report 2010 <http://hdr.undp.org>
- CLGF ministerial questionnaire
- Universal periodic review www.upr-info.org/-Brunei-Darussalam,1220-.htm

Table 1. Distribution of councils and population

Source: Government of Brunei

District	Mukims (wards)	Kampongs (villages)	Population (Census)
Belait	8	n/a	n/a
Brunei and Muara	17	n/a	n/a
Temburong	5	n/a	n/a
Tutong	8	n/a	n/a
TOTAL	36	n/a	332,844