

# 52,450 granted PR status in Brunei since 1958: PermSec

By James Kon

FROM July 1, 1958 until today, a total of 52,450 applicants have been granted Permanent Resident status in Brunei Darussalam.

The figure was revealed by Dato Seri Setia Awang Hj Yusoff bin Hj Ismail, Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Home Affairs as guest speaker during the talk, "PR Application: Impact on the Business Community", organised by the French-Bruneian Business Association (FBBA) at Sheraton Utama Hotel, yesterday morning.

The permanent secretary gave an in-depth explanation of the main functions and responsibilities of the Department of Immigration and National Registration, one of the departments under the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs in Brunei.

He outlined the various acts the department is responsible in carrying out, namely Immigration Act and Regulation (Chapter 17), Passport Act and Regulation (Chapter 146), Nationality Act and Regulation (Chapter 15), National Registration and Regulation (Chapter 19), Birth and Death Registration Act and Regulation (Chapter 79), Adoption



**President, Honorary president of FBBA, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs, French Ambassador and Director of Immigration and National Registration at the talk**

Registration Act and Regulations (Chapter 123) and Tracking and Smuggling of Persons Order, 2004.

Dato Hj Yusoff added that another function of the department is the issuance of Entry Permit (Permit Resident Status), which is in accordance to Section 10 of the Brunei Immigration Act (Chapter 17).

He said a 'Permanent Resident' is defined as a person to whom a Residence Permit has been issued under subsection (1) of Section 67 of the Immigration Enactment 1956 (Enactment No 23 of 1956) or to whom an Entry Permit has

been issued under subsection (2) of Section 10 of the Immigration Act (Chapter 17). Permanent Residence status is accorded to those who possess either foreign nationality status (foreign passport holder) or those without any nationality.

Meanwhile, Awg Zainal Abidin bin Dato Paduka Hj Ahmad, Director of Immigration and National Registration, outlined the various categories of eligibility in applying for Permanent Resident status.

If a woman marries a Brunei Citizen, two years of marriage and staying in

Brunei is required; if a woman marries a Brunei Permanent Resident, five years of marriage and staying in Brunei is required; for children whose mother holds Brunei citizenship, the requirement is two-years of age and having stayed in Brunei Darussalam; while children whose father holds Brunei Permanent Residence, the requirement is two years and 6 months of age and having stayed in Brunei Darussalam.

He also touched on the new categories for Permanent Resident status (as of May 15, 2006), which consists of applicants who contribute to the economic growth and development of the country (business), professionals who contribute to the economic growth and development of the country and husbands who marry Brunei citizens.

In the question and answer session, various queries on the new categories for Permanent Residence status were answered by the Director of Immigration & National Registration.

Also present at the talk were Mr Patrick Bonneville, French Ambassador to Brunei; Awg Musa bin Hj Adnin, Honorary President of FBBA; Mr Pierre Imhof, President of FBBA; and other members of FBBA.