

Products of converts, tithe recipients on sale at expo

| AZLAN OTHMAN |

MEMBERS of the public have the chance to purchase products made by Muslim converts (*Muallaf*), the poor and destitute, people with different abilities and those looking for jobs at the four-day Souq Al-Qudwah expo held at the Islamic Da'wah Centre in Kampong Pulaie. The expo will be held until July 21 from 9am-9pm.

The expo was officiated by Minister of Religious Affairs Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, who was accompanied by his spouse, yesterday.

The expo is being hosted by the Islamic Da'wah Centre with the cooperation of the Brunei Islamic Religious Council (MUIB) and support of Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BiBD).

Around 60 *Zakat* (tithe)-recipient entrepreneurs are taking part in the event, including 20 entrepreneurs under the BiBD SEED programme's first and second cohorts comprising single mothers and less capable mothers, according to the Director of the Islamic Da'wah Centre and expo co-chairperson Haji Abdul Rajid bin Haji Mohd Salleh.

The expo also features a BiBD-supported Al-Qudwah shop managed by Muslim convert entrepreneurs, who are also members of the Muallafpreneurs Consortium Governance Com-



FROM LEFT: Minister of Religious Affairs Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman distributes a tithe fund certificate to BiBD SEED Cohort 1 (2018) recipient; and the Minister of Religious Affairs takes a closer look at drones at the Souq Al-Qudwah Expo. Also in the photos is BiBD Managing Director Mubashar Khokhar

mittee which aims to market their products domestically and internationally.

The ceremony also saw the minister distributing tithe fund certificates to nine recipients of the BiBD SEED Cohort 1 (2018) and presenting certificates of appointment to the Muallafpreneurs Consortium Governance Committee.

Souq Al-Qudwah Expo is an initiative carried out by various government agencies, including the MUIB, Community Development Department, Youth Development Centre and Pusat Bahagia, and supported by BiBD through a smart partnership programme with the Islamic Da'wah Centre.

The expo, held to mark His

Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 73rd birthday celebration, aims to provide tithe recipients under the category of poor and destitute, Muslim converts, welfare assistance recipients and individuals seeking employment with a "marketplace" platform to conduct business and empower them with the skills to become successful entrepreneurs.

It also gives the entrepreneurs the opportunity to introduce their products and services and build their self-identity to enable them to achieve success in business.

The expo will feature



PHOTOS: AZLAN OTHMAN

exhibitions and sales of products from entrepreneurs, and various activities and side events, including motivational talks, sharing sessions from Muallafpreneurs, the BiBD Entrepreneurship Clinic, BiBD Financial Literacy activities, Al-Quran verses memorising contest, *Hadith* memorising, as well as colouring and *Jawi Khat* writing sessions.

Other activities include the Love the Prophet Night, Open Mic Youth Daie, Nadi Quranic, sport quizzes, archery activities, reptile shows and a 'Happy Harun' activity.

Parking space and a shuttle bus service at the Berakas Indoor Stadium parking lot will be provided for visitors to the expo.

Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar; Legislative Council member Mukim Berakas 'B' Penghulu Yang Berhormat Pengiran Haji Ali bin Pengiran Maon; Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs Dato Seri Setia Haji Abdul Aziz bin Orang Kaya Maharaja Lela Haji Yussof and his spouse; Deputy Permanent Secretary (Policy and Religious) at the Ministry of Religious Affairs Haji Mohd Serudin bin Haji Timbang and his spouse; BiBD Managing Director Mubashar Khokhar; and Deputy Chairperson of Syariah Advisory Body of BiBD Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Japar bin Haji Mat Dain @ Maidin were also present.