

# Pension payments to be made to bank accounts

Izah Azahari

In view of the ongoing spread of COVID-19 cases in Brunei Darussalam, 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 has consented for the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE) through the Treasury Department to make pension payments to retirees and recipients of derivative pensions (widows and dependents) through their bank accounts from

March 2020. This is a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Treasury Department informed recipients of pension and derivative pensions (widows and dependents) to provide their personal information by completing the form through the

Treasury Department's website (<https://www.mofe.gov.bn>) and to email the completed information to [pencen@treasury.gov.bn](mailto:pencen@treasury.gov.bn) or via WhatsApp at 7373222.

For recipients of pensions and derivative pensions (widows and dependents) who do not have bank accounts, the Treasury

Department payment will be made by cash at the payment counters of the MoFE building within the first 10 working days.

The MoFE requests the cooperation of all to not come in groups, and to leave the premises after collecting their pension payment.

## Baiduri Capital Investment Challenge investors share experience

With the Baiduri Capital Investment Challenge (BCIC) 2019 entering its final few weeks of trading, Baiduri Capital hosted a sharing session for the participants to share their experiences recently. The session was held at the Laksamana College of Business (LCB).

Team representatives highlighted the successes and learning lessons experienced during their investment journey.

For some, the BCIC 2019 is their first foray into financial investments and capital markets, while others have some experience through other competitions.

Financial engineers from Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) shared that their initial impression of investments was that it was a highly specialised career available only for those with an investment background, but through the BCIC, they learnt that investments are a viable opportunity for a broader range of people.

"Investments are more of a continuous journey as opposed to a one-off deal," said Muhammad Faiz Hamzi bin Aziz Shamri.

Nur Haziqah Jahirah binti Haji Osman of Harvest Capital from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) noted that one of the greatest benefits of the BCIC is the access to the Baiduri Capital staff and their expertise. "My initial impression of investments was that the returns are too small to consider it as a viable source of income."

Economics major Muhammad Nabeelur-Rahman bin Haji Yaakub elaborated on the comment, "This is most likely due to the general low to limited understanding of the market and investments in general."

Albert Koh Tee Yong of HANS (UBD) said, "As a business major, the BCIC has been very beneficial. It allows me not only to put some

of the knowledge learnt in our classes to practical use, but also has the added benefit of providing exposure to the market and other worldly matters."

Aziematul Aqilah binti Abdul Hamid from Team Emerald Songket Equities (UBD) said, "Through our participation in the BCIC, we have a greater understanding and markedly improved financial analysis skills."

Team leader Aiman Muhd Aiman Ayyub bin Pengiran Haji Mohd Isa elaborated, "We've also learnt that the selection process of the companies requires a deeper look beyond just the financial performance, we are also required to look at the market trends or patterns."

Politeknik Brunei (PB) team PB Ranger FX said that research is a key part of the trading process.

According to Dayangku Fatin Syahirah binti Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahim, "When selecting which stock to start investing in, we conducted not only online research but research in newspapers, journals and other literature."

Team leader Mohammad Afiq bin Samsul noted that through this level of in-depth research, they are now able to see the truer value of what some companies are worth as opposed to the value that they perceive.

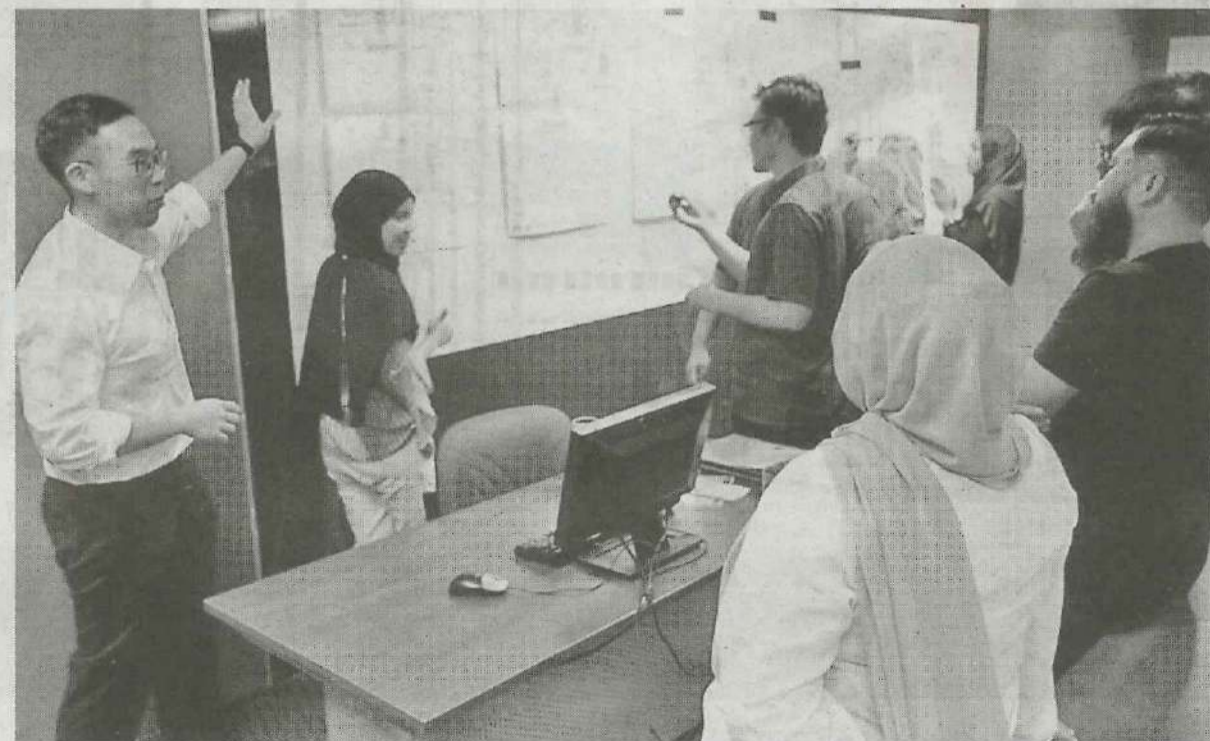
The BCIC 2019 began in October 2019, and is set to end in April next year.

This year's challenge attracted 10 teams made up of undergraduate students from UBD, UTB and PB. Each team comprises four members and are given BND5,000 as initial capital to invest into any of the securities listed on the Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, United States stock exchanges and China A-shares.

Upon completion of the chal-



Photos show Baiduri Capital Investment Challenge 2019 participants during the sharing session. PHOTOS: BAIDURI CAPITAL



lenge, any profits earned by the teams will be retained by them.

This BCIC is an annual initiative

undertaken by Baiduri Capital

to increase overall awareness of securities trading and support

AMBD's goal of increasing investment literacy among members of the public.

## National Day Run postponed, swimming pools shut for now

James Kon

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) yesterday announced in a press statement the postponement of the National Day

Run 2020 (HK36), and the closure of all swimming pools under the purview of the ministry.

This is in the light of the COVID-19 situation in Brunei Darussalam and in line with the Ministry of Health (MoH) advisory to

stop all mass gatherings (including sporting events).

The National Day Run was to take place at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin on March 29. Participants who have registered and made payments

need to keep their receipts. The distribution date for the runner shirt has also been postponed.

Members of the public can contact the Youth and Sports Department at 2381905 (ext 1630/1626) for information.

Meanwhile, all swimming pools under the control of the MCYS will be closed until further notice.

The MCYS will continue to work with the MoH in addressing the COVID-19 infection situation in Brunei Darussalam.