

## FIRST BIBD ALAF STUDENT OFF TO EGYPT TO PURSUE STUDIES

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21st, 2017 - BIBD recently sent off its first BIBD ALAF Scholar, Dyg Norhafikah Binti Hj Awg Bakri, to continue her studies in the prestigious University of Al-Azhar, Egypt. She will be pursuing her undergraduate study in the field of Syariah Islamiah for four years.

Hj Minorhadi Hj Mirhassan, BIBD Head of Government Relations and Special Projects commented, “We are extremely proud of Norhafikah for her achievements and we wish her the best for her future studies. Alhamdulillah, BIBD has been granted the opportunity to be part of her journey to achieve her life-long ambitions, and we will look forward to the successes of many more students from the current and upcoming batches of the ALAF programme, In Shaa Allah.”

Dyg Norhafikah, a student under the BIBD ALAF Programme scholarship, is the programme’s first student to continue her studies beyond the secondary level and also the first to do it overseas.

### **About The BIBD ALAF Programme**

The BIBD ALAF (Advocating Life-Long Learning for An Aspiring Future) programme currently supports the development of more than one hundred and forty students. The programme is kept sustainable by collaborated efforts from both public and private efforts which include BIBD’s own charity expeditions for ALAF, generous contributions from corporate agencies as well as the general public.

The ALAF Programme, launched in May 2013 by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, was developed in close partnership with the Department of Schools, Ministry of Education, and in 2015 a Memorandum of Understanding was also signed with the Islamic Studies Department from the Ministry of Religious Affairs. This will lead to constant efforts and close collaboration between all parties to ensure the successful implementation and provision of assistance to the ALAF Programme.

The ALAF Programme provides the selected students with provisions for school and tuition fees, educational materials and welfare, as well as mentoring and counselling necessities amongst others. All these efforts are meant to ensure the absolute commitment of these students towards the development of their education, and prevent them from being bothered by other commitments. The ALAF Programme will also continue to provide support and assistance to these students until the end of their respective educational requirements.

Through the ALAF Programme, BIBD hopes to align its support to His Majesty's 2035 vision of obtaining a 100% level of education for everyone, directly having an impact on reducing poverty. In Shaa Allah, this will lead Brunei towards a more prosperous and peaceful future, making Brunei populated with educated, highly skilful and successful individuals, in line with internationally set standards.

#### **How can the public support the ALAF Programme**

Members of the public wishing to contribute into the BIBD ALAF Programme fund may do so with a minimum donation of B\$1.01 into the BIBD ALAF account at 1018181811 via BIBD channels such as the BIBD Online website, BIBD Mobile app, BIBD ATM and CDMs, and BIBD branch counters. The public can also set up a BIBD Standing Instruction to ensure a monthly donation into the ALAF fund. As an added option, BIBD account holders can also use their accumulated BIBD Hadiah Points for cash conversion into contributions into the ALAF fund account.

**For further information, please contact:**

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**About BIBD**

BIBD is the largest financial institution in Brunei Darussalam, leading the market in terms of assets, financings, and deposits.

BIBD is headquartered in Bandar Seri Begawan with fifteen branches and the largest network of ATMs located strategically in all four districts of Brunei Darussalam.

BIBD was ranked 38<sup>th</sup> in terms of Soundness (Capital Asset Ratio) in the top 1,000 World Banks by “The Banker” in 2016. BIBD is one of the safest banks in the world and is given an impressive credit rating of A- by Standard & Poor’s in 2015, the highest for a Bruneian bank and among the highest in the region. BIBD has been named the “Best Retail Bank in Brunei” by The Asian Banker in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.

For more information on any of BIBD’s other products or services, please log on to the BIBD website at [www.bibd.com.bn](http://www.bibd.com.bn), visit your nearest BIBD branch or get in touch with the BIBD Contact Centre at 2238181.