



PLAN OF ACTION ON THE FAMILY INSTITUTION 2025 – 2029



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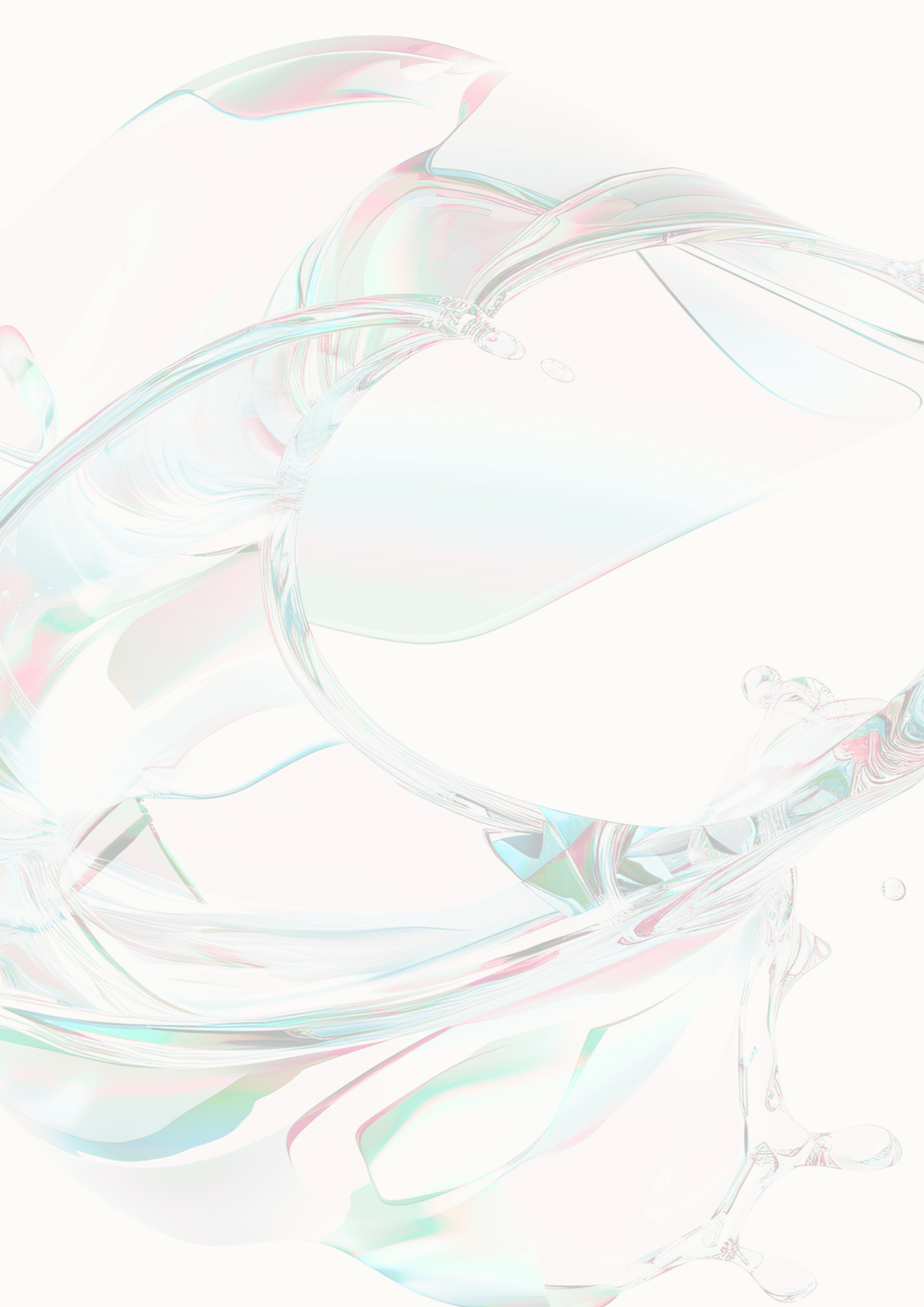
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***TITAH BY HIS MAJESTY SULTAN
HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH
MU'IZZADDIN WADDAULAH, THE
SULTAN AND YANG DI-PERTUAN OF
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM***

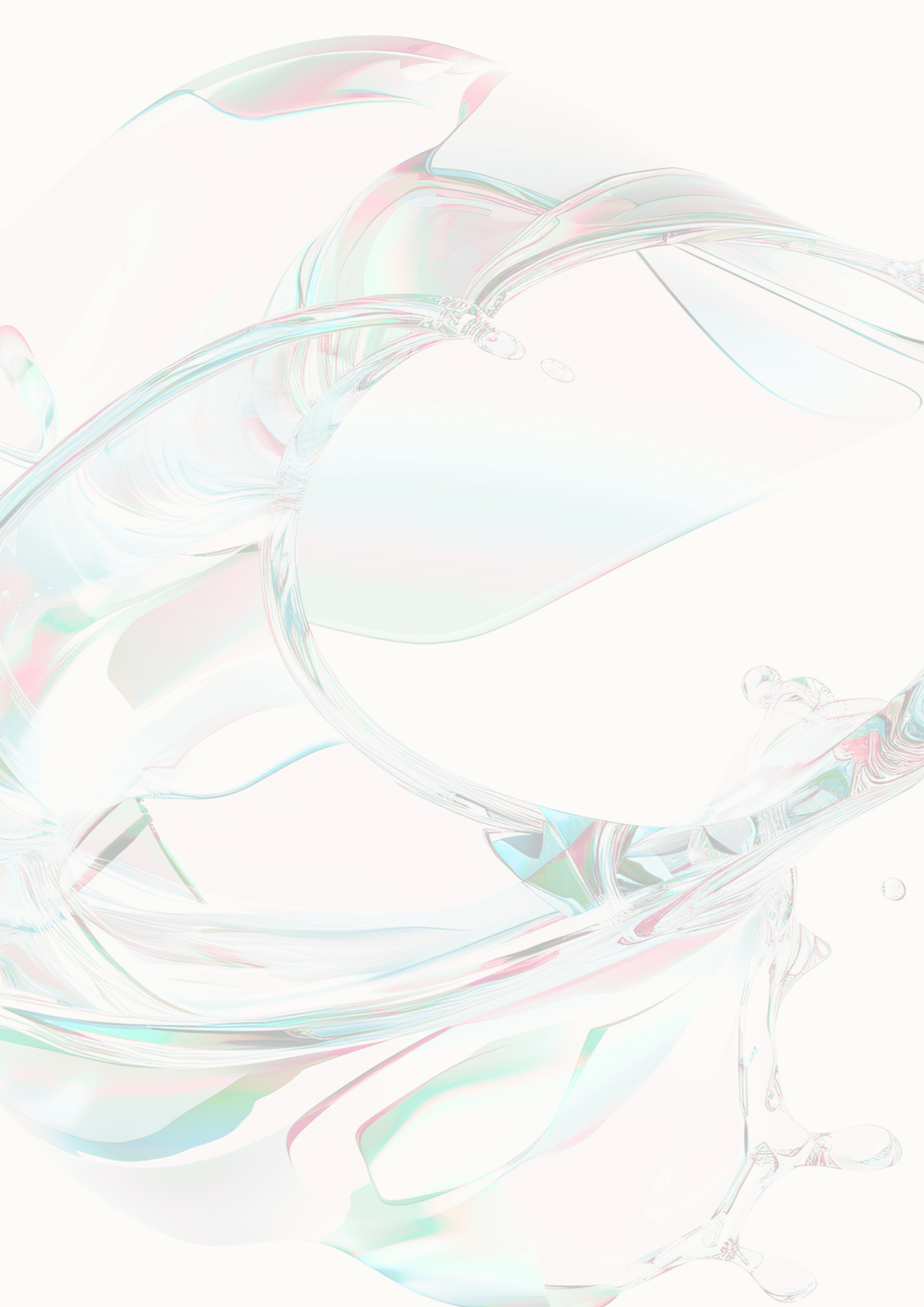
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FIRST MEETING
OF THE EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING (MMN) ON THURSDAY,
8 RABIULAKHIR 1433/1ST MARCH 2012

“

... Nevertheless, we must not overlook the vital role of the family institution. A happy and perfect family is undoubtedly, capable of overcoming various social issues more effectively.

Therefore, the government agencies, particularly those responsible for addressing social and welfare issues, must focus their efforts on formulating policies and plans aimed at strengthening the family institution ...”

”





FOREWORD

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

All praise and gratitude to Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, by whose grace, mercy and permission, the Plan of Action on Family Institution 2025–2029 has been successfully developed as a strategic reference document to strengthen the family institution in Brunei Darussalam.

The family institution is the cornerstone of societal and national development. It is within the family that character is nurtured, noble values are instilled, and the principles of love, mutual respect and responsibility are cultivated as the foundation of a harmonious and prosperous society. Beyond providing protection and support during times of adversity, the family serves as a source of strength that enables each member to realise their full potential and enjoy a better quality of life.

In an increasingly dynamic world, marked by evolving social, economic and technological challenges, the role of the family has become more significant than ever. Strong, loving, resilient and supportive families serve as the first line of defence against life's challenges, while ensuring that every family member can flourish in a safe, secure and caring environment.

Recognising this, the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that the family continues to serve as a strong social institution that contributes to the nation's stability and sustainable development.

The Plan of Action on the Family Institution 2025–2029 has been developed through an inclusive and comprehensive approach, guided by the family life cycle. It is anchored in **Brunei's Core Family Values – Love, Responsibility, Respect and Care (SaTu HaraPan)** – which form the foundation of Brunei Darussalam's family identity.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed their commitment, time, expertise and valuable insights towards the preparation of this Plan of Action. It is my hope that this document will serve as a catalyst for the implementation of more integrated, effective and high-impact programmes and initiatives to strengthen the family institution, thereby contributing to the development of a harmonious, caring and resilient society for the well-being of both current and future generations.

On this occasion, I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to all members of the Working Committee on Family Institution, Women and Children (Family Issues), as well as to every individual and organisation whose unwavering cooperation, dedication and invaluable contributions have made the development of the Plan of Action on Family Institution 2025–2029 possible.

May all efforts, cooperation and sincere contribution be blessed and rewarded abundantly by Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala.

Amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

Yang Berhormat

Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports

As Chairman of the Special Committee on Family Institution, Women and Children,
under the National Council on Social Issues (MKIS)



Introduction

The family institution serves as the fundamental foundation in shaping a harmonious, moral and prosperous society. A stable and well-functioning family is capable in nurturing responsible individuals who contribute holistically to national development. Nevertheless, changes in lifestyles, economic pressures, technological influences, and shifting social values have posed significant challenges to the strength of the family institution today.

Recognising the important role of the family institution in national development, the Plan of Action on the Family Institution 2025–2029 has been formulated as an integrated strategic framework to strengthen the family institution through policies, programmes, and high-impact interventions.

This five-year plan aims to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of initiatives designed to reinforce the family institution in Brunei Darussalam, in line with the Brunei Darussalam Social Blueprint and Brunei Vision 2035. This plan is also aligned with other national action plans, including the Plan of Action on Poverty Eradication, the Plan of Action on Persons with Different Abilities, and the Senior Citizens Action Plan 2025–2030, to ensure an inclusive, sustainable, and integrated social development approach.

The Plan of Action on the Family Institution 2025–2029 was formulated through a systematic and inclusive process based on best practices, taking into consideration findings from the CIFA Regional Symposium and MSF Asian Family Conference 2022, to ensure relevance to the context of Brunei Darussalam.

This Plan of Action was further strengthened through refinement efforts by the Department of Community Development in collaboration with the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB), including the organisation of the Plan of Action on the Family Institution Workshop, which involved 50 participants from government agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organisations. This plan was subsequently deliberated at the Working Committee level and the Special Committee on Family Institution, Women and Children before being finalised by the National Council on Social Issues (MKIS).

This Plan of Action outlines three (3) strategic goals, namely prioritising the happiness and wellbeing of families towards national development and unity; building the family institutions as the foundation of community development; and strengthening family resilience. In achieving these goals, three (3) main focus areas have been identified, namely providing support to families at every stage of family life; building family resilience in facing challenges; and fostering a family-oriented culture. Overall, this Plan of Action is supported by fifteen (15) implementation scopes emphasizing a holistic, sustainable and high-impact approaches to strengthening the family institution through the inculcation of Brunei's Core Family Values, namely Love, Responsibility, Respect and Care ("SaTu HaraPan").



DIAGRAM OF THE PLAN OF ACTION ON THE FAMILY INSTITUTION 2025-2029

VISION

Empowering Strong, Caring and Resilient Families

MISSION

Instilling Brunei's Core Family Values – Love; Responsibility; Respect; and Care
(**SaTu HaraPan**)

STRATEGIC GOAL 1:

Prioritising the happiness and well-being of families towards national development and unity

STRATEGIC GOAL 2:

Building family institutions as the foundation of community development

STRATEGIC GOAL 3:

Strengthening family resilience

FOCUS

Focus 1:

Providing support to families at every stage of family life

Focus 2:

Building family resilience in facing challenges

Focus 3:

Fostering a family-oriented culture

SCOPE OF IMPLEMENTATION

- 1.1 *Embarking on a new chapter of life together in preparation for marriage and family life.*
- 1.2 *Building and starting a new family.*
- 1.3 *Nurturing healthy and thriving children.*
- 1.4 *Ensuring sustainable well-being for senior citizens (aligned with the Senior Citizens Action Plan).*

- 2.1 *Expanding economic opportunities for families with low income/no source of income.*
- 2.2 *Improving family relationships.*
- 2.3 *Supporting and empowering families undergoing divorce, as well as single-parenthood.*
- 2.4 *Strengthening support for foster families (a holistic approach to ensure foster families receive the best possible support).*
- 2.5 *Ensuring the well-being of families.*
- 2.6 *Strengthening support for families with members with different abilities (aligned with the Plan of Action on Persons with Different Abilities).*

- 3.1 *Fostering a sustained family-oriented environment.*
- 3.2 *Developing a family-friendly infrastructure.*
- 3.3 *Cultivating a family-centric culture.*
- 3.4 *Implementing the "Brunei Darussalam Family Resilience Index".*



VISION

Empower Strong, Caring and Resilient Families

MISSION

Instilling Brunei's Core Family Values

LOVE

RESPONSIBILITY

**"SaTu
HaraPan"**

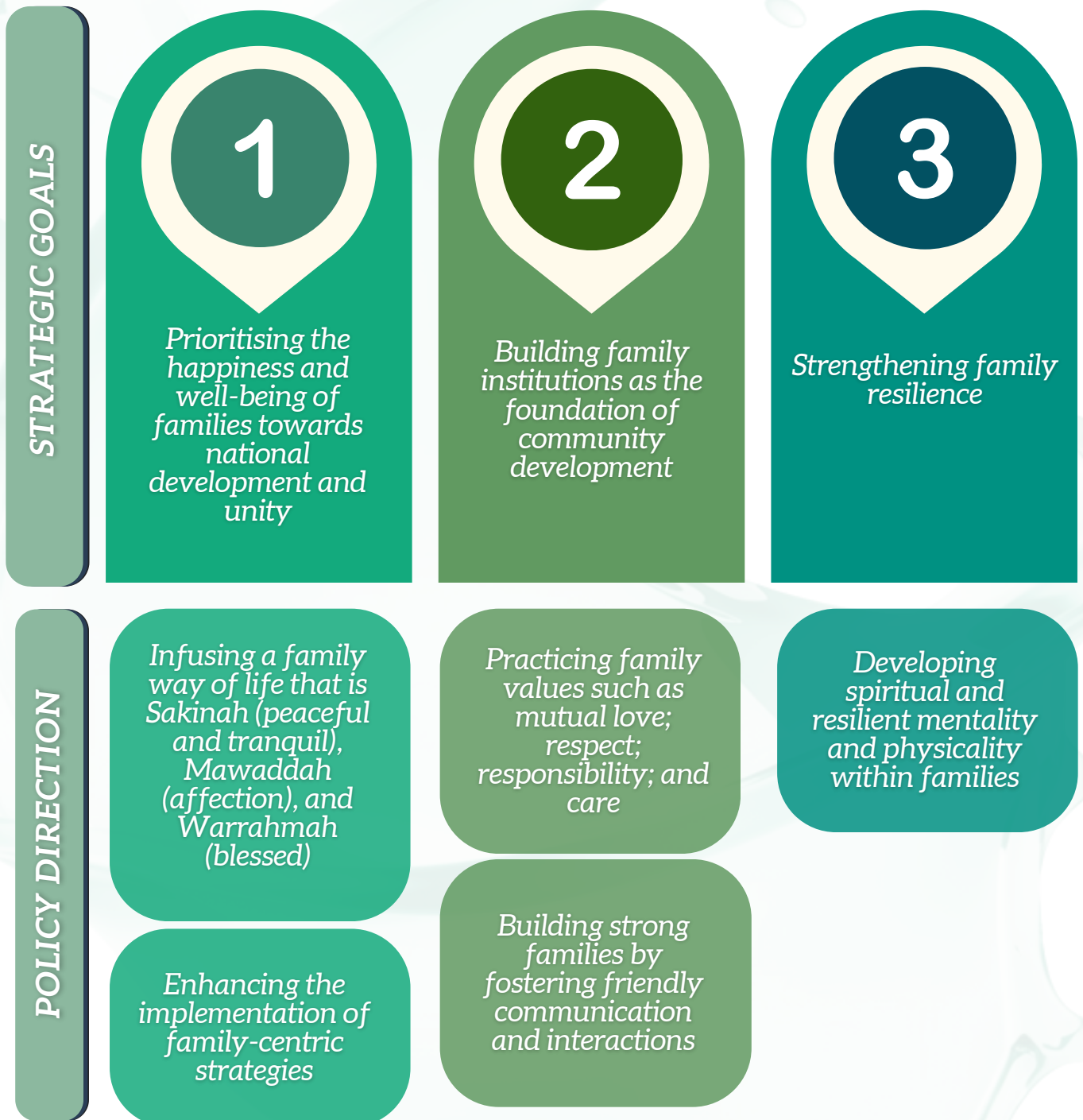
RESPECT

CARE



STRATEGIC GOALS

The Plan of Action on the Family Institution 2025–2029 was drafted in line with the Brunei Darussalam Social Blueprint framework. The strategic goals outlined in this plan are a continuation and direct support of the Strategic Goals and Policy Directions under **Aspiration 2: Empowering Strong, Caring and Resilient Families**.



FOCUS

The development of the Plan of Action on the Family Institution 2025-2029 will drive comprehensive and systematic initiatives across three (3) primary focus areas:





FOCUS 1

Providing support to families at every stage of family life

SCOPE OF IMPLEMENTATION

1

Embarking on a new chapter of life together in preparation for marriage and family life

2

Building and starting a new family

3

Nurturing healthy and thriving children

4

Ensuring sustainable well-being for senior citizens (aligned with the Senior Citizens Action Plan)



A stylized illustration of a family consisting of a father, a mother, and two children, rendered in blue and green colors.

FOCUS 1

Providing support to families at every stage of family life

Every stage of family life requires different support to build a healthy, prosperous and harmonious family.



1

EMBARKING ON A NEW CHAPTER OF LIFE TOGETHER IN PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

This initiative provides early and structured support to individuals and couples planning to get married, with the aim of enhancing mental, emotional, social, financial, and health readiness. This preventive approach aims to reduce the risk of conflict and marital instability through the empowerment of knowledge and skills prior to marriage.

BUILDING AND STARTING A NEW FAMILY

2



This initiative focuses on providing support to newly married couples during the early phase of marriage. It facilitates adjustment to family roles, strengthens relationships with in-laws, and mastering early parenting skills to form a harmonious and sustainable household.



3

NURTURING HEALTHY AND THRIVING CHILDREN

This initiative focuses on strengthening family support during the early stages of child development through parenting empowerment, quality care, and early education, to ensure safe, healthy, and holistic development of children.

ENSURING SUSTAINABLE WELL-BEING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

4



This initiative focuses on providing comprehensive support for senior citizens through creation of environment that promote physical, emotional, and social well-being, including the implementation of flexible working policies, caregiver training, and increased awareness of age-related health issues.





FOCUS 2

Building family resilience in facing challenges

SCOPE OF IMPLEMENTATION

1

Expanding economic opportunities for families with low income/no source of income

2

Improving family relationships

3

Supporting and empowering families undergoing divorce, as well as single-parenthood

4

Strengthening support for foster families (a holistic approach to ensure foster families receive the best possible support)

5

Ensuring the well-being of families

6

Strengthening support for families with members with different abilities (aligned with the Plan of Action on Persons with Different Abilities)





FOCUS 2

Building family resilience in facing challenges

In ensuring the well-being of family life, several target groups need to be prioritised such as low-income families, families with problems, divorce cases, single parents, family members with disabilities, and support for foster families.



1 EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES WITH LOW INCOME/NO SOURCE OF INCOME

Families with low income or without source of income are empowered through integrated community-based support implemented collaboratively with various sectors, including financial assistance, community entrepreneurship, and sustainable employment opportunities, in line with the Plan of Action on the Poverty Eradication.

IMPROVING FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

2

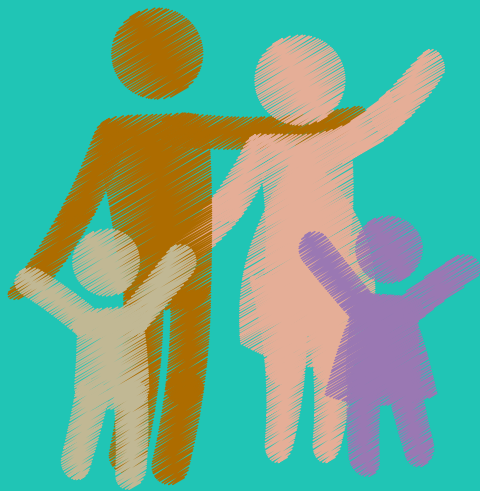


Close and harmonious family relationships help families face the challenges of modern life through intergenerational unity, providing access to emotional and mental support services, and spousal support programs tailored for different phases of marriage.



3 SUPPORTING AND EMPOWERING FAMILIES UNDERGOING DIVORCE, AS WELL AS SINGLE-PARENTHOOD

Provide legal, psychosocial, and family education support for families navigating the complexion of divorce and single parents, to help them achieve greater stability in their lives.



FOCUS 2

Building family resilience in facing challenges

In ensuring the well-being of family life, several target groups need to be prioritised such as low-income families, families with problems, divorce cases, single parents, family members with disabilities, and support for foster families.



4

STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR FOSTER FAMILIES (A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ENSURE FOSTER FAMILIES RECEIVE THE BEST POSSIBLE SUPPORT)

Provide comprehensive guidance to foster families through legal, psychosocial, educational and community networking services to ensure optimal care and development for foster children.

ENSURING THE WELL-BEING OF FAMILIES

5



Family well-being is not only determined by economic stability, but also by the emotional strength and sense of self-worth of each family member. Therefore, this initiative focuses on building a strong personal values and providing fast and easily accessible social support systems to protect families and address issues of domestic violence and abuse.



6

STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES WITH MEMBERS WITH DIFFERENT ABILITIES

Provide holistic support to families with members with disabilities through services and programs aligned with the Plan of Action on Persons with Different Abilities.



FOCUS 3

Fostering a family-oriented culture

SCOPE OF IMPLEMENTATION

1

Fostering a sustained family-oriented environment

2

Developing a family-friendly infrastructure

3

Cultivating a family-centric culture

4

*Implementing the
“Brunei Darussalam Family
Resilience Index”*



FOCUS 3

Fostering a family-oriented culture

Ensuring the harmony of the family institution is a shared responsibility. Fostering a family-friendly nation requires the cooperation of all parties through a Whole-of-Nation Approach, starting from home and extending to the community and national levels.



1 FOSTERING A SUSTAINED FAMILY-ORIENTED ENVIRONMENT

Create conducive and sustainable family-oriented environment through policy coordination, integrated service delivery, and ongoing support throughout the family life cycle.

DEVELOPING A FAMILY-FRIENDLY INFRASTRUCTURE 2



Plan, develop, and improve physical structure and public facilities that are safe, inclusive and easily accessible to support the needs of families across all age groups, including children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, in order to improve family well-being and quality of life.



3 CULTIVATING A FAMILY-CENTRIC CULTURE

Implement initiatives and programmes that promote positive interactions, harmony, and family values through community awareness, family-friendly facilities, as well as training and educational support.

IMPLEMENTING THE “BRUNEI DARUSSALAM FAMILY RESILIENCE INDEX”



Implement the “Brunei Darussalam Family Resilience Index” to assess and monitor the level of family resilience through data collection, analysis of family well-being indicators, and the preparation of reports to support more effective policy planning, interventions, and family development programmes.

Members of the Special Committee on Family Institution, Women and Children

Secretary

Permanent Secretary (Community), Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports

Members

Permanent Secretary (Civil Service Governance), Prime Minister's Office

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance

Permanent Secretary (Core Education), Ministry of Education

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Development

Commissioner of Police, Royal Brunei Police Force

Representative of the Attorney General, Prime Minister's Office

Director General, Public Service Department, Prime Minister's Office

Ra'es, Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College

Chief Executive Officer, Authority for Info-Communications Technology Industry (AITI)

Brunei Darussalam's Representative to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Women's and Children's Rights (ACWC) for Children's Affairs

Brunei Darussalam's Representative to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Women's and Children's Rights (ACWC) for Women's Affairs

President, National Council of Women Brunei Darussalam

President, Brunei Youth Council

Secretariat

Family, Women and Children Division
Department of Community Development
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports

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Attorney General's Chamber
Public Service Department
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MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Department of School
Department of Special Education

MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College
Department of Syariah Affairs
Department of Islamic Legislation

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RBAF Religious Directorate (JAMA'AT)
RBAF PRIHATIN Centre

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ROYAL BRUNEI POLICE FORCE

Women and Children Abuse Investigation Unit

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ASEAN COMMISSION ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS (ACWC) FOR CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS

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THE COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH DIFFERENT ABILITIES

THE COUNCIL OF SOCIAL WELFARE

AL-MINHAAJ CENTRE

AL-HUFFAZ MANAGEMENT

AFIAH ASSOCIATION



Brunei's Core Family Values **"SaTu HaraPan"**

Love

Responsibility

Respect

Care

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