



**ADDRESS
BY
THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
IN THE OPENING OF THE FIRST SESSION PERIOD
OF THE 2009 - 2010 SESSION YEAR**

AUGUST 14, 2009

**ISSUED BY THE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL
OF THE HOUSE**



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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
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Republic of Indonesia this morning. The Agenda of today's Plenary Sitting are the Address of the House Speaker in conjunction with the Opening of Session Period I of the 2009-2010 Session Year and the State Address of the President of the Republic of Indonesia, in the context of the 64th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia.

In the Plenary Sitting this morning, a total of House Members from all the factions in this institution have signed the attendance list. Therefore, by saying *Bismillahirrahmanirrahim* (Praise be to Allah), allow me to open the House Plenary Session of the First Session Period of the 2009-2010 Session Year. In compliance with Article 95 paragraph (1) of the Rules and Procedures of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, I hereby declare that this Plenary Sitting is open to the public.

Before I deliver my speech, in compliance with the Rules and Procedures of the House, I need to inform you that the House has just received two letters from the President of the Republic of Indonesia R-42/Pres/07/2009 and R-45/Pres/08/2009 concerning the Request for the Consideration of Application for Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassadors of friendly countries to the Republic of Indonesia. These letters will be forthwith processed in accordance with the mechanism of the House.

In this honorable forum, I would also like to inform you that two of our colleagues, namely the Deputy Speaker of the House for Industry and Trade (Indag), Mr. Drs. A. Muhammin Iskandar, M.Si., and the Leader of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Bureau (BKSAP), Mr. Drs. Tosari Widjaja, by virtue of Presidential Decree Number 41/TK/2009 dated August 11, 2009, are going to receive the Bintang Mahaputra Adipradana decoration from the Government of the Republic of Indonesia. *Insya Allah*, God willing, they will receive their decorations on Saturday, August 15, 2009, tomorrow morning at the State Palace in Jakarta. The awarding of the Bintang Mahaputra Adipradana decoration is a manifestation

of their service to the state and nation. On behalf of the House, I would like to congratulate you, "Selamat".

Honorable Sitting of the House,

On this opportune occasion, please allow me, on behalf of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, to express deep appreciation and high honor for the performance of the apparatus of the Police Force of the Republic of Indonesia, in particular the Anti-Terror Special Detachment 88, for the successful series of pursuits, raids, detention, shooting to death of terrorists, the accomplices of Noordin M. Top in early August at two different locations, namely Jati Asih Bekasi and Temanggung. The persons who had taken part in the actions of terror at JW Marriott and Ritz Carlton, were successfully immobilized. The bombing plot with an extremely high explosive power, aimed at a new target, was successfully failed.

In response to the uncivilized actions of terrorists taking place for many years, all levels of the community must be able to oppose them, we may not be defeated by actions of terror. We must fight, unite, double our vigilance in the face of actions of terror developing with high intensity. The war against actions of terror will continue, especially considering the fact that the most wanted terrorist, Noordin M. Top, has still not been arrested. The war against terrorists is not only the responsibility of the security apparatus, but it is also the responsibility of the entire society.

The issue of terrorism was also one of the main topics of discussion in the Executive Committee Meeting of the Asian Inter Parliamentary Assembly conducted in Jakarta several days ago. By its nature, terrorism does not recognize state borders, and it is a common issue shared with other countries. Therefore, there is a need for cooperation with other countries in combating it.

Session Period I of the 2009-2010 Session Year is the last session period of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia elected in the 2004 General Election. In the context of the implementation of its legislative, oversight and budgetary functions, and within the corridor of its tasks mandated under the Constitution, the House has made endeavors to resolve a wide range of institutional, social, nation and state related issues. The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia elected for the Period 2004-2009 has been a transitional House of Representatives, implementing its functions based on the 1945 Constitution which has been amended four times, and in the post-reform era which started in 1998. The reform overseen by the House during this five year period and in the future needs to be a political reform which is inseparable from economic, social and legal reform. The overall process should be implemented in a balanced manner, leading to the creation of a democratic civilization truly based on the people's will in accordance with the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution.

The overall process has been going well, and the House has endeavored to oversee it. However, we do not deny that a lot remains to be done, that there is still some unfinished 'homework', and moreover, that the implementation of the above has received certain discordant and negative reaction from the public. We are well aware of all these matters.

Indeed, one of the greatest challenges is finding the right way to build a proper civilization, tradition and parliamentary culture being sought by the people. It is about enabling the parliament, in this case the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, to let its voice be heard, creating a dialogue concerning various public issues to be formulated into policy in the form of laws and various other state policies. It is also about enabling the parliament to oversee government policy, to oversee the implementation of the State Budget and to oversee the implementation of laws through checks and balances. In order to

achieve the above, the House has made endeavors for strengthening common perceptions, appreciating differences while offering alternative solutions, for creating the culture of internal and external dialogue in consultation fora. Admittedly, the latter has often caused a protracted process towards reaching common agreement.

The House has also been seeking ways to reduce and control conflicts emerging in the community. All of these measures have been taken and adopted as a tradition with the aim of strengthening the function and position of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia in the current five year period. There have been many weaknesses, indeed, but we have tried to overcome them in the face of the public's great expectation of the House at the time it started the implementation of its tasks in October 2004, as I have often referred to it as '*the revolution of rising expectation*'.

Therefore, in the course of the implementation of its mandate, the House has been making endeavors for strengthening both the software as well as the hardware. The software includes system, mechanism, procedure for the implementation of functions and role, while the hardware includes facilities, infrastructure and supporting factors such as quality and expertise, as well as human resources capacity as a supporting system. However, all of these have not been sufficient to satisfy the public. We feel confident that the House elected as a Result of the 2009 General Election will be even more successful in its work, taking over the baton and continuing to build an ideal democracy through the institution of the house of representatives upon the foundation of the principle of humanity based on social justice.

**Mr. President, Mr. Vice President,
Honorable Sitting,**

Within three days' time, the Indonesian nation is going to celebrate the 64th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Indonesia. The independence of the Republic of Indonesia, which has been gained as a result of a struggle claiming the blood and the lives of the nation's freedom fighters for three and a half centuries, was ultimately proclaimed by *Bung Kamo* and *Bung Hatta*, 64 years ago. We bow our heads deeply honoring their struggle, the struggle of our founding fathers. We keep on thanking Allah SWT incessantly, for it has been only due to His blessings that the Indonesian nation has been able to gain its independence.

Therefore, as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, I call upon all components of the nation to reflect and exercise introspection on our contributions so far for the full achievement of the independence ideals of the Republic of Indonesia. Let us all review together whether our struggle has been truly in line with the objectives of the establishment of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia as articulated in the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution? Have we all been directing the best of our abilities towards the realization of an Indonesian State which provides protection to the entire Indonesian nation and the Indonesian motherland, and that promotes public welfare? Have we been implementing our struggle through the appropriate corridor, namely developing the intellectual life of the nation, and even further than that, contributing to the implementation of a world order based on independence, perpetual peace and social welfare?

The essence of the independence of the Republic of Indonesia, as our first President, *Bung Kamo* stated it once, includes three inseparable aspects, namely that *in politics we have sovereignty*, *in economics we have self-reliance*, and *in culture we have character*. Consequently, as long as we are

unable to take a firm attitude in the field of politics against those that can potentially pose a threat to the sovereign integrity of the Republic of Indonesia, we cannot consider ourselves to be completely independent. Similarly, if our economy is still dependent on policies that ignore the principles of independence, the Republic of Indonesia is not completely independent. Also, if we excessively idolize foreign culture which is unsuitable to the character of the Indonesian nation, namely culture that can potentially damage the morality of our young generation, this, too, can be a reminder that, indeed, we are not fully independent in terms of culture.

In order to achieve intrinsic independence in our country, all components of the nation, government, members of the legislature, together with all elements of our society should strive to produce legislative products providing more effective support for the achievement of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia with greater sovereignty and stature among all nations of the world. Our legislative products should also support the creation of a more independent national economy, putting forward the principles set forth in Article 33 of the 1945 Constitution, essentially aiming to realize an economy that makes it possible to achieve the ideals of economic independence more effectively, while staying within the appropriate corridor and direction.

In order to achieve independence in the field of culture, the State of the Republic of Indonesia must develop a national educational system with greater orientation towards the protection of the noble cultural values of our nation. The educational system in this country must be able to instill pride in our own culture from the earliest stage possible. This does not mean that we are against western culture. However, all of us, especially the young generation, should possess a strong filter enabling us to distinguish between the positive and the negative aspects of influence coming from outside. All of these should be done in the context of building the character of the generations to come.

Only by having political, economic and cultural independence can we proudly claim that the Indonesian nation is truly independent. Independent in determining and striving for the achievement of the national ideals in accordance with Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, within the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. Long live the Republic of Indonesia on its 64th Anniversary. *Dirgahayu Republik Indonesia ke 64.*

Honorable Sitting,

During this session period, through the Commissions and the Budget Committee, the House will deliberate on the Draft State Budget Law for 2010 together with the Government, which was introduced and explained by Mr. President on August 3, 2009 just recently. The 2010 Draft Budget needs to be discussed more firmly, considering that both the House of Representatives, as well as the Government are completing their terms of office as of September 30, 2009 and the end of October 2009 respectively. At the same time, the 2010 State Budget, which will become effective as from January 1, 2010, will be implemented by the new Government. That is why Mr. President stated that the 2010 Draft State Budget is a transitional one. The House and the Government have agreed that deliberations on the 2010 Draft State Budget must be completed towards the end of September 2009. Therefore, the House and the Government must work hard to complete the same.

Up to the third quarter of this year, various circles, both from the Government as well as from monetary institutions/Bank Indonesia have expressed optimism that the conditions of our economy will continue to improve, in line with the improvement of economic trends all over the world, except for certain countries that are experiencing slow-down. World commodity prices have also been improving. In Indonesia, there have been increasingly favorable trends in crude oil, palm oil, coal and other mining

product prices. Similar has been the situation in domestic household consumption. The Composite Stock Price Index has not been causing concern, the rupiah exchange rate against the US dollar has been quite stable. In general, the inflation rate has been indicating a decreasing trend. Under such conditions, we have high hopes that in this period close to Ramadhan and Idul Fitri, these improving trends will bring a positive impact on our national economy, especially in terms of principal commodity prices.

However, there has been some concern related to the issue of BI rate. Despite optimism prevailing in certain circles, in reality, the reference interest rate (BI rate), which is currently at the position of 6.5 %, has not had an effect on bank loan interest rates, which are still above 12%. Loan interest rates, which still remain high, have failed to bring a positive impact on the movement of the real sector, namely small- and medium-scale business activities. Therefore, House circles have asked that BI rates be used as actual reference and that they must have strength on the market.

In the deliberations on the 2010 Draft State Budget conducted through the Preliminary Discussions in Session Period IV in the previous Session Year, in addition to global economic growth in relation to Indonesia's economic growth (GDP), the House also afforded serious attention to the issue of the absorption of Indonesian manpower. The numerous issues arising due to the termination of employment (PHK) of Indonesian workers in several countries require serious attention. The target of absorbing 3 million workers in 2010 is considered to be unrealistic if the rate of economic growth cannot be maintained above 5%. Therefore, the Government is expected to keep its focus on this targetted absorption of manpower, particularly in view of the decreasing number of job opportunities along with the free market mechanism in the service sector.

Honorable Sitting,

The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia for the period of 2004-2009 has completed over 167 draft laws, and is going to complete several more draft laws within the next few days to be promptly submitted for deliberation at Level II Discussion/Decision Making. During the current period, a number of crucial legislative products have been produced. The field of politics has been marked by the adoption Law Number 2 Year 2008 Concerning Political Parties, Law Number 10 Year 2008 Concerning the Legislative General Election, and Law Number 42 Year 2008 Concerning Presidential General Election. The aforementioned laws in the field of politics have been the result of the good will to strengthen the organization of governance in our country in a more democratic manner. In the social cultural area, we have adopted a phenomenal law, namely Law Number 12 Year 2006 Concerning Citizenship, which is an implementation of our common vision to create a citizenship law based on universal principles, whereby in principle this Law does not recognize either dual citizenship/bipatride or stateless status/apatride. Other laws that we have adopted include, among other things, the Law on the Elimination of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination, which is a follow up on the ratification of the Internation convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination; the Law on Pornography, the Law on State Ministries, the Law on Presidential Advisory Council, the Law on Freedom of Public Information, the Law on Electronic Information and Transactions, the Law on Witness and Victim Protection, the Law on Violence in the Household, the Law on Educational Legal Entities, and several other laws.

In the field of legislation, the House will be prioritizing the completion of draft laws which are currently in the deliberation process at level I. These draft laws include particularly the Draft Law concerning the Court for the Criminal Acts of Corruption (Tipikor), and several other draft laws that are currently being

discussed intensively between Commissions/Special Committee of the House and the Government. As for the Draft Law on the Court of Criminal Acts of Corruption (Tipikor), in accordance with the House's commitment to eradicate corruption, the House is determined to complete it during this Session Period I, in order to comply with the Constitutional Court's decision. The House does not wish to see the President issuing a government regulation in lieu of law (*Perpu*) in the event that the House is unable to complete it. Therefore, due attention of the Factions, and the Special Committee in particular, is required in prioritizing the completion of this draft law.

One of the draft laws that has just been approved for adoption as law is the draft law concerning the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), the House of Representatives (DPR) and the Regional House of Representatives (DPRD). Initially, the title of this draft law was Draft Law on the Organizational Structure and Position of the MPR, DRP and DPRD. This draft law has been discussed for quite some time, effectively for about 1 year, and it is the last of the 4 draft laws in the field of politics. This draft law expressly provides for the position, rights, obligations and functions of the above mentioned state institutions, including the institution of regional representatives.

During the deliberations, certain rather crucial substantive matters came up. Thank God, *Alhamdulillah*, last August 3, in the Extraordinary Plenary Session, this draft law proceeded to the Level II Deliberations (Decision making). In the future, we hope that various laws in the field of politics can be discussed and decided more quickly, at least 2-3 years before the 2014 General Election, in order to ensure that issues causing confusion both in the Legislative General Election as well as the Presidential General Election, as has been the case under the present conditions, can be minimized.

Honorable Sitting,

In the context of the implementation of its oversight function, the House will continue to make concerted efforts in order to resolve several rights of DPR which are still in process, particularly several rights to inquiry such as the Right to Inquiry concerning the Implementation of the Organization of the Haj Pilgrimage 1429 H/2008, the Right to Inquiry concerning the Violation of the Constitutional Rights of Citizens to Vote (The Right to Resond regarding the Permanent Voters' List/DPT) and the Right to Inquiry concerning the government's policy for increasing fuel prices.

The purpose of the inquiry concerning the haj pilgrimage is to ensure that the Government handles the haj pilgrimage even more appopriately this year and in the years to come. The quota for Indonesian haj pilgrims has been increasing, there has been an increasing number of people interested, however, problems are still occurring every year. Learning from the experience in previous years, organizers or those responsible for the management of travel for the haj pilgrimage must be able to ensure the pilgrims' comfort and satisfactions, thus allowing them to focus on the pilgrimage itself.

At the same time, the purpose of the Permanent Voters' List Inquiry is to resolve certain essential issues related to the right of citizens to vote, due to the numerous irregularities/imperfections in the implementation of the task of the agency organizing the general elections.

Honorable Sitting of the House,

As we all know, we have just completed the General Presidential and Vice Presidential Election, namely on July 8, 2009, under generally secure, peaceful and orderly conditions. The General Election Commission (KPU) has also conveyed the

results of the vote count for each presidential and vice presidential pair. We are well aware that there are still certain shortcomings and weaknesses, both in the system as well as technical in the field, as a result of which several claims have been filed with the Constitutional Court by general election participants.

Two days ago, the Constitutional Court, as the competent institution dealing with claims related to the presidential general elections, issued its decision. As a state upholding the rule of law, all parties concerned must be able to accept and comply with such decision, as the Constitutional Court's decision has provided final legal certainty concerning the result of the Presidential General Election of July 8, 2009.

**Mr. President, Mr. Vice President,
Honorable Sitting of the House,**

In this plenary forum, the House also calls for the Government's attention related to health issues, as we are currently facing the threat of the spreading of the H1N1 virus, generally referred to as the Mexican Flu (Swine Flu). According to the latest data, more than 600 people spread throughout 15 provinces in Indonesia have been infected by this virus. Therefore, the House requests the Government to take serious measures for controlling the spread of the virus in a quick, effective and sustainable manner, by providing, among other things, hospitals to which patients can be referred to, supplies of anti-virus medication, and by monitoring community based disease.

Another issue related to the implementation of the Law for the Protection of the Child has been the case of torture and the imposition of inhumane punishment on several children as recently decided by the District Court in Tangerang. It has become evident that the mandate of the Law for the Protection of the Child is not yet optimally implementable. Therefore, the House of is of the view that child related issues in Indonesia are the main priority

in development, as children are an important asset of the Indonesian nation in the future.

Other issues, such as the program of free education related to high quality education, the School Operational Assistance (BOS) program, and the regional government's inadequate commitment to assist schools which are unable to cover their operational expenses, can potentially lead to failure in the completion of the 9 year compulsory school education launched by the government.

**Mr. President, Mr. Vice President,
Honorable Sitting of the House,**



The tasks and functions of the House have not been limited to the implementation of the three fuctions, namely legislation, budget and oversight, only in the context of domestic affairs, but the House also has had the commitment and calling to strengthen Indonesia's diplomacy in international fora. In the context of international relations, during this five year period, the DPR has actively engaged in diplomacy striving to achieve Indonesia's interests. Several benefits have been obtained through the international role assumed by the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia in various bilateral, regional as well as multilateral cooperation fora, referred to as *second track diplomacy*.

Several Members of the House have been actively involved in international inter-parliamentary meetings, speaking out for Indonesia's interests in the international arena. DPR has been an active member, and more than that, part of the executive leadership of various world organizations such as the *Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU)*, *Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)*, and is the President of APA for a period of 2 years. Indonesia has also played a prominent role in regional parliamentary organizations such as the *ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Assembly*

(AIPA), Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), Asia Europe Foundation Young Parliamentarian Meeting; moreover, the Speaker of the House is currently the President of the Forum of Asia Pacific Parliamentarians for Education (FASSPED). The House's active involvement in regional/international organizations has been based on the awareness of the need for Indonesia's intensive, effective and qualitative representation in important regional and international decision -making fora related directly to Indonesia's interests. The House believes, therefore, that full participation in every process of dialogue at the global level is of great importance to Indonesia as a large country with an extremely strategic position, abundant natural resource potentials, the fourth largest population in the world, and its continuously growing and developing economy. This is a manifestation of the mandate under the 1945 Constitution, stating that "Indonesia shall partake in implementing world order based upon independence, eternal peace and social justice."

Honorable Sitting of the House,

These have been the viewpoints of the House concerning current issues in the forum of this Plenary Sitting of the House today. Before I invite Mr. President to give his State Address on the occasion of the Proclamation of Independence of the Republic of Indonesia, in accordance with our tradition over the years, I would like to announce that sitting on the main balcony are exemplary people from all over Indonesia, or those with outstanding achievements for the nation and the state, under the coordination of government agencies, namely as follows: Gold Medal Winners in the International Olympic Games, Dedicated Elementary School Teachers, School Principals With High Achievements, and School Supervisors With High Achievements, Winners of School Health Services (UKS) Competition organized by the Department of National Education; Village Heads With High Achievements; Sub-District Heads With High Achievements, and

Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

MEETING ADJOURNED

GAVEL POUNDED 1X

Jakarta, August 14, 2009

SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA




H.R. AGUNG LAKSONO