



OPENING REMARKS

The Speaker of the House of Representatives of
the Republic of Indonesia / President of SEAPAC, period of
2013 - 2015

DR. H. MARZUKI ALIE

The General Assembly of
the Southeast Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption
(SEAPAC)
Medan – North Sumatera - Indonesia, 23 – 24 October 2013

***Your Excellencies Speakers and Deputy Speakers of
Parliaments in the Southeast Asian region,***

***Honourable Vice Minister of Justice and Human Rights of
the Republic of Indonesia Prof. Denny Indrayana,***

***Honourable Mr. John Hyde, Chairman of GOPAC Oceania,
Honourable Vice Governor of North Sumatera Mr. Tengku
Erri Nuradi,***

***Honourable Members of Parliaments in the Southeast
Asia,***

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

***Assalamuálaikum warohmatullahi wabarokaatuh.
"Peace be upon all of you and may Allah bestow His Mercy
and Blessings"***

This is a privilege for me to be here and to talk to fellow members of parliaments in the Southeast Asian region in the event of the General Assembly of the Southeast Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC), with this year's theme : ***"Corrupt-free Southeast Asia : Common Goal, Common Action"***. As the President of SEAPAC for the period of 2013 – 2015 and the Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives, I would like to welcome all of you to this

two-day event, the General Assembly of the Southeast Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC) in Medan – Indonesia. I hope that our meeting here will bring positive results and create fruitful outputs to our peoples in the Southeast Asian region.

We gather today to discuss efforts that we can take to further strengthen our commitments and strategies for establishing a corrupt-free Southeast Asia, by achieving good governance and establishing a strong anti-corruption regime within the Southeast Asia. Moreover, in the context of ASEAN organization, it is approaching to reach its main agenda, the establishment of ASEAN Community in 2015.

As the parliamentarians that have the mandate and aspirations from the peoples of ASEAN, we have to do our best in achieving a corrupt-free Southeast Asia as well as in our participation to promote the comprehensive and effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), as well as other international law cooperation on corruption-preventive mechanism, penalties, asset recovery, and anti-money laundering. As for Indonesia, it has ratified UNCAC through the law number 7 / 2006 and produced a National Strategy on Fighting against Corruption through the Presidential Decree number 55 /

2012. Our active involvement in SEAPAC will contribute to the global campaign in the fight against corruption.

Apart from that, we also recognize the significant roles that women can do in terms of fighting against corruption through their strategic positions in politics and public sector, as well as through their constituents. The women's roles are getting more significant as many more women parliamentarians are involved in politics today.

Following the deliberation of Brasilia Declaration of the 15th edition of the biennial International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) in November 2012, we also need to highlight and follow up the importance of connecting agents of change, individuals with integrity and competency, to support and promote transparency and accountability of government activities in every level, as there will be no effective results if the man behind the operation is a crook ; as mentioned by Tacitus, a well-known Roman historian, *"in a state where corruption abounds, laws must be very numerous"*.

Problems of corruption in the Southeast Asia are still serious, as indicated in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) released by the Transparency International (TI). We see the different scores that ASEAN countries can reach in terms of

the corruption perception index in 2012. This is a great challenge for any ASEAN countries that remain in low grade of corruption perception index. I think we are open for exchange of experiences, information and best practices from our fellow ASEAN Countries that have been advanced in addressing combats against corruption.

Corruption is an extraordinary crime that engenders various harmful impacts to the society. Corruption impedes effective resource mobilization and allocation for poverty eradication, fight against famine, and achievement of sustainable development. We have to make the issues of corruption become no longer relevant for the peoples of ASEAN, as the issues will no longer prevail. We have to establish effective cooperation among us, thanks to our geographical proximity and embedded similarity in terms of socio-cultural aspects that we have in ASEAN. The issue of corruption is our great-but-ironic challenge for our societies in ASEAN.

As for Indonesia, it has to work harder for a better achievement in this regard. However, we have a strong modality and commitment to our respective peoples to bring a corrupt-free Southeast Asia into a reality.

As the Speaker of Indonesian House of Representatives and the President of the Southeast Asian Parliamentarians

against Corruption (SEAPAC), I would also like to highlight the ineluctable essential prerequisite in fighting against corruption, that is, the morality and integrity of the individual, including a parliamentarian.

"Power does not corrupt men; fools, however, if they get into a position of power, corrupt power".

This nice quote is from George Bernard Shaw. This categorizes those who did corruption are fools. Power is just a tool to establish righteousness, justice, and prosperity for the people. It depends on the user, how he/she will use it. Power will be very valuable if good people are behind of it. It will create righteousness, justice and prosperity for the people. Further, it will also create life of happiness and tranquility for the people who are living alongside the good people in power.

Power is just a formal tool stipulated in constitution as well as bylaws. We, the users, are those who will set the image of power in front of the public. And, therefore, we gather here today in Medan – North Sumatera Indonesia, to reaffirm our commitment by exchanging lessons learned and to produce a powerful declaration, that power should be used only for the sake of establishment of righteousness and justice that bring goodness to our peoples.

In this prestigious moment, please allow me to quote from a Muslim Holy book, the Qurán, verse 188 sura Al-Baqarah :

“And do not eat up your property among yourselves for vanities, nor use it as bait for the judges, with intent that ye may eat up wrongfully and knowingly a little of (other) people's property.”

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Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

By saying **“Bismillahirrohmannirohim”**, in the name of **Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful**, as the President of the Southeast Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC) and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, ***I declare the General Assembly of the Southeast Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC), conducted in Medan - North Sumatera Indonesia, from 23 to 24 October 2013, open.***

Thank you.

(followed by striking the GONG)

Wassalamu’alaikum warohmatullahi wabarokaatuh.

“Peace be upon all of you and may Allah bestow His Mercy and Blessings”.

Jakarta, 23 October 2013

**The House of Representatives
The Republic of Indonesia**

Dr. H. Marzuki Alie
Speaker