



**SPEECH OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
DURING THE OPENING OF THE FOURTH SESSION PERIOD
SESSION YEAR 2018-2019**

MONDAY, 4 MARCH 2019

**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
2019**



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May the peace and blessings of Allah be with upon us all,

Greetings to us all.

Distinguished:

- **Deputy Speakers of the House;**
- **Members of the House;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Praises and thanks be to God as we extend our gratitude to the One and Only God, the God Almighty, for the grace and blessings bestowed upon us through which we are



allowed to be present in this Plenary Meeting for the Opening of the Fourth Session Period in Session Year 2018-2019.

My speech today is titled “THE FESTIVAL OF DEMOCRACY AS A CONTESTATION OF VISION, NOT INSULTS”

On behalf of the Leadership of the House, I would like to welcome all members of the House who have returned from their working visits having listened to and learned of the aspirations of their constituents in their respective constituency. Those aspirations are to be acted upon in the House’s future meetings and sessions that shall commence from today until 11 April 2019.

Before I continue, allow me to put us at ease by reading a short poem,

“From Jakarta to Surabaya
We ride through the highway
Parliamentarians, welcome
Let us work for the Indonesia
As the ship sets sail towards the port
Carrying loads from abroad
The election is near
Yet our work must continue.”

Esteemed Plenary, Distinguished Members of the House,



Amidst the heated political climate as we are nearing the 2019 Elections, a recent news of success brought a refreshing tone to Indonesia. Our U-22 national football team Garuda Muda recently won the AFF Cup 2019 that took place in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. For that outstanding achievement, on behalf of the Leadership and all members of the House, I express our pride and extend our congratulations to the young Indonesian football talents. It is high time that we train our young players by participating in tiered competitions that will culminate in professional games not smeared by score-fixing. The more professional a competition is organized, the higher the quality of the participating players will be, and the more honed our young talents become as the best future senior players who are ready to compete in various regional and international games.

The House also welcomes the government's plan to host the Moto GP championship in 2021. Necessary preparation and cooperation shall continue between the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, and Regional Government of West Nusa Tenggara, State-Owned Enterprises, and the private sector entities. The championship is also expected to attract international visitors to Mandalika, Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara. The relevant commissions of the House are expected to lend their support where needed for the realization of this major event.

Esteemed Plenary, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Fourth Session Period in the Session Year 2018-2019 will be taking place within a short period of time, as Indonesia is about to hold the Legislative and Presidential



Elections on 17 April 2019. As the representatives of our people, it is important that we work professionally and with dedication for our nation and country. The Leadership and all Members of the House shall endeavor to carry out our constitutional duties and to defend and further the aspirations of the people through out legislative, budgetary, and oversight functions.

We shall be steadfastly committed to maintaining the reputation of the House by demonstrating uncompromised excellence until the very last day of our tenure. The people of Indonesia will be proud if the House of Representatives of 2014-2019 is able to create enduring legacy worthy of being written down in history, and this can be achieved by formulating and passing quality legislations that are forward-looking; the legislations that are able to move Indonesia forward and become an advanced, independent, just, and prosperous nation in celebration of our 100th year of independence.

Esteemed Plenary,

In this opportune moment, allow me to present the work plan of the House for the Fourth Session Period and other activities of the House.

In terms of legislation, there are 34 (thirty four) bills currently in discussion in the First-Level Talks between the House of Parliaments and the Government. These bills comprise bills initiated by the House, by the Government, and by the Regional Representative Council. We are optimistic that 5 (five) bills can be adopted into Law during this session period. The bills are:



1. Bill on Cooperatives;
2. Bill on the Amendment to Law No. 5 of 1999 on the Prohibition of Monopolistic Practices and Unfair Business Competition
3. Bill on the Organization of Hajj and Umrah;
4. Bill on Creative Economy; and
5. Bill on Lands

The leadership of the House hereby calls to the Leadership and Members of Commissions/Special Committees, together with the Government, to be focusing on enhancing our performance in exercising our legislative function. Let us work together and conclude the Bill talks, which have been going on for some time, and pass laws that the Indonesian people have been expecting. The Government also need to offer solutions during the discussions of Bills identified in the National Legislative Program. Where the Government and the House have aligned commitment, the discussion of Bills should be easier to arrive at a conclusion.

Esteemed Plenary, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In budgeting, the House shall be focusing on evaluating the State Budget and Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2018. The result of our evaluation will be one of our references in the preliminary talk of the State Budget and Expenditure of 2020.

The Leadership of the House would like to ask the Commissions to encourage the Government to continue accelerating budget realization whilst maintaining spending quality, effectiveness, and efficiency. This is crucial as we are seeing an



increased global economic risks, signaled by the corrected global growth projection from 3.7 per cent to 3.5 per cent by the IMF. Our call of the need to accelerate budget realization is also based on the spending data as of January 2019 which showed relatively the same level of spending compared to the previous year at 6.3 per cent of the total appropriated budget.

Esteemed Plenary,

In terms of oversight, the House shall be conducting the fit and proper test on 11 (eleven) prospective Constitutional Court Justices to fill the vacant positions of the previous Justices who have reached their end of tenure. We are also conducting the same test on 4 (four) prospective Chief Justices who are nominated by the Judicial Commission. Additionally, there are 16 (sixteen) member candidates of the National Energy Council (DEN) for membership period of 2019-2024 awaiting their fit and proper test. The Leadership of the House expects that all test processes to be carried out transparently and efficiently so as to conclude all processes within this Fourth Session Period.

Moreover, aside from providing our considerations to the Nominees of Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Friendly Countries, we will also consider the request for citizenship of the Republic of Indonesia that has been submitted on behalf of a football athlete Egwuatu Godstime Ouseloka.



With respect to the duties of the Working Committees established through the House's complementary organs, the Monitoring Team, and the House's Oversight Team, the Leadership of the House asks that they conclude their duties within the available period of time and to submit their final report in the next Plenary Meeting of the House.

Esteemed Plenary,

In each session, the House continually strives to enhance its parliamentary diplomatic role and to meaningfully contribute to Indonesia's diplomacy in international for a. To that end, the House is sending Delegates to attend meetings and sessions/conferences of regional parliamentary organizations and other International Organization Cooperation, namely:

1. The 14th Session fo the Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States on 11 to 14 March in Marocco; and
2. The 140th Session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on 6 to April 2019 in Qatar. The IPU session agenda includes governing council, public debate, other committee meetings, and several other geopolitical meetings.

Esteemed Plenary, Ladies and Gentlemen,



Before I close this opening speech, I would like to once again call to all of my fellow countrymen and women to regard the 2019 Elections as our gate towards the advancement and eminence of our nation. Our success in holding yet another peaceful elections will elevate Indonesia to be the new champion of democracy in the world. Elections must be viewed as a way for ideas and insights to compete and for the contestation of visions and programs as well as strategies and tactics to win the hearts and minds of the people.

Let us keep divisiveness and enmity away from our elections as these will only torn our national unity and harmony, even shred our diversity that defines us as a nation. The Pancasila ideology and the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia shall not be in any way compromised, and need to be defended and protected until our last breath. Once again, Democracy is a domain for us to offer our visions, not insults.

To quote the wise words of a Muhammadiyah scholar Prof. Dr. Din Syamsuddin, who referred to the saying of Ali Bin Abi Thalib RA, “Love your beloved mildly, perhaps he will become hateful to you someday. Hate whom you hate mildly, perhaps he will become your beloved someday.” We may apply this to the current context of, “Love your Presidential Candidates mildly, for perhaps they will become hateful to you someday. Conversely, hate your political opponents mildly, for perhaps they will become the ones you praise and revere someday.”

Esteemed Plenary,

Finally, by saying In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful; on behalf of the Leadership of the House of Representatives, I hereby announced to all



people of Indonesia that the Fourth Session Period of the House, Session Year 2018-2019, commences as of today, 4 March 2019 until the conclusion of the sessions. To all members of the House, we wish you have a productive session and may God the One and Only continues to bless our endeavors.

“The majestic Raja Ampat

With its tranquil waters and calm sea

Joy and integrity are what our Festival of Democracy needs to be

Not money politics or animosity

The King’s heir travels to Dumai

To ask a beautiful girl her hands in marriage

Should the election be peaceful

Indonesia shall rise and its people prosper.”

Thank you.

May the peace and blessings of Allah be with upon us all.

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives
The Republic of Indonesia**

Signed

**H. Bambang Soesatyo, S.E.,
M.B.A.**