

**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
SPEECH OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
AT THE OPENING PLENARY SESSION
OF THE IV SITTING PERIOD OF 2020–2021 SITTING YEAR
MONDAY, 8 MARCH 2021**

Assalamu'alaikum Warohmatullahi Wabarokatuh,

May peace be upon you all,

Om Swasti Astu,

Namo Buddhaya,

Greetings of Virtue,

- *Excellencies Vice Speakers of the House of Representatives,*
- *Honorable Members of the House of the Representatives,*
- *Distinguished Guests,*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Praise be to Allah SWT, God the Almighty, for bestowing upon us His grace and blessings to come here today to carry out our constitutional duties at the Opening Plenary Session of the 4th Sitting Period of 2020-2021 Sitting Year.

On behalf of the Leaders of the House of Representatives, allow me to "welcome" all of the Members of the House who recently come back from visiting their constituencies to meet the people they represent. Their concerns must be addressed through the performance of our parliamentary tasks and functions.

Honorable House,

On behalf of the Leaders and all Members of the House of Representatives, I would like to express my deepest sympathy and condolences for the natural disasters such as floods, landslides, and hurricanes that occurred in several regions of Indonesia. The House truly appreciates the performance of the National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB) and local governments for doing the best in helping the victims. The House also calls upon the Government to improve the coordination between relevant ministries and state institutions, especially mitigation efforts and dissemination of safety protocols with regard to potential disasters.

On this occasion, the House would like to extend its appreciation for the collective work of all the related ministries and institutions, both at the central and local levels, as well as the community as a

whole in dealing with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak by following the health protocols and participating in the vaccination program. While our vaccination program is still limited, the House hopes that the vaccines can soon be accessible to people all over Indonesia. We would also like to encourage the government to guarantee access to safe, effective, and quality vaccines. For this reason, all the relevant House commissions are expected to lend their support in making this ambitious plan a reality.

Honorable House,

In the current sitting period, the House will immediately proceed to determine the 2021 Priority National Legislation Program (Prolegnas). The determination is an important part of setting up a measurable point of reference for the House in carrying out its legislative functions in 2021. The House will also follow up on the President's Letter regarding the appointment of Government representatives to deliberate pending bills in accordance with the mechanisms and provisions of the prevailing laws and regulations.

I wish all the Leaders and Members of the Commissions and Ad-Hoc Committees, together with the Government, can maintain their performance in drafting quality bills despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Honorable House,

As we come to the State Budget Implementation period of the First Quarter of the 2021 Fiscal Year, the House of Representatives, through its standing committees, will exercise its oversight function over the COVID-19 mitigation efforts to address the social and economic impacts of the pandemic, the sustainability of national development, and the administration of state governance.

As the COVID-19 is still presenting unprecedented uncertainty and impacts until today, the Government's fiscal policy that take into consideration preventive measures, policies, and programs is required. Therefore, the House will continue to evaluate and provide its support through its parliamentary roles so that the government can provide services to the people, carry out development, and ensure social and economic welfare of the Indonesian people.

Currently, the stimulus for economic growth is largely determined by the policies and programs of the government and the state budget. Therefore, the Government is expected to distribute budgets and implement programs in a timely and targeted manner.

Fiscal management should be carried out by the government by taking into account the fiscal risks associated with revenue contraction, increased spending needs, and potential widening of the deficit.

In the State Budget Law for the 2021 Fiscal Year, the Government is limited in its right to issue Government Bonds to cover the current budget deficit. In this regard, the Government will be expected to make some fiscal adjustments in light of the developing COVID-19 situation and refocus its budgets and programs.

Honorable House,

In the area of parliamentary oversight of the current sitting period, in addition to the regular oversight tasks performed by all the House standing committees, a number of issues of public concern have also arisen, calling for the House to perform its oversight function over the matters. Some of the issues include:

Administration of the COVID-19 vaccines; the Electronic Information and Transaction Law Revision Plan; Governance of Investment Management Companies; Performance of the 2021 Hajj; the Ongoing Jiwasraya Insurance Case; Asabri Investment Fund Case; Forest fires occurring in Riau and West Kalimantan; and emergence of the B117 Coronavirus strain in Indonesia.

In the current sitting period, the House will conduct a fit and proper test of the proposed member candidates from state institutions whose term of office is about to end. Furthermore, we will also give our consideration to the Candidates for Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassadors of Foreign Countries. I believe it is in our best interest that the fit and proper test can be carried out well to ensure that each candidate meets the quality of integrity, professionalism, and the commitment to safeguard the values enshrined in Pancasila, the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, and the principle of *Bhineka Tunggal Ika* (Unity in Diversity). In this sitting period, the House has also scheduled a series of parliamentary diplomacy activities in the contexts of bilateral, regional, and international cooperation. The Indonesian House delegation is planned to attend the virtual meeting "AIPA-Parliamentary Forum of Small Arms and Light Weapons" on 16 March 2021, "The 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)", and several bilateral diplomatic activities to enhance cooperation with other countries.

Honorable House,

In the current sitting period, it is expected that we could manage our time effectively for the purpose in performing our constitutional tasks and functions as parliamentarians. Through the power mandated to the House of Representatives, we have the responsibility to do our part in strengthening the COVID-19 mitigation measures, overseeing the administration of the COVID-19 vaccines,

accelerating the social and economic recovery, as well as ensuring the sustainability of national development and the administration of state governance.

By reciting *bismillahirrahmanirrahim*, on behalf of the Leaders of the House, I hereby officially declare to all the people of Indonesia that the 4th Sitting Period of the House of the 2020-2021 Sitting Year begins today, Monday 8 March 2021, until the end of the sitting period. To all the Honorable Members of the House of Representatives, I would like to wish you all good luck with "OUR WORK FOR INDONESIA", may Allah SWT, God the Almighty, give His grace and guidance to all of us.

Thank you.

Wassalamu'alaikum Warohmatullahi Wabarokatuh.

SPEAKER
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA,
Sgd.
Dr. (H.C) PUAN MAHARANI