



**VICE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**OPENING REMARKS OF VICE SPEAKER OF
THE INDONESIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Dr. FADLI ZON
“PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION VISIT PROGRAM”**

TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2019

Assalamu'alaikum Warohmatullahi Wabarokatuh,
Peace be upon us all,

- **Honorable delegates to the Indonesia's election visit program**
- **Excellency ambassadors,**
- **Resource speakers;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

First of all, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all delegates; from Malaysia **Hon. Mr. Nga Kor Ming** Deputy Speaker, and **Hon. Mr. Hassan Abdul Karim**, from Pakistan **Hon Senator Muhammad Asad Ali Khan Junejo**, and **Hon. Mr. Muhammad Bashir Khan**, from Turkey, **Hon. Mr. Adnan Gunna**; from PUIC, Secretary General **Mr. Mouhamed Khouraiichi Niass** and deputy SecGen **Mr. Ali Asghar**; then we have **Mr John Hyde**, member of GOPAC Executive Committee, and **Hon Sir Simon Burn**, former Minister of UK Parliament representing WFD, and also from the secretariat of Federal Council of Duma Russia.

It is a great honour for the Indonesian House of Representatives to have you here, to be part of our program, the parliamentary election visit program.

I am very grateful that this event can be held under the spirit of mutual respect among friendly countries. Further, it is also a part of parliamentary diplomacy exercised by the Indonesian House of Representatives to provide a comprehensive perspective on democratic process in Indonesia in the 2019 General Elections.

Honorable delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Indonesia is the third largest democracy with a population of more than 250 million people. It is an archipelago of more than 17.000 islands, a territory of around 2 million square kilo meter, with a population of more than 300 ethnic groups that speak 700 local languages. By far, it is the largest Muslim country in the world in which Islam practiced in harmony with other religions such as Protestant, Catholic, Hindu, Buddhist and Confucian.

For this reason, it is a moment of celebration when Indonesia can hold the biggest general elections in the world for the twelfth time since its declaration of independence on 17 August 1945. Indonesia deserves the status of one of the world's largest democracies when the parameter is successful organization of general elections amidst vast pluralism, size of territory, and number of population.

Related to that, the Leaders of the Indonesian House of Representatives decided to invite selected parliaments and organizations to observe our elections. Partly we want to show the democracy process in Indonesia, and we also want this program to be able to strengthen the efficacy of the election officers, the integrity of political candidates and overall credibility of the Indonesia's democratic system.

Our first initiative to invite parliamentary delegations to observe the elections also shows the commitment of the Indonesian House of Representatives to taking part for the success the 2019 General Election. It is our sincere hope that the general elections in Indonesia will become a model for democratic general elections in the world.

Before we all get a first-hand experience of observing the Indonesia's general elections tomorrow, we will first have presentation and discussion on what and how the general elections are organized from the organizing institutions (the Elections Monitoring Board and Election Ethics Board), as well as from academician and CSO.

For your information, starting this year, the Presidential Election will be held simultaneously with the Legislative Election. It means, Indonesia will holding five separate elections at once. It will be one of the most complicated single day elections in global history, substantively as well as technically. Considerable time is needed as well as efficiency of all the organizing institutions in running an event that decide the fate and future of Indonesia's democracy.

This year, 16 national political parties are competing for legislative election including 4 special local parties in the Aceh Province. As for the Presidential Election, two pairs of candidates is competing and supported by coalitions of parties. We will also have the election to vote for the members of the Regional Representatives Council, the number of candidates are varied by province.

Honorable delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope that this discussion that we will have soon will give you an opportunity to learn more about the Indonesian general elections system and mechanism. For the course of this 3 days, you will also have the opportunity for a first-hand experience in observing one of the biggest electoral moments in the world and witnessing simultaneous elections for the first time in Indonesia's history.

As one of the biggest democracy in the world, there is nothing more that we are hoping for than a smooth, peaceful and secure election day. For a smooth running election will define the progress of Indonesia's democracy as well as a testament to its unity and solidity as a nation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Finally, without further ado, I declare the official opening of the Legislative Election Observation program. I wish all 3 fruitful days of interesting and beneficial program. It is my utmost expectation that you will bring home with you a fond memory of being a part of Indonesia's inclusive election process. That your presence here is significant in promoting democracy and building public confidence in electoral processes. As a closing, I wish you also a pleasant stay in Jakarta.

Thank you

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Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.