

CLOSING REMARKS

**BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE INDONESIAN HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES**

H.E. PRIYO BUDI SANTOSO

***Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,
Assalamualaikum Wr. Wb.***

***Honorable Parliament Delegates,
Honorable Representatives from National and International
Organization,
Distinguish Ladies and Gentlemen,***

I am thankful to God Almighty, that only by His blessing we have successfully conducted various activities in the last two days. We all should be proud that the participation from all delegations is a priceless part of our endeavor to build understanding, harmony and alignment in this plural global world. I would like to extent my sincere appreciation for the participation of all delegations that have made us reached the conclusion from this 2 days event which produces Bali Declaration.

This declaration serves like a strong spiritual bond among us even with the religion, culture and language difference. The global world will bring us to meeting different type of differences in society. We should manage the differences of religion, culture and others in order to strengthen the world community in peace.

Therefore, as parliamentarians we should be proud of this Bali Declaration to which we have jointly pledged. Because no matter what parliament is a political institution which always strives to address fundamental issues in every aspect of life, namely fostering harmony in spirit of diversity of faiths. .

As a spiritual avenue, religion channels the sacred dimension that humans' inherently requires. This is a privilege, which can not be derogated in many ways. Religion is brought by God for better human lives. Therefore, we can not be disconnected from the fact that we exist in a life that is filled with religious, cultural, linguistic, and other diversity.

I believe that all religions, faiths and beliefs teach the virtuous values of compassion, peace and tolerance to other human being. That is why there is no big civilization that imprinted to human history that was not build upon religion spiritual dimension. Whilst some dark clouds still shadow humanity, we must continue to lit the beacon of universal religious values, for the bright future of civilization.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bali Declaration enshrined the understanding that all religions in the world teach humanitarian values. It is true that sometimes the visage of religion is distorted when religions is practised in a manner which in fact deviates from its teachings. Which lead to a perception that religions contribute to the emergence of major conflicts in this planet. Of course this is a misconception. This issue becomes even more convoluted when various parties deem that extrinism, terrorism and violence originate from religion. This

is a misconception, it is wrong!! We must all reflect upon this reality.

Let us take each other hands, cooperate and maintain our to face challenges of future human civilization. Not only do we need to show that any and all religion in the world teaches virtuous values and humanism but we must also foster cooperation for better life.

In the future we need a world order built with solid walls of tolerance. The movement for tolerance in the midst of diversity in religions, faiths, and beliefs will become globalized and also form the fortress protecting civilization. it is as if Parliaments are destined to be the leaders of Earth, proclaiming the banner of tolerance for all the world to see.

it is time we firmly uphold the tenets of religion which teaches humanism and civility. Promoting and supporting peace, strengthening tolerance and spreading compassion must be manifested in our acts and our virtues. this endeavour, supported by the commitment to protect human rights and respect others who exercise their human rights is the avenue for reinforcing the essence of religious virtues.

Despotism, genocide, racism and acts against humanity is the enemy of all religious teachings. With this declaration, with our different religions, faiths and beliefs, we are endeavouring to safeguard tolerance and peace amongst us.

Time has brought us to the twentyfirst century, the industrial society has become the information society, many changes have happened. The religions, faiths and beliefs we believe in have underwent various milleniaal milestones. Evermore complex

challenges will occur. We will remain vigilant in maintaining peace and harmony at the heart of every one of those changes.

This event is a small effort on our part as parliamentarians, religious leaders, faiths and beliefs in order to guard civilization with tolerance and cooperation amongst us. I appreciate the initiatives and positive ideas such as this. And I hope that the inter religion and interfaith dialogue will continue to develop and continue, not only at the formal level but will also reach the informal social, political and cultural domains in the coming years.

In closing, I, Priyo Budi Santoso, Vice Speaker of the Indonesian Parliament, with a plea for the blessings and compassion of Allah, the Almighty God, I officially close the Parliamentary Event on Interfaith Dialog. I hope that this endeavour becomes a droplet which flows on in an endlessly to ultimately wear away the rocky cliff of violence and the visages of anti humanitarianism from our civilization.

Thank you.

Wassalamualaikum. Wr. Wb.

Thank you.