

H.E HONORABLE KENNETH A. KEDI
SPEAKER OF REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
STATEMENT

I am very delighted to be joining amongst many respected Parliamentarians/leaders in Jakarta, Indonesia for this Parliament Partnership “Human Development and Maritime Sustainability”.

I want to first thank His Excellency Honorable Speaker Mr. Bambang Soesatyo for his profound welcoming remarks, Hon. Vice Speakers of the House of Representatives of Indonesia and the members of the Parliament, H.E Honorable Vice- President Jusuf Kalla for his encouraging opening remarks, Chairperson Hon. Dr. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf for her Excellency’ productive remarks, the Secretary General Indra Iskandar, and the great people of Indonesia, for being such a wonderful host. Since we’ve arrived last night until now, we have received the most magnificent care and hospitality. On behalf of the Parliament and the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, thank you Your Excellency Vice President Jusuf Kalla, H.E Honorable Speaker Bambang Soesatyo, Vice Speakers, Chairperson and Secretary General Indra Iskander and the good people of Indonesia for the invitation.

Human Capital Development as a New Driving Force for Economic Growth in Indonesia – Pacific Partnership is a significant taste of reality. Since we are the driver of economic growth it is imperative that human capital development is well invested.

I have asked to share my views on three points which to me are very essentials. (1) Firstly is the efforts of World Bank to promote the role of women, youth, and child in Indonesia and Pacific and how parliaments can play its role. The representation of women in parliament is part of a wider issue throughout the Pacific. The correlation of the three (women, youth and child) can be classified as one principle issue.

Women:

It might seem obvious that the representation of women in parliament should be in direct proportion to their numbers in the population, but before reaching that conclusion, we have to decide what representation is and what sort of representation we have in mind. Is it the voice of women itself? Is it their voice on women’s issues? Their perspective on all issues? Again, what is most important, the proportion of women in parliament or their proportion in important roles? Parliament’s role in this development is crucial and as law makers our duties and responsibilities are essentials to this movement. We as Parliamentarians, we need ensure we put laws in place that essentially addresses various issues concerning rights of women. This is our role.

There are great number of significant programs that are being funded by the World Bank to address various issues concerning women, youth and child. I believe that World Bank’s role is very crucial to this development.

Youth

Demand for more highly-skilled labor has been increasing, and across the region, there's a growing need for employees with skills that range from socio-emotional and cross-cultural know-how to automation management and technology. Employers are voicing demand for technical and vocational skills in surveys and as a result, returns on secondary and tertiary education, as well as vocational and technical degrees, are growing. In the Marshall Islands and many others across the region faces with the issue of limited employment. The rapid increase of number of students coming out of tertiary/universities cannot be accommodated due to lack of availability of employment. I believe that role World Bank plays is highly critical which in many cases very significant for this development. They have the resources and expertise and many times we sought their generous assistance.

Child

The Pacific Island Countries are home to about 2.2 million people of which a little less than 925,000 are children below 18 years of age. The Pacific sub-regional diversity in ethnicity, language, and culture and social and economic dynamics makes providing a brief profile of poverty challenging. Poverty in the Pacific Islands context does not generally mean hunger or destitution, but rather means "an inadequate level of sustainable human development which includes lack of access to basic services, lack of opportunities to participate in the socioeconomic life of the community, and a lack of adequate resources to meet the basic needs of the households and customary obligations to the extended family, community, and church" The Increasing monetization of Pacific societies poses many families with a continuous struggle to meet essential daily living expenses, particularly those that require cash payments. Even families in the most remote rural or outer islands villages have to find cash for everyday needs, whether it is for school fees, utilities, essential store goods, or social or church obligations. I highly believe that with the continuous support by the World Bank and its effort to keep striving for a better and sustainable future for Indonesia and the Pacific is highly critical. We are indeed fortunate and it is my hope that the relationship and the partnership between Indonesia and the Pacific countries with the World Bank remains bold.

With this brief statement, consequently, the economic and social impact that resulting from the previous and existing empowerment programs by the World Bank have made an enormous impact. It my hope that after this meeting, our partnership continues and that Republic of the Ma.

Once again thank you and komoltata to you all.