

**BKSAP - PGA SEMINAR ON PROMOTING GENDER JUSTICE
THROUGH LAW AND REGULATIONS AT NATIONAL LEVEL**

Date: Thursday, 26 May, 2016, 13.00

Venue: Meeting Room Second Floor, Nusantara III, DPR Building

Welcome Remarks by Hon. Dr. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf

Assalamuálaikum Wr. Wb.

Good afternoon

Honorable distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

It is a pleasure to welcome you in this seminar on Promoting Gender Justice through Law and Regulations at National Level. For us, this is a timely event. The Indonesian House truly believes in our distinctive role to secure an equitable and mutually empowering gender relations in every sphere and at all level, and also because Indonesia has been struck by the recent series of sexual-violence offences occurred that has become a major national concern. These offences that lead to the loss of life of their victims portrays the urgency of advancing the promotion of gender-justice as well as equitable power relations between men and women.

The gender issues are at the heart of my struggle within the context of parliamentary diplomacy. I advocate such issues from my first day of office. I truly believe that the promotion of gender justice should be translated by protecting those who are victimized and disempowered by gender-violence.

I pay particular focus on the plight of Palestine, where women and girls are part of the most dis-advantaged groups caused by conflicts. We need to bring peace to that conflict zone; and provide protection to women and girls of Palestine. This is part of my struggle during my two-terms of the President of Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and my advocacy today as the Asia-Pacific representative to the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) Committee to Promote Respect to International Humanitarian Law.

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Gender justice means that no one be denied justice or discriminated only because of one's gender.¹ It is a human right in itself; a fundamental principle that every person is entitled to live in dignity and in freedom, without any fear. Gender justice and equality is indispensable for development, poverty reduction, and is crucial to achieving human progress.

For Indonesia, the highest hierarchical setting of acknowledgement towards women's right is in our National Constitution. The article on the Constitution has explicitly guaranteeing the rights of every citizen to obtain the same opportunities and benefits in order to achieve equality and justice.

The Constitution has also been translated into gender sensitive legislations. Many laws have been passed by the House of Representatives together with the President. Law that has practical benefits for women, among others, the Law on securing women's equal participation in politic, elimination of domestic violence, and combating crimes that victimized women such as trafficking in person.

The realization of those laws will include sharing of power and responsibility between women and men at home, in the workplace, and in the wider national and international communities; eliminating any gender discriminations in all aspects; and gender mainstreaming in all areas of legislation and policy-making process.

Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The promotion of gender justice and equality should go beyond borders. Numerous international instruments, norms including those of developmental

¹ Yatindra Singh, *Gender Justice – A Legal Panorama*, colloquium on 'Gender and Law', the National Judicial Academy, British Council.

frameworks have been adopted to primarily put gender justice and equality at the forefront of each country's obligation to promote and protect human rights. The Committee also take part in mainstreaming the development framework focusing on gender equality such as the Sustainable Development Goals through the SDGs Task Force. The SDGs Task Force which I chaired has been working hard to set stronger and coordinated measures to the realization of the SDGs including the gender equality goal.

I also emphasize the need to have an equal role between men and women. This can be only pursued with a key action that is to empower women. A 30% quota for women will be meaningless without the will of themselves to be empowered and have a more significant role of leadership. When OECD draft their Recommendation on Gender Equality in Public Life, I recommend the need for greater role of female leaders in supporting and enabling leadership capacity for women and girls. I also call for the establishment of Women's Bond to provide access of funding to women. All of these efforts are part of the value that I believe for: that a fight for women's rights is part of the promotion of gender justice.

This seminar today will bring you dialectics and more insights in order to strengthen our perspectives on what needs to be done in terms of the promotion of gender justice at national level. A more comprehensive perspectives on gender justice for parliamentarians is essential since we are the law makers. We are the bridge of aspiration on gender justice in the society.

The Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the Indonesian House of Representatives in partnership with the Parliamentary Global Action (PGA) initiate this Seminar as part of our pivotal role of parliamentary diplomacy.

To date, the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation has shown its firm commitment and persistence in advocating women empowerment through its functions. This is evident in the increase of gender-related discussions, seminars, and programs hosted by the Committee: including this seminar.

Distinguished Delegates,

As a modern parliament, we cannot ignore the international issues as they have been affecting our daily lives at local levels. Women empowerment, gender mainstreaming, gender justice and equality are at the heart of Indonesia's parliamentary work and diplomacy.

It is thus a pleasure to have colleagues from House Commission 1 which deals with foreign affairs and defense, as well as House Commission 3 which deal with laws, human rights and security, honorable members of parliaments from Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, and Timor Leste among us today to discuss this issue with notable speakers from relevant background.

Before I close my speech and open this seminar, I would like to say my gratitude to every one of you ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, and our partners of this seminar for your attendance and support of this agenda. And may this agenda be fruitful; not only for gender justice in Indonesia, but also for gender justice around the world.

Through this seminar also, I further encourage men and women to forge a strategic partnership as an equal partners not as competitors. I personally believe that opportunity not only comes once, we can create more opportunities by working hard, being smart and sincere.

Hereby, I officially open this seminar. *Bismillaahirrahmaanirrahiim....*

Thank You.

Wassalamualaikum Wr. Wb.