



13th BALI DEMOCRACY FORUM
Nusa Dua, Bali, 10 December 2020

CLOSING REMARKS BY

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**Assalamu'alaikum warramatullahi wabarakatuh,
Selamat sore,
Om Swastiastu, Namu Buddhaya, Salam Kebajikan,
Good Afternoon,**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. As we are gathered here in Bali to discuss democracy and the COVID-19 pandemic, I recall the local wisdom of **Tri Hita Karana** or **three causes of well-being**.
2. Tri Hita Karana calls upon us to maintain harmonious relations or, in another word, to strike a right balance in our life.
3. In the course of today's discussion—as well as the discussion during the BDF's three pillars—we have heard wide ranges of opinion and recommendations on how to survive democracy

amidst the pandemic. Interestingly, the common threads of the discussion is on how to find the right balance.

4. One example of this is when Minister Retno Marsudi stated in her remarks, “in the efforts to foster democratic solidarity against the pandemic, the exercise of individual rights should come with the responsibility to comply with measures established in the public interest”.
5. Undoubtedly, COVID-19 Pandemic poses a serious challenge toward democracy and governance. We must pursue in tandem, our commitment to nurture democracy and our efforts to tackle the dire impact of this pandemic to our people—their health situation and their economic and social well-being.
6. I am pleased to note that the participants of this Forum share optimism that democracy is well equipped to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. Moreover, values and norms of democracy should guide us when proposing policies options and in taking measures to cope with the pandemic.

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. Today we have had extensive exchanges of views covering wide range of issues along the theme of this year BDF: Democracy and COVID-19 Pandemic. Similar dynamics was also transpired during the discussion on this theme in the three BDF pillars.
8. Leading to the 13th BDF, series of meetings named Road to Bali Democracy Forum were held in September and November in a hybrid format.

9. The meeting of the first pillar, **Bali Civil Society and Media Forum** (BCSMF), themed “Civil Resilience: Activisms during the Pandemic COVID-19”. The highlights of their discussion among others were:
 - approach in managing a pandemic must be based on transparency, respect for human rights, and should be implemented in accordance with democratic norms.
 - government in this regard, should provide an enabling environment for civil society to exercise their rights such as freedom of expression.

10. The meeting among youths in **Bali Democracy Student Conference**, the second pillar of the BDF, emphasizes that being digital natives and highly adaptive to technological changes, youths should play a more active role in the economic recovery and in countering misinformation.

11. The meeting of the **Economic Pillar**, highlighted the importance of Micro, Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)’s roles in supporting global prosperity in times of pandemic. Strong MSMEs will deliver social and economic benefits. They provides a cushion during economic and social hardship and serve as a catalyst for a resilience democracy.

Excellencies,

12. The BDF provides a space to all participants—both who are here in Bali and some of you who are joining the discussion virtually—to share ideas.

13. Wide variety of perspectives, lessons learned, innovations, and new ideas shared during our discussions enrich us with practical knowledge on how to advance democracy in our respective countries during the pandemic and its aftermath.

14. Some salient points from the discussions that we take notes together, include such as:
- be creative and innovative towards building resilience society.
 - global leadership to orchestrate mitigation efforts is needed
 - concrete collaborations in many facets should be solidified, to provide short and long terms remedies.
15. Equally important, this Forum reminds us of the need to strengthen our solidarity as democracy.

Excellencies,

16. On behalf of the Indonesian government, we wish to thank all of you for your participation and contribution in this year BDF.
17. As I speak, I am pleased to mention that more than 1,000 participants from 71 countries and 4 international organizations have joined the Forum virtually. Meanwhile, 44 participants from 26 countries and 3 international organizations are among us here in this building.
18. Special thanks are extended to the panelists for sharing your esteemed thought and to the moderators for intriguing us to deepen the conversation.
19. We would also like to convey our gratitude to our fellow journalist who helped transmit the messages coming out from this Forum.
20. And of course, to members of the team, thank you for your hard work and dedication to making the 13th BDF possible.

21. Before I end my remarks, I kindly ask colleagues diplomats who came all the way from Jakarta, to send a message back home that soon enough, Bali is ready to welcome foreign visitors.

22. And finally, I hereby declare the 13th BDF closed.

23. I thank you and Sampai Jumpa!
