

HARMONIOUS LIVING IN BALI



BY :

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US Under Secretary (Mrs.Sarah Sewall), US Ambassador (Mr.Robert O. Blake) and Team
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OM SHANTI, SHANTI, SHANTI OM

HARMONIOUS LIVING IN BALI

Om Swastiastu,

I am really feel so grateful to Sang Hyang Widhi Wasa The Supreme God, The almighty, under his blessing we are now gathering here in this meeting in peace and harmony, under Bali's atmosphere. May the vibration of Bali will bring more spirit in promoting tolerance, understanding, peace, brotherhood and cooperation in harmony toward the world globally.

I am so delighted to present FKUB, Religion, Politics and Women (four topics together) as an opportunity in introducing our philosophies, our local wisdoms and our perspective to the religion, politics and women and harmony.

Religion, Politics and Women are very interesting because play a very important role in this life. Religion is so important as a guidance in all aspects of our life; in social life, state life or nation life including politics and women's life. Politics is so important and play an important role in all states to run the state, a specially Political Parties in order to perform a democratic state. But women is the most important thing. I love every people , I also love animals...but I love women so much. I love so much my mother along her life in the fast, I love so much my wife, women more important even among religion and politics, because there are no religion, neither politics without women. No men without women and even, there would be no life like this without women. We can not imagine how this life could be without women.

It has been so long time, in the history and until now we still see, we witness or we hear something so bad and so sad at almost everywhere in this world about battles, about wars, about riots, about hungers, about poverty, about inequality, about injustice, about women trafficking, women exploitation or women abuse and so on.

Why those still happened? There are because religious values is still not working very well in all other aspects in this world, religion is mostly just in voices, is so often just for lip service, just for the formalities and rhetoric, often ended on ritual, often ended on praying or often ended on conference, and mostly no significant action following after the formalities ended. Religious values, religious knowledge is so rare be followed with real actions in the most field of life especially in political practice (among politicians and political parties).

PERSPECTIVES OF RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

I am a Balinese with Hindu background, because I was born in Bali and in Hindu family. If I was born in Middle East probably I am Moslem, If I was born in Rome probably I am Catholic, If I was born in Thailand probably I am Buddhist, If I was born in China probably I am Khong Hu Chu.

As a Balinese Hindu and as an Indonesian, and as Balinese I would like to touch you by our Hindu wisdoms: “Vasudeva Kotumbhakam”; this world is a big family, we are family. That is why I greet you with brothers and sisters. The other one of a lots of our wisdoms is “Tat Twam Asi”; we are same, I am you are, you are I am!. When you are happy I much happier, when you are in suffering, I am sad.

I believe all of you here who involve in this conference has been performing and will continue to perform a very significant role in your country or even for this world in interfaith relationship, in interfaith brotherhood. Let me give a small contribution to all of you, about why in some places or in some countries or may be why all of us still facing, still seeing problems, violations, fight or even wars caused by interfaith relationship or under name of religion. To answer this big questions, first we have to confirm, to make clear the definition of the religion?, “what the religion is?”.

In my perspective, the religion is every ways which are created by the God, believe the God, to do something good, something nice, something beautiful. Then why the God not created only one religion?, because God has many ways, a

lot of ways, from any directions can come and reach the God. God has also a lot of names, a lot of identification. That is why it should not be a matter how many religions are in the world; one, two, three, six, ten or even a hundred, The most important thing that we should agree is ; “all the religions are created by the God, our God, because all of us have the same one God. It doesn’t matter about the different ways, the different how to pray, the different of fasting, the different of ritual, the different of ethnic and so on.

But all religions has the similarities ; created by the God, same destination to the God, follow the God ways to build harmony, peace, prosperous country, properous world, to build people healthy and wealthy. Beacused all religions are created by the God, then all the religions are wonderful, good, nice and perfect.

That is why actually it should be imposible for interfaith fight or interreligion fight. Interfaith fight, interreligion fight is absolutely not true. The true happening is people or group of people who don’t understand the religion, who don’t understand the God, and even more, they don’t understand his or her or their own religion, then under name of religion or God, fighting other people or other religion. Our job now is how to socialize, how to globalize to promote this “true faith”. Every people and every country has to understand about the real value of every religion.

One more thing I would like to pass on this conference; that the religion mostly is not a choice, it is just like this, I am Hindu because just I am Hindu, which is becaused I was born in Bali in Hindu family.

I strongly believe that Hindu is a perfect religion (even I am never perfect), but I also believe those other religions; Islam, Christian, Catholic, Budha, Kong Hu Chu and so on are perfect relligion too.

Let live together side by side in harmony and tolerance, support each other, love each other toward the prosperous and peaceful world.

RELIGION AND POLITICS.

Religion obligation and the state obligation (according to Hindu's terminology) is unable to be separated at all, both supporting each other. In religion obligation contained state obligation, likewise in state obligation contained religion obligation. State obligation itself is so identical with political obligation, due to state obligation itself is a political institution on a wide scale, and all institutions in a state are political institutions. On Hindu perspective, inside religion obligation contained all aspects of obligations both in social life, nation and state life, even on politics or political parties because actually inside politics contained political ethic and political moral. Both political ethics and political moral are political ways and political process which is not in contrary with religious values. So, ideally between politics and religion should not be in contrary. But the questions are political ethics and political moral often seen or often unseen in action oriented politics? Among politicians and political parties in the field? Besides, we also have to be careful in connecting these two words Religion and Politics as it could be shown three concepts which could be different or even in contrary:

1. Religious politics: the ways of politics which is referring to the religious values, always showing political ethics and political moral.
2. Political religion: the ways or strategy in order to implementing or struggling the religious values.
3. Religion politicking: religion is used as a vehicle to achieve their political interest, mostly for their power, or to achieve a strategic or higher position in government or state bodies.

In the field, the different direction between religion and politics could be happened because the conformity of political science into political practices are so much depended on how high the morality of its political action.

In the field, in political practices, usually political ethics, political moral and other truth values often forgotten. This phenomena has been shown in everywhere all

over the world. That is why political practices often create conflicts, fights, riots, unrest, war, poverty, injustice, inequality, suffering, destruction until corruption. In ideal level religion and politics sound parallel, both has the similar idea and purposes. But unfortunately in the practices level they are shown different. Religion engineering always contain a spirit of brotherhood, love, togetherness, sympathy and empathy. Politic engineering often contain character of corrupt, greedy, rude, dirty and cruel. Very closed to character power tend to corrupt. Religion engineering always with the purpose of achieving “Moksartam Jagaditha”: living in harmony with happiness, prosperity and peaceful here in this world and in the hereafter.

ROLE OF WOMEN

Since the beginning of human civilized and along the history of Hinduism, women play a very significant role in this life; in the house as house wife they play much more important role than men. On religion, culture and tradition they preparing almost all of everything related offering, ritual process, in the culture they are symbol of beauty, world enjoy beautiful dances and dancers in Bali. They are teachers, they are nurses, they are doctors, they are directors of companies, they are holding important position in the government, even now in this modern age they are playing significant role in politics, together with men building the country, building the world. Many of them holding and take responsibility as from Village Head, District Head, Regent Head, Governor, Minister until President of the state, at least 30% women now involved in politic sectors.

In Hindu we respect women, specially mother, we honor them, we fall down on mother's knee and kiss it. Because on our believe where women are respected there is beautiful life with prosperity, healthy, peaceful full with happiness, but where women are being insulted and degraded there is sadness in chaos, confusion and suffering.

Women in Bali are not just participate but they are direct involve and play very significant role in life equal with men, even not always in similarity. Balinese women are hard workers, they are working hard together hand by hand in many sector with men, they are typical of responsible women, that is why then the women in Bali are most respected. I am so proud with Balinese women.

BALI, ITS RELIGION, CUSTOM & CULTURE

Bali is a very nice island (small but beautiful), covering an area of 5600 square kilometers with the total population of 3,9 million. It administratively consists of 8 regencies and 1 municipality. Bali is one of the provinces ruled under the central government of Unitary Republic of Indonesia. Indonesia is known for her so diversity, and yet unitary, ethnicities, religions, customs, and other socio-cultural entities.

As one of the provinces of Indonesia, Bali is under the auspices of the central government of Indonesia. The diversity that exists in Indonesia can be well united under the same philosophical basis of Pancasila, the spirit of the 1945 Constitution, the National Motto Unity in Diversity, and the spirit of the Indonesian Youth Pledge.

Bali is also known as the Island of Paradise or named by Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru as Morning of the World. As a nation, we are proud of this island, and as one of the best tourist destination in the world, we, the Balinese work unisonly to keep Bali in peace, living in harmony, its beauty, its environment, clean and friendly. Bali is a small island but God has bestowed everything we need : nice beaches, lush mountains, natural flowing, lakes and rivers, forests, significant cultural architectures, world class hotels, fantastic panoramic views and beautiful gardens, etc. Cultural events are daily occurrence throughout the island, Hindu Religious Ceremony are almost everyday too, and Bali has a thousands temples.

As history has noted and admitted that between Bali Hindu Religion, Custom and Bali Culture yet could be treated differently but cannot be separated. The philosophy of Hindu, more specially Hindu Bali has spirited Balinese Custom and the Culture, in other word as saying Custom and Culture are application of Balinese Hindu Religion in daily life. That why then all of our behaviour and attitude around custom and culture has to be as a vibration and spirited by our Hindu Bali Religion. The philosophy of Balinese Hindu Religion must be seen in all of our behaviour and attitude daily.

I have been involving on Inter Religion Forum in Bali for about 13 years and now also as one of Chairmans of Customary Village Council, I found all Religions teach and guide us towards harmony and peace, none of the Religion teach contrary with the harmony and peace. How nice the world will be, how the peaceful world will we have if most of politicians, businessmen and all state leaders based their career on “Catur Purusha Artha” principles (Dharma, Artha, Kama & Moksha), based their life on truth according to what their religion said. But I am so regret for the war, terror, fighting each other, exploitation among the people, injustice situation or other bad situations are still happen in almost every where in this world. We are the Hindu Balinese people in supporting the establishment of peace and harmonious world have many other principles based on Hindu Philosophy and Life tradition philosophy such “Tri Hita Karana”, “ Ahimsa”, “Tat Twam Asi”, “Vasudeva Kotum Bakham”, “Desa Kala Patra”, “Desa Mawa Cara”, “Paras Paros Segilik Saguluk Sabayantaka”. Bali has been developed under these religious principles and local genius.

Tri Hita Karana is three harmonious relationship which resulting welfare and happiness, there are relationship between people and God, between people and their peers, and between people and their environment.

Tat Twam Asi mean we are the same. To hurt some one is mean hurt ourself. Their sadness are our sadness, their happiness are our happiness.

Tat Twam Asi is a symbol of love, symbol of brotherhood. Love, brotherhood, and religion are borderless and priceless. Tat Twam Asi teach us to love each other, borderless, across the hills, across the mountains, across the jungles, across the rivers, across the lakes, across the oceans and continents, across all borders. “Ahimsa” mean non violence acts, Vasudeva Kotum Bakham is the principle of brotherhood which actually we are all people in this world are family, this earth is the place of a big family. Desa Kala Patra mean our behaviour and attitude must be based on village or place, country or state where we are, according to time and must be conform with the situation we are facing. Desa Mawa Cara mean all villages, places, state or country has its own rule or law, we must respect to the law where we are. Paras Paros Sagilik Saguluk Sabayantaka mean brotherhood, togetherness, we have to help each other, we have to support each other, respect each other, and to solve every cases should thru dialogue or negotiation among each other, never by violent act. At Desa Pakraman or Traditional Community Village those religions principle of life and our local genius must be seen applied properly among villagers. Desa Pakraman and its organization built vertically from villages, subdistricts, regencies, municipality up to province is a traditional institution which has an autonomy right to rule its village by its own traditional law which established through bottom up system. When and where love established among the people, borderless, when and where there are non violence, then peace, harmony and happiness will found there. In Bali the situation where peace, harmony and happiness are established, we call this situation as “Ajeg Bali”.

May the vibration of Bali, will distribute a great spirit of peace and harmony towards the world globally.

DESA PAKRAMAN A SOCIAL RELIGIOUS TRADITIONAL VILLAGE IN BALI

Desa Pakraman is an old social religious traditional community village in Bali are created by Maha Rsi Kuturan on Samuan Tiga Interfaith Dialogue in Caka Year 900, (in 10th century). Desa Pakraman have their own territories, and their traditional territories have divided whole land of Bali into 1500 Desa Pakraman.

As a traditional community or organization, Desa Pakraman has their own traditional rule named Awig-awig as a traditional regulation for their traditional people. It has their own traditional people and has their own property. The Republic of Indonesia which is based on Pancasila (Five Principles), philosophy of Bhineka Tunggal Ika (Unity in Diversity) and 1945 Constitution has been protecting the traditional villages, religions, ethnics, every Indonesian local cultures and local languages, in return all the regions (Provinces) with all their religion, culture, language has to support and respect The Republic of Indonesia. As long as regarding traditional and religion aspect, the Desa Pakraman has an autonomy right to rule their people and territory. The existence of Desa Pakraman in Bali is very strong and even powerful, very well known with its Pacalang which is a traditional security and also very famous with their life style which living in community, togetherness, working together sharing and caring, support each other. All this life style simply called "Gotong-royong". The formal local government of Bali provide a solid support to Desa Pakraman and its organization, always in cooperation with Desa Pakraman in building and protecting the Bali island.

People of Desa Pakraman where is every Balinese Hindu people in Bali is a member of Desa Pakraman is integrated or tied together by three temples at every village wich are : Pura Desa, Pura Puseh and Pura Dalem, that why then Desa Pakraman became a social religious community which based on Balinese Hindu religion.

However, every people from different religion, etnich and different culture or even foreigners are well accepted to live together at Desa Pakraman territory. They are living in harmony, respect each other and support each other.

This kind of living in Bali has been proven since long time ago, known since the era of Dalem (The Great King) Waturenggong who ruled Bali and most of the east Indonesia in 16th century.

Together with the process of strengthening, developing and protecting Desa Pakraman which is mean to strengthening, developing and protecting the culture of Bali, based on Bali local regulation “Peraturan Daerah Nomor 3 Year 2003”, all Desa Pakraman in Bali established a conference again at Samuan Tiga village in Gianyar regency on February 27th 2004, established Majelis Desa Pakraman (The Council of Bali Traditional Village Organization). This council was established for every district (called Majelis Alitan or Smaller Council), in every regency (called Majelis Madya or Middle Council), and for the Bali Province established Majelis Utama or Highest Council). The task and function of Majelis Desa Pakraman is to build, strengthen, to develop, to protect and to address all Desa Pakraman by continuously promoting live in harmony, togetherness, love each other, support each other and respect each other based on brotherhood spirit of “Vasudeva Kotumbhakam” (this world is a big family, we are family), Tat Twam Asi (we are same, I am you are, you are I am) and Paras Paros Sagilik Saguluk Salunglung Sabayanthaka (brotherhood and togetherness). Let live together in Bali The Paradise island side by side in harmony and tolerance, support each other, love each other toward the prosperous and peaceful Bali and the world.

HISTORY OF FKUB

It was begun around year 1997 when riot happened in Ambon involving Christian followers and Moslem followers and then the following happened at Poso, then continue to Mataram of Lombok. From Bali we learned the situation and of what was actually happened? It is a real inter religions conflict or the religions just used as an instrument for the other goal behind, like politic or economy? Eventually we understood what was actually going on. That was a provocateur and terrorist job. The thing we were thinking was we have to do something in Bali to prevent the riot not to be expanded to Bali. Meanwhile the political situation in Jakarta hotter during reformation struggling era (1997-2001).

Then initiated by the Governor of Bali that time (Mr. Drs. Dewa Made Berata) with me Ida Dewa Ngurah Swastha in that time as a General Chairman of Indonesian Hindu Intellectual Forum (FPHDI), and other colleagues such Kapolda Bali (Chief of Police), Pangdam (Chief of Army) IX Udayana, Head of Bali Religious office (Kakanwil Agama), all religious leaders from 5 religions (Hindu, Islam, Christian Protestan, Catholic and Budha) and also supported by young Hindu organization were gathering at lakeside of Bedugul. All of us presented the religious values of every religions and were discussing how importance the Harmony is, very specially Harmony of Inter Religion and inter faith. We understood each other between Religious leaders and government leaders that how great the Religions are, in supporting the harmony and humanity toward Harmonious living based on love.

All religions love and teach about harmony, guide the followers to love each other among people, to love natural environment, to support each other, respect and tolerant to each other based on love and humanity. We got a very important conclusion, got an agreement and a very strong will to keep Bali peace, secured, prosperous in harmonious living. Then eventually on 5th February 1999 Forum

Komunikasi Antar Umat Beragama (FKAUB) or Inter Religion Communication Forum was formally established. The important role of FKUB after the tragedy of Bali Bomb I (2002) and Bali Bomb II (2004) were also watched by the central government in Jakarta. The FKAUB model and how Bali managed the situation after tragedy had inspired and motivated the two Ministers to create Forum Kerukunan Umat Beragama (FKUB) or Inter Religions Forum for harmony, in all Provinces and regencies of Indonesia by joined Ministers decree no.9 and no.6 / 2006.

THE NEED OF FKUB

WHY FKUB IS NEEDED ?

Indonesia territory is so vast lies from Sabang of Sumatra island to Merauke of Papua island. With population nearly 250 million, multi ethnic, multi religions, multi cultures and multi tradition, at one side is a really GOD blessing which to be grateful, but at the other side due to communal character of most Indonesian people, and the issues of religions is the most sensitive issue among sensitive issues, the multi societies like in Indonesia could create a big problem for this country, very specially whenever mismanagement happened. Particularly Bali which is famous as the most popular tourist destination in the world and has been so much depended on tourism, absolutely need peaceful, secured situation at all times, whenever the situation not conducive, unpeaceful, unsecured then tourism will be stopped, Bali will be suffering.

Republic of Indonesia and particularly Bali are absolutely requires a conducive situation of peace, secured and harmonious living, free from conflict, riots etc. This conducive situation is as precondition for development. Its has been well understood that harmonious living will create peace and security. Peaceful and

secured situation will allow the State or Government to develop the country. It is impossible for the State or Government to make development without precondition of peace, secured and harmony. For this reasons then the FKUB were established to create, to maintain the conducive situation of harmony, peaceful and secured.

It is not a mistake if FKUB were established and then called to be " Nurses of this Republic "

SOME REFERENCES FOR INTER RELIGION HARMONY :

- All Religions were created by the GOD
- All Religions worship and pray the same GOD
- GOD only one
- All Religions are so great
- All Religions have the same purposes
- All Religions guide us how to build harmony among all people
- All people are family
- Diversity is a wealth which beautify the world
- Diversity is not Controversy
- Harmony and Togetherness is so beautiful and exceptionally beneficial.
Controversy is always bad and damaging
- Always learn first the law, culture and tradition before live in a new land
- Inspire and carry out Pancasila (Five Principles) and the motto of BHINEKA TUNGGAL IKA (Unity in Diversity)
- Inspire and Carry out motto "dimana bumi dipijak disana langit dijunjung"
(Where the land is stepped on, then the sky has to be honored)

HARMONY ACCORDING TO INDONESIA CONSTITUTION AND PHILOSOPHY :

- Indonesia is a Unitary State consisting with a lot of tribes, religions, culture, and traditions.
- Indonesia respect and protect the difference
- The Indonesia state and government must protect all regions with their religions, their culture and their traditions
- All regions, all tribes, must support, respect and protect the unitary state of Indonesia Republic.
- The philosophy of Pancasila with the motto of Bhineka Tunggal Ika is a state pondation, is a state idiology, the way of life, as a unifying forces for Indonesia nations and state, and as a nation ethic.
- Pancasila and Bhineka Tunggal Ika must be practized in a dayly life by all people and the Government.
- Pancasila is a Social Contract for all Indonesia people and regions, so can not be changed.
- All religions, culture and traditions are autonomy. The state is not above religions, culture and traditions. Religions is not above the state.
- Indonesia is a religious country but not based on Religion
- All religions, culture and traditions are equal before the state and law.
- Pancasila is in harmony with religions, culture and traditions.
- Indonesia is a Democratic country, but not based on majority, not based on minority.
- The issues of religions, culture and traditions can not be democratized.
- All religious people must tolerant and respect to each other and living in harmony.

LEARNING FROM BEST PRACTICES OF BALI IN BUILDING THE TRUST AND COOPERATION AMONG RELIGION :

- In Bali from long time ago until now living together side by side in peaceful and harmony among Religions and faiths can be seen as reality. This because all Religions in Bali understand each other, we have the same perspective about Religion.
- This kind of living in Bali has been proven since long time ago, known since the era of “Dalem” (The Great King) Waturenggong who ruled Bali most of the East Indonesia in 16th Century . When he comeback from his travel to Blambangan in East Java he brought some followers who those followers were Moslem.
- Bali has long experience of Management in interfaith or in Inter Religion in order to promote to build life in peaceful and harmony among Religion or faith.
- In 10 Century Maha Rsi Kuturan called 9 different faiths of Hindu for a meeting in Samuan Tiga Village in Gianyar Regency.
- During the era of the Great King dalem Waturenggong in 16th Century, Dalem Waturenggong has been guiding us how to understand, how to respect each other specially among Religions or faiths.
- In 1997 due to unrest was happened in Ambon, then we all Religions in Bali initiated a gathering at Bedugul. From this gathering we established FKUB (Bali Inter religion Forum) a year later. Bali Inter Religion Forum then inspired for the establishment of the same forum.
- In Bali we celebrate a Çaka New Year by a Silent Day (Hari Nyepi) an absolute silent for 24 hours. This celebration often on the same days with other Religion’s Celebration like Idul Fitri of Moslem, Christmas of Christian, we successfully manage this situation.

- In Bali, religion is not a problem and will never a problem, but always used as problem solver
- When the tragedy happened, BOMB Bali I (in 2002) and BOMB Bali II (2004) by terrorist who confessed Islam, Forum Komunikasi Antar Umat Beragama (FKAUB) or Inter Religion Communication Forum of Bali played its important role together with Governor, other local institutions in Bali and Balinese people successfully managed the situation, stifled provocateurs, and then conflict of religions (between Balinese people which are mostly Hindu and Moslem people) never happened. Bali still in harmony.
- A routine dialogues, gatherings (called Dharma Shanti or Silahturahmi) between religious people from all religions is much improving the mutual understanding one to each other, and this is proven in maintaining and increasing the quality of harmony in Bali.
- One of symbol of Harmony, at some areas there are standing some beautiful worshipping houses of different religions standing together side by side symbolize a beautiful harmony in Bali for example : The areas of Puja Mandala where standing in harmony : Pura (Temple) for Hindu, Vihara for Budha, Protestan Church, Chatolic Church and Mosque for moslem, Also at Bali International Airport Ngurah Rai there are Temple, Church, Mosque standing nice side by side located at the North East of the Airport areas. Similar situation can be seen at other areas in Bali showing high tolerance in Harmony began from the past.
- We have a strong will on how to manage complexity without getting complicated. Our motto " Harmony is a fixed price " (Kerukunan adalah harga mati)

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