



WELCOME ADDRESS
MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
at:
THE CONFERENCE ON CHILD POVERTY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Grand Sahid Jaya Hotel - Jakarta,
10 September 2013

- The Distinguished State Minister for Women Empowerment and Child Protection, Ms. Linda Amalia Sari Gumelar
- The Distinguished State Minister for National Development Planning/Head of the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas), Ms. Amida S. Alisjahbana
- The Distinguished UNICEF Representative in Indonesia, Ms. Angela Kearney
- The Distinguished United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Ms. Katja Hujo
- Distinguished Officials of the First and Second Echelons of the Ministries and Government Agencies
- Distinguished Academics, Practitioners, and Decision Makers
- Dear Partners and Guests

Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.

Peace and greetings to us all.

Praise be to the God Almighty, today we can gather here to attend the International Conference on "Child Poverty and Social Protection". In addition to being a form of concrete measures to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Indonesia, this event also shows our determination to keep making efforts to reduce poverty and provide social protection for our children.

I would like to express my highest appreciation to all parties, including UNICEF and other relevant national and international organizations, who have done their utmost and who even have become examples of the efforts of reducing poverty and providing social protection, particularly for Indonesian children—our nation's future generation.



Poverty is a condition which is often associated with needs, hardships, and shortages of various life circumstances. Poverty can harm children's physical, emotional, and spiritual developments. Quite often, children suffer the most from the poverty.

Child poverty is not commonly distinguished from poverty as a whole, whereas the former is different from the latter. Each has its own different causes and impacts.

Poverty has worse impacts on children than it has on adults due to the fact that the former are more vulnerable than the latter in terms of their age and their level of dependence on family (parents).

The poverty suffered during childhood may cause permanent physical and mental disorders. This can be seen in permanently less-fortunate children, or children who have been part of a persistent cycle of inter-generation poverty. Therefore, investment in children is a key factor in efforts to work for a fair and sustainable human development.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,

Child poverty is an issue that needs to be solved, especially as it concerns the importance of the state's commitment to the fulfillment of children's rights. To address the issue, the Government of Indonesia, and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) in particular, has carried out the poverty reduction programs which are categorized into four clusters. The first cluster includes a conditional cash transfer program called "Program Keluarga Harapan" (PKH/the Family of Hope Program), which is supported by "Program Kesejahteraan Sosial Anak" (PKSA/the Social Welfare Program for Children) and "Program Beras untuk Masyarakat Miskin" (Raskin/the Rice for Poor Households Program). In addition to the first cluster, MoSA has also carried out national programs of the fourth cluster, such as the poverty reduction programs for urban and rural areas. In essence, all of these programs are meant to improve the well-being of—and the protection for—children and families.

Efforts by MoSA through the PKSA Program from 2009 to 2013 has reached 1.37 million of children. For the year 2013, for example, the PKSA Program has planned to target 172 thousand of children, with an allocated budget of 388 billion rupiah. Meanwhile, from 2007 to 2013, the PKH Program has reached 2.4 million of very poor households nationwide, with an allocated budget of 3.5 trillion rupiah. However, both these targets and budget allocations are still not enough compared to the fact of 4.6 million of children being neglected and of the real challenge for fulfillment of basic needs for children as well as their accessibility to basic services such as schools, health facilities, birth certificates, entertainments, life skills, and so forth.

This situation requires such an integrated child protection system that it will enable child protection policies and programs in Indonesia to be implemented synergetically and



without overlaps among stakeholders. This surely implies collaboration and coordination measures among ministries/agencies; among local governments (at both provincial and *kabupaten/kota* levels); as well as cooperation with local, national, and international organizations.

Such integrated child protection system is an immediate challenge. As the issue of child protection and well-being is a cross-sectoral problem, it requires a system that is developed not only on the conceptual but also on the factual bases. In other words, it requires evidence-based research.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,

The Ministry of Social Affairs expresses its highest appreciation to the educational institutions, research institutions, donor agencies, and relevant parties, who have been conducting research and evaluation projects on the child well-being and protection programs carried out by MoSA. The projects are really helpful for the program development and for the evaluation as well as improvement of the child protection program implementation.

This conference, which will discuss results of the evidence-based research, is really important to be held in order to provide inputs and feedback to the government so that it will be able to improve the quality of its services and to have well-oriented, integrated, and sustainable programs.

Let us hope that recommendations from this conference will improve the protection and well-being of children in Indonesia. Certainly, and this is more important, we do hope that outcomes to be generated from this conference can be implemented and expanded in terms of their reach of benefits which, in turn, can be made into a synergy and can be followed up by all parties, including local governments at provincial and *kabupaten/kota* levels, and child rights advocating organizations at the local, national, and international levels.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,

I would like to express my gratitude and highest appreciation to the organizers of this conference: UNICEF, The SMERU Research Institute, Bappenas, the presenters who have made great contribution for change, and also all parties who have contributed their thought, time, and energy to provide protection for—and improve the well-being of—our children.

Hopefully this conference will generate new ideas, especially for the transformation and paradigmatic changes in: 1) developing the coordinated services based on an integrated system; 2) comprehensive services oriented toward early prevention and intervention; 3) focusing on family-centered approaches; and 4) creating a system of independence and self-help.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now time for me to conclude my welcome address. May we all be parents, or family members, who are responsible in our duties to work for—and to protect—the well-being of the children of Indonesia. May God Almighty bestow His grace and guidance on all of us. Amen.

Thank you. Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah, Wasalamualaikum Warohmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA,

SALIM SEGAF AL JUFRI

