



**Remarks by
H.E. Ambassador Amris Hassan
on the Occasion of the 64th Anniversary Celebration of
Indonesia's Independence Day**

Honourable Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Mr Charles Chauvel, MP, representing the Official Opposition.
Ambassadors,
Ministers,
Members of Parliament,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a distinct honour for me to welcome you all here tonight in celebration of the 64th Anniversary of Indonesia's Independence Day.

Before I begin my remarks, I would like to invite you to join me in observing a minute's silence for all the victims of the recent bomb attacks in Jakarta, in particular for the late Mr. Timothy McKay whose family Mrs. Frances Mackay, Travis and Kristy are with us this evening.

[one minute's silence]

Thank you.

Allow me on behalf of the Government and people of Indonesia to once again express our deepest condolence and sympathy to Tim's family and friends. What happened to Tim was purely an unfortunate accident in the sense that he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. I am deeply touched to hear that Tim loved Indonesia and the Indonesian people very much. Tim will always be remembered by Indonesian officials, his employees and his friends in the neighbourhood as a pleasant and wise person. We trust that his family and friends will remain passionate about Indonesia to maintain Tim's legacy after this tragic event.

It is always painful to accept the loss of someone we love. On our part, Indonesia not only lost the lives of innocent people but also lost its image as a peaceful place to live and do business in. Even worse, the terror was deliberately aimed at damaging our image as a pluralistic country, which for the past five years has been diligently nurtured.



KEDUTAAN BESAR REPUBLIK INDONESIA

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
PO Box 3543
Wellington - New Zealand
Phone: 04-4758699 Fax: 04-4759374
www.indonesianembassy.org.nz

In this difficult time, we are greatly encouraged as we are not alone. Soon after the tragedy, leaders from across the globe offered their assistance to help us uproot this terrorist group. And New Zealand was one of the first countries to do so. On behalf of the Government and people of Indonesia, I wish to extend our highest appreciation for the sympathy and unwavering support offered by the New Zealand Government and people. I can assure you that our security forces are working hard to investigate, find, and bring to justice the perpetrators of these tragic attacks.

Just a few days after the bombings, a group of New Zealand's scientists from Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) visited Indonesia to participate in a workshop on Effective Implementation of Disaster Risk Management Planning at Local Government Level sponsored by Gadjah Mada University and NZAid. Furthermore, requests for Indonesian visas were largely unchanged compared to previous figures. These facts show that New Zealanders are still confident about traveling to Indonesia in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks. I therefore would like to extend our sincere gratitude to those who remain convinced that Indonesia is indeed a safe place to visit. In our proverb, true friends are those who remain by our side during good times and bad. And New Zealand is indeed our true friend.

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let's turn to more pleasant matters.

I am proud to inform you that Indonesia has just successfully concluded the celebration of democracy to elect members of Parliament and the President and Vice-President for the next five years. The elections have once again demonstrated to the world that our democracy has come of age.

Mr. Michael Green, Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs, who represented New Zealand in the Election Visitor Program, observed that the election was carried out in a free and fair manner. In this regard, I should acknowledge with gratitude that New Zealand has played a role in supporting our journey to democracy. In addition, we are also grateful for New Zealand's support to the Institute for Peace and Democracy established under the sponsorship of the Bali Democracy Forum, which New Zealand was also involved in establishing.



KEDUTAAN BESAR REPUBLIK INDONESIA

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
PO Box 3543
Wellington - New Zealand
Phone: 04-4758699 Fax: 04-4759374
www.indonesianembassy.org.nz

Last year we celebrated the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and New Zealand. Thanks to our leaders, we are now enjoying a healthy and trustful bond of friendship at all levels. President Yudhoyono was the first foreign leader whom Prime Minister John Key met during the APEC summit in Lima last November. Ministers of the two countries are in frequent and intensive communication to discuss issues of mutual interest and to move our relations to a higher level. In the first half of this year alone, we hosted the visits of Hon. Jonathan Coleman, Hon. Tim Groser, and Hon. Murray McCully, as well as a number of visits by other officials. Hon Georgina te Heu Heu also visited Bali in November last year to lead New Zealand's delegation to the first meeting of the Bali Democracy Forum. These intensive contacts among ministers and other officials have given us the ability to solve various problems in an amicable manner, no matter how difficult they were, thanks to the mutual understanding between us which was already firmly established.

The visit of Foreign Minister Hon. Murray McCully to Indonesia last June was particularly important and Foreign Minister Wirayuda was extremely satisfied with the result of the visit. The two foreign ministers not only exchanged views on a wide range of bilateral, regional, and international issues of common concern, but also identified areas of future cooperation.

Following the invitation of Minister McCully extended during their meeting on the sidelines of the 42nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Phuket, Thailand recently, Minister Wirayuda visited New Zealand to lead the Indonesian delegation to the 2nd Joint Ministerial Commission on 10 August 2009.

The final document signed by the two foreign ministers, the Agreed Minutes, and the discussion between the two delegations, have provided comprehensive guidance to further deepen and widen the existing cooperative relations between our two countries. In addition, Minister Wirayuda also had discussions with Prime Minister John Key on the flight from Cairns after attending the Pacific Islands Forum. Meanwhile, on the sidelines of the JMC, Minister Wirayuda also had bilateral meetings with Minister Tim Groser and Minister John Carter to explore new areas of cooperation.

In the area of trade, I am tremendously satisfied to witness that the flow of goods and services has continued to increase regardless of the world's economic crisis. In May 2009, our bilateral trade broke a new record of NZ\$ 2 billion. From June 2008 to May 2009, New Zealand's exports to Indonesia reached NZ\$ 1.06 billion, an increase of 18.5% compared to the same period the previous year. In the same period Indonesia's



KEDUTAAN BESAR REPUBLIK INDONESIA

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
PO Box 3543
Wellington - New Zealand
Phone: 04-4758699 Fax: 04-4759374
www.indonesianembassy.org.nz

exports to New Zealand jumped to NZ\$ 1.17 billion, an increase of 51.3% compared to the preceding period.

With the conclusion of the ASEAN-Australia/New Zealand Free Trade Agreement last year, we are expecting that trade will further flourish in the years ahead. Our challenge now is how to maximize the benefits of this FTA for the prosperity of our peoples.

Education is an area of cooperation which has not yet been explored to its full potential. Since my arrival, we have tried to encourage more Indonesian students to study here not only because the schools and universities are competitive, but also because of the fact that New Zealand is an ideal place for learning. I firmly believe that through education cooperation, such as exchange of teachers and students, both peoples can broaden their understanding of each other. In fact, only a handful of Indonesians students are in New Zealand in comparison to around twenty five thousand in Australia. So while I encourage New Zealanders to keep traveling to Indonesia, we will continue to promote your education. Having a parent whose passion was teaching, and being a lecturer myself, helps me to understand the importance of education.

On regional issues, I am encouraged by the growing cooperation between the two countries. New Zealand and Indonesia and other ASEAN member countries have been working together in shaping regional architecture. We share the vision that evolving integration in Asia be carried out in such a way that peace, stability and prosperity in the region can be ensured. In this context, Indonesia appreciates New Zealand's constructive contribution and engagement in our common endeavour to make East Asia a peaceful and prosperous region.

Honorable Ministers
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Time really does fly. I am saddened to inform you that my term as Ambassador to this beautiful country and its wonderful people is close to an end. I am also saddened to realize that I could have done more. Even if I have managed to make a positive contribution to the promotion of our relations, the credit should go to my friends in the Government, members of Parliament, ambassadors, high commissioners and members of the diplomatic corps, business community, academicians and many others whom I cannot mention one by one.



KEDUTAAN BESAR REPUBLIK INDONESIA

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia
PO Box 3543
Wellington - New Zealand
Phone: 04-4758699 Fax: 04-4759374
www.indonesianembassy.org.nz

I am also very fortunate to be surrounded by friends and colleagues and my own staff at the Indonesian Embassy who have been so helpful. I am fully aware that I would have not accomplished anything meaningful without their guidance and support. In this particular moment, I, therefore, would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all of you. I am fully confident that the same privilege that I have been enjoying for the past two and a half years will be granted to my successor. I trust our friendship will continue even when I am no longer a member of the diplomatic corps. If any of you happen to visit Indonesia, I will be outraged if you don't contact me. I and my wife Afi will be more than happy to accompany you to ensure that your stay in my country is a memorable one.

Finally, I would like to invite all of you to join me in raising your glasses to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, the Queen of New Zealand.

To the Queen

Thank you.