

## ABSTRACT

The concept of Human Rights is not new to the Indonesian people who had to wage a protracted struggle in the course of hundreds of years of colonial rule in order to exercise their right of self-determination, one of the most fundamental of human rights. Indonesia's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights in the entire Indonesian territory is derived from Pancasila (Five Pillars), notably from the second pillar of "A just and civilized humanity" as well as relevant articles in the 1945 Constitutions which came into being prior to the adoption of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. This commitment of the people of Indonesia to the promotion and protection of human rights has also been inspired by the values, customs, culture and traditions of the Indonesian people.

In Indonesia, a country which suffered colonial oppression for centuries, the promotion and protection of all human rights is critically important. Indonesia is at a stage of development that requires increasing focus on its people as both the principal agent and ultimate beneficiary of development. This is why Indonesia, like most developing countries, attaches great importance to the right to pursue development in an environment of peace and national stability. The Vienna Conference on Human Rights supported this concept and reaffirmed the view that the right to development is a universal and inalienable right. This means that poverty, hunger and other denials of economic, social and cultural rights render impossible the full enjoyment of all human rights.

Indonesia welcomes international cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights all over the world and in every country, including itself. Such international cooperation, however, should be based on the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations as stipulated in its articles 1 (3), 55, and 56. International cooperation in the field of human rights should also be based on principles of mutual respect, equality and coexistence among nations and prevailing international laws.

The commitment of the Indonesian Government to promote and protect human rights has been demonstrated by, among other, the establishment of the National Commission on Human Rights in 1993 for the purpose of helping develop a national atmosphere conducive to the exercise of human rights. The strengthening human rights protection is also expected to help realize the full potential of the Indonesian individual and Indonesian society. The National Commission on Human Rights was established as a matter of commitment to the decisions and agreements reached during the Second World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993, which adopted by consensus the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

In the line with the recommendation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 1993 and the outcome of the Second National Workshop on Human Rights held by the Government of Indonesia, National Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations on 24-26 October 1994, Indonesia has formulated a National Plan of Action on Human Rights 1998-2003, which consist of concrete steps what will be conducted at national level in the next five years. Systematic and comprehensive implementation of the Indonesian National Plan of Action on Human Rights, which are based on the provisions of the Seventh Five-Year Development Plan of the People's Consultative Assembly no.11/MPR/1998 on State General Guidelines, is expected to help promote a culture of respect for human rights. Such a culture will help foster social justice, prosperity and the welfare of the Indonesian people in conformity worth the principles of justice, truth and law embodied in the Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution.

Despite Indonesia's great progress, there have been expressions of concern by some on alleged violations of human rights in Indonesia. While many of these charges have no basis in fact or have been grossly exaggerated by Indonesia's detractors, there have been incidents that have set back the Government's efforts to protect and uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms.

When such incidents have occurred, swift action has been taken to correct them and to bring to justice those responsible, be they civilians or military personnel. In addition, Indonesia's internationally recognized National Commission on Human Rights diligently investigates reports of alleged violations which are, unfortunately, bound to occur in a vast land of 200 million people to address the root and cause of die violations and to protect and promote, in a balanced and equitable way, the human rights of all people. Efforts by Indonesia's National Commission on Human Rights have been praised by human rights groups around the world, as has this group's independence. Although the list of the Commission's human rights activities is long, several of them have represented considerable achievement including the following:

- At the Commission's recommendations, the Indonesian Government has agreed to ratify the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- The Commission regularly investigates incidents involving human rights abuses throughout Indonesia and makes reports on these events, which include recommendations for action to the Government.
- Taking into account Commission recommendations, Indonesia's Armed Forces have designed a manual containing practical measures and procedures for security personnel on how to handle disturbances and other incidences of violence in full conformity with the universally-recognized human rights norms.
- The Armed Forces headquarters has organized a series of lectures by the National Commission for high-ranking military officers. Information from these lectures has been transformed into technical guidelines in the field of

human rights that are being distributed to all military units throughout the country.

- The National Commission has participated in the Armed Forces Staff College, where it has given substantive recommendations now being included in the Armed Forces training curriculum.
- The Commission encourages Indonesian Colleges and Universities to create centers and libraries for human rights studies and has provided financial assistance to the University of Diponegoro in Semarang for this purpose.
- Finally, the Commission works with a number of internationally-noted human rights organizations, including the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of the University of Lund, in organizing seminars and providing various human rights publications for national distribution.

In addition, Indonesia has finalized and is implementing a National Action Plan on Human Rights. Designed to guide the Government in promoting and protecting human rights throughout the country, the Action Plan focuses on three sets of activities: the ratification of international human rights instruments, the dissemination of information and social education on human rights issues, and the implementation of ratified international conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. All of them is authorities The National Commission on Human Rights including the institutions have functions.