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GOVERNOR OF BALI

GOVERNOR OF BALI'S WELCOME SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF THE 4TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE MINAMATA CONVENTION ON MERCURY IN BALI NUSA DUA CONVENTION CENTER (BNDCC)

Monday (*Soma Umanis, Watugunung*), March 21,
2022

***Om Swastiastu,
Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,
May Peace be Upon Us, Salom, Namo Budaya,
Greetings of Virtue,***

- The honorable Executive Director of the United Nations, Ms. Inger La Cour Andersen,
- The honorable Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention, Ms. Monika Stankiewicz;
- The honorable Minister of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia, Ms. Siti Nurbaya, and
- The honorable delegates of the Parties to the Minamata Convention.

First, let us extend our highest gratitude to the Almighty God that because of His blessings, today, on Monday, March 21, 2022, we all are in good health and can gather here to participate in The 4th Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Bali.

On behalf of the Government and the Balinese people, I would like to thank you for choosing Bali as the host for the 2022 Minamata Convention. I hereby extend our warmest welcome to Bali, our beloved island of the gods, with its beautiful nature, hospitable people, as well as rich, unique, and excellent culture.

Bali comprises an area of 5,636.66 km², with a population of 4.32 million people, spread over 8 regencies and 1 city, 57 sub-districts, 636 villages, 80 urban villages, and 1,493 traditional villages. The development of Bali is carried out with a vision called: ***Nangun Sat Kerthi Loka Bali*** through a Universal Development Plan towards the New Era of Bali.

This vision means protecting the sanctity and harmony of Bali's nature and its components to create a prosperous and happy life for the Balinese people physically and spiritually. This is in accordance with President Soekarno's Trisakti Principles, namely Sovereign in Politics, Independent in Economy, and Distinct in Cultural Characters, within the framework of the Republic of Indonesia and the values of Pancasila June 1, 1945.

This vision of Bali development aims to realize the harmony between nature, humans, and the Balinese culture based on the local wisdom of **Sad Kerthi**, which consists of: soul purification (*Atma Kerthi*), sea purification (*Segara Kerthi*), lakes and springs purification (*Danu Kerthi*), plant purification (*Wana Kerthi*), human purification (*Jana Kerthi*), and world purification (*Jagat Kerthi*).

As an realization of this vision, Bali has implemented several policies and programs that are in harmony with nature, which are: Limiting the generation of single-use plastic waste as regulated by the Governor Regulations Number 97 of 2018; Source-based waste management policy as regulated in the Governor Regulation Number 47 of 2019; Protection of lakes, springs, rivers, and seas as regulated in the Governor Regulation Number 24 of 2020; Conservation of Bali's endemic plants for ceremonial and religious gardens, herbal medicines and reforestation as regulated in the Governor Regulation Number 29 of 2020; Organic farming system as in Bali Provincial Regulation Number 8 of 2019; Bali's clean energy policy as in Governor Regulation Number 45 of 2019; Policy on the implementation of battery-based electric vehicles as in Governor Regulation Number 48 of 2019; Developing Bali's traditional health industry and herbal medicine as in Governor Regulation Number 55 of 2019; and Implementation of solar roof electric generator as in the Circular Letter of the Governor of Bali Number 05 of 2022.

Bali's development policy that is in harmony with nature is very much in line with the international efforts to maintain a clean and low carbon natural environment. Therefore it is very appropriate to be on the agenda of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Bali.

As we all know, mercury emissions and releases are hazardous for human health and the environment.

Therefore, I strongly support the international efforts in reducing and eliminating mercury to save the planet from the danger of mercury emissions, which is an agenda of this convention.

The opportunity to host this year's Minamata Convention in Bali, which is attended by 135 parties and more than 1,000 people, is a joy for the Government of Bali and the Balinese people as part of the efforts to recover Bali tourism which has slumped for more than 2 years, since the start of COVID-19 pandemic in Bali, on March 10, 2020.

On this forum, allow me to convey that Bali has been recognized as one of the best provinces in Indonesia in COVID-19 management. Since the past few months, the COVID-19 situation has improved and achieved a great result, marked by a significant and consistent drop in total cases. As of March 20, 2022, the number of new cases was only 56 people; 130 people recovered, 1 person died, and the cumulative number of active cases was 1,031 people, with 126 people being treated at the hospital and the rest 905 people doing self-quarantine.

Bali also has a high vaccination rate, with the first vaccination achieving 105%, the second vaccination achieving 95%, and the booster vaccination achieving 42% of the citizens. The Balinese people are also very disciplined in implementing health and safety protocols, including hotels and tourism destinations.

With this successful achievement in managing the COVID-19 pandemic in Bali, the participants of the Minamata Convention today can enjoy a safe, comfortable, and worry-free meeting situation,

especially by following the health and safety protocols in place.

Hopefully, Minamata Convention will run smoothly and successfully, and can produce decisions that are beneficial to shape the world for the better in the new era, especially by reducing mercury, so nature and its components will be healthier and of better quality for the benefit and welfare of the global citizens.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

That is the end of my speech. Please enjoy the convention, and I hope you will have the opportunity to witness and experience the beauty of Bali's nature, people, and culture.

Thank you.

Om Shanti, Shanti, Shanti, Om.

GOVERNOR OF BALI,

WAYAN KOSTER