

UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments

COMMUNICATION

by

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on

“The participation of citizens in the work of parliament”

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***Mr Speakers
Members of ASGP,***

- It is imperative that parliament, as a representative of the people, provides the widest possible room for public participation in the process of making policies formulated by the parliament, especially the establishment of laws and regulations. That means public participation is a must in the legislative process, and must be guaranteed by law.
- For the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR RI), public participation is crucial in the legislative process, because:
 1. it must be based on the needs and interests of the people
 2. at the end, it will produce laws most of which target and have impacts on the people.
 3. it will have a sense of support and ownership from the people on the bills being drafted.
 4. drafters of a bill, be they from the House or the Government, have the obligation to disseminate stages of the legislation starting from drafting process, deliberation, to promulgation.
- Insight to increase public participation. The Indonesian House has Open Parliament Indonesia (OPI) to increase public participation. Open Parliament is a platform that promotes co-creation and collaboration between the parliament and non-parliamentary stakeholders, such as Civil Society Organizations, International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Academics, and Media.
- Within the framework of Open Parliament, parliament is encouraged to formulate various policies and programs that are increasingly concerned with the needs of the people. One of them is by further opening access to public participation in the legislative process.
- Members of Parliaments also facilitate public participation through the establishment of House of Aspiration. House of Aspiration has important roles as:
 1. a means for the public to express their aspirations to be responded by the MPs.
 2. a means for MPs to be accountable for their performance to the public and the public can assess their performance.

3. a means for the public to continuously monitor and follow the roles and responsibilities of the MPs as the representative of the people.
- The House also facilitate public participation through the mechanism of Public Hearing. The public can also provide input in writing or in person in the Public Hearing with relevant Commission in the House. Public audiences, meetings with community organizations, associations, and other community groups regarding one topic or issue, is another way of engaging public in the parliament. The initiative to hold the public audiences does not come from the House but rather at the request of the relevant community organizations, associations and other community groups. The request for public audience is submitted through a formal letter.
 - Public can also participate directly through communication channels, especially through social media, a media that allows the public to interact with the Members of Parliament directly. The public can submit their questions and opinions and generate in-depth discussions and dialogues on legislative issues that have a lot of impact on people's lives through the increasingly more sophisticated and communicative social media platforms. Through social media platforms, Members of Parliament can also give faster and more practical responses to the aspirations and inputs voiced by the public and thus building good communication and relations with the public.
 - **Thank you**