



Jakarta, 21 June 2005

Dear friends and members of Aliansi Pelangi Antar Bangsa,

Today the DPR voted to add the draft of a new citizenship law to the list of 55 bills prioritized for discussion this year. Until a few weeks ago, citizenship was just one of 229 bills scheduled to be discussed between 2006 and 2005. However, after the presentation by **Aliansi Pelangi Antar Bangsa** to Baleg (the House's legislation committee) on May 11, Baleg members proposed that the discussion of the citizenship law should be brought forward to this year. This proposal was approved in today's plenary session of the DPR.

We only learned of the imminent plenary session late on Thursday. There followed an emergency APAB meeting on Friday and a meeting with JKP3* on Saturday to decide how to lobby the DPR factions to ensure that the draft would be adopted as a Bill. Later that afternoon, three of our members - Nuning Hallet, Marcellina Mustric and Ries Woodhouse - went to on to a meeting in Tanah Abang to harmonize strategies with GANDI, another group fighting for changes in the citizenship law.

On Monday, APAB and several friends from JKP3 spent the entire day at the DPR, going from floor to floor to persuade the faction leaders to agree to put the citizenship bill on the table. Today, we stood in front of the plenary hall handing out brochures and information sheets to more than 300 DPR members as they entered the plenary session, then monitored the progress of the meeting from the balcony.

The fact that the citizenship bill will be discussed this year, rather than in two, three or four year's time, and that senior members of the House like AS Hikam and Nursyahbani Katjasungkana (see the attached Jakarta Post article, June 20) are now talking positively about dual nationality, is a direct result of the efforts of APAB.

The draft law still needs a lot of work. On a positive note, almost all the factions have asked us to assist them in their deliberation of the bill and provide input. What we learned over the last two days is that most house members—like the rest of the public—are completely unaware of the problems we face in mixed marriages. It's up to us to inform them and propose solutions.

For this, we need your help! We need people who can help out with a sustained lobbying effort over the coming weeks and months. We also need people who can help out with fundraising: for our meeting with Baleg last month we spent more than Rp 2 million for the printing of 2,000 APAB brochures and photocopies of handouts and the same again for this week's activities. If you can help out, please contact me (Sally 0811 82 3593) or Dewi Tjakrawinata (0816 817 549). If you can't give your time, please consider making a donation to APAB: Account # 000 458 2289, BNI Cabang Fatmawati; account name: Karin Stiess.

Thank you,
Sally Wellesley
Co-secretary, Aliansi Pelangi Antar Bangsa