

# Participatory Recess

## Parliamentarians in conversation with their constituents

MAMPU Project Brief

### WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY RECESS?

MAMPU supports BaKTI's work in reducing violence against women (VAW) by improving parliamentary engagement. BaKTI achieves this by forming constituent groups of women from the grassroots and bringing them together in public consultation with their local parliamentarian leaders through *Reses Partisipatif*, or Participatory Recess.

Participatory Recess is an initiative that brings together parliamentarians and their constituent groups to discuss issues affecting women at the grassroots level. Developed with MAMPU support, it takes place at the district and provincial level when parliamentarians are on recess from their duties 2 to 3 times a year. As a participatory and consultative process, it aims to involve all levels of the community in public consultation to ensure that elected representatives address the concerns of their constituents, in particular poor and vulnerable groups including women.



### HOW IS PARTICIPATORY RECESS DIFFERENT FROM CONVENTIONAL RECESS?



Standard or conventional recess ('Reses Konvensional'), involves parliamentarians from the People's Representative Assembly (DPRD) meeting with invited constituents. Speeches by parliamentarians are followed by short a Q&A session. Invitees are usually government officials, community leaders, parliamentary staff, and predominantly male. Conventional consultations are usually limited to the sub-district level. Participatory Recess in contrast, aims to improve Indonesia's development process by:

- Raising the voice and influence of poor women in development
- Active participation of constituents at the village level. Through Focus Group Discussions (FGD), participants can raise issues in their area, either directly or in writing
- Increased Accountability. All Participatory Recess FGD are summarised into a single document that can be used by parliamentarians, government and constituents in drafting development plans and budgets for their region. The media are also invited to participate and report in local media
- Diverse views from the community, in particular women and vulnerable groups. This ensures that parliamentarians directly hear their constituents concerns, and not just those of elites and supporters. This participatory method leads to more diverse development proposals on women's empowerment, child protection, early childhood education, and support for people with disabilities, protection for victims of violence, and so on

### HOW DO PARLIAMENTARIANS BENEFIT FROM PARTICIPATORY RECESS?



- Increased understanding of constituents lived experiences in their local context
- Clearer understanding of their tasks and functions in solving problems in their constituencies
- Increased community trust to represent their concerns
- Increased involvement of relevant government agencies and organisations encourages coordination and trust among institutions



## HOW DOES PARTICIPATORY RECESS EMPOWER WOMEN?



- Increases the individual and collective voice and influence of women in their local communities
- Local Development Planning forum (Musrenbang) and Musrenbang Perempuan incorporate proposals from the women's groups
- Public funds are directed towards essential public services in accordance with community needs and the needs of women

## HOW DOES MAMPU SUPPORT BAKTI?



MAMPU supports BAKTI's work in **85 villages, 7 districts** across **5 Provinces** in Indonesia, to engage with parliamentarians and women groups (constituents).

**BaKTI's support to female parliamentarians** includes capacity building activities on participatory methods, legal drafting, and gender responsive legislative process, gender budgeting, APBD (local government budget) and PPRG (gender responsive planning and budgeting) budget analysis, and public speaking—all essential skills that help parliamentary members to effectively deliver their work.

**BaKTI's support to womens groups (constituents)** includes training on community organising, advocacy, human rights and women's rights. This work empowers women, giving them the confidence to raise their voice and influence in local development planning.



“I received capacity building through the constituent group until I'm ready to run for head of the community unit. We support each other to run for women's representation.

**YUSTISIANA YAHYA**

Constituent Group Paralegal in Lompoe, Parepare, South Sulawesi

## ABOUT MAMPU

MAMPU - The Australia - Indonesia Partnership for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment is a joint initiative between the Government of Australia and the Government of Indonesia. MAMPU supports the Government of Indonesia in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by building women's leadership and empowerment to improve their access to essential government services and programs. MAMPU works with 13 organisations and their networks of over 100 local partners in over 1,100 villages across 27 of Indonesia's 34 provinces. Through MAMPU, our Partners support 35,000 women organised in 1,600 villages groups to develop their collective capacity to influence decision making at multiple levels, from the village to national parliament.

## INFORMATION:

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