

SPEECH BY MR. AGUM GUMELAR
(Member of Presidential Advisory Board, of the Republic of Indonesia)
AT THE RECEPTION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY, Bratislava, 20th September 2018

Your Excellency, Ambassadors and Distinguished, Guests Ladies and gentlemen

It is my honor and pleasure to be present in this event in celebrating the 73rd anniversary of Indonesian Independence Day and the commemoration of the 25th of Indo-Slovak Diplomatic Relations. I also would like to convey my warmest and sincere congratulations to the government and people of Slovakia who had just celebrated the 25th anniversary as an independent country.

As the relations has developed, in 1995 both countries established their embassies at the capital city, Jakarta and Bratislava. Since then the relations have flourished in different sectors and it has been marked by the exchange visit of government officials, parliamentary members, businessmen, researchers and students. All of them have played a significant role in developing and strengthening the relations between Indonesia and Slovakia.

But long before, the official diplomatic relations between Czechoslovakia and Indonesia was commenced in 1950 while the historic relations established earlier when the Czechoslovak government opened honorary consulates in Batavia (now Jakarta) and the Dutch East Indies (at that time) back in 1924. During the golden period until mid-1960's, the brand name of Java motors as well as the Bata (shoes) were well-known for their good quality and durability. Nowadays, although the Bata shoes factory has been relocated to China, its products still familiar for the people of Indonesia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to introduce myself to you that I, Ret General Agum Gumelar and currently I serve as one of the members of Presidential Advisory Board, of the Republic of Indonesia. The Presidential Advisory Council (usually abbreviated as Wantimpres) is an Indonesian non-structural government institution in charge of providing advice and consideration to the president.

Since independence in 1945, the Republic of Indonesia has espoused a "free and active" foreign policy, seeking to play a role in regional affairs commensurate with its size and location but avoiding involvement in conflicts among major powers. It also realizes that cooperation with other countries is essential if these

ideals are to become a reality and has made the United Nations the focal point of its over-all policy of seeking good relations with all other nations.

Under the current President Joko Widodo, the Indonesia's foreign policy diplomacy has been adjusted in the light of new challenges and must be implemented in such a way that it reflects the reality that Indonesia is a great country (the only G20 member country from the Southeast Asia region).

Another important step, is the inclusion of a maritime perspective as a core interest of his foreign policy and highlighted particular importance to both bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, including in the area of peace and stability.

I came to Bratislava, accompanied with a cultural group called Citra that would demonstrate the Indonesian cultural performance (dances, singings and Batik fashion show) to all of you. I do hope that you would enjoyed it.

Last but not least, on behalf of the government of Indonesia, let's have a toast for the prosperity of the people of both countries, Indonesia and Slovakia.

Thank you.