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<th>AMIC TAF Workshop on Legislative Reporting for Broadcast Journalists : Kuala Lumpur, Sep 11-14, 1990 : [Indonesian house of representative]</th>
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INDONESIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The present House is the result of the 1987 General Election. Based on the 1945 constitution, the position of the House is strong, for it cannot be dissolved by the President. On the other hand the House can call the People's Consultative Assembly to ask for the President's accounts.

The House is a unicameral and not a bicameral system. All bills, having been approved by the House, are directly submitted to the President for their enactment into law.

Membership of the House

The House of Representatives elected through the 1987 General Election has 500 members consisting of:

1. The United Development Party 61 members.
2. The Indonesia Democratic Party 40 members.
3. The Functional Group 299 members.

Out of the 500 members of the House, 400 were elected through the General Election with the ratio of 400,000 people to one representative in the House, and remaining 100 being appointed (Armed Forces).

Based on legal regulations in force, the Armed Forces is not permitted to elect and be elected in the General Election, so the presence of members of the Armed Forces as a social-political force in the legislative party is carried out by appointment.

Powers and Duties of the House:

1. To make laws in cooperation with the President.
2. To determine the State Budget in cooperation with the President.
3. To supervise the implementation of laws, State Budget and the management of the State Finance and the Government Policy.
Rights of the House and Rights of its Members

1. the right of interpellation.
2. the right of inquiry.
3. the right of amendment.
4. the right of statement of views.
5. the right of proposing or recommending persons as provided by law.
6. the right of submitting an Initiative Bill.

Decision Making

The Decision Making is the process of final settlement of a case discussed in the House meetings and basically is done by deliberations to achieve a consensus.

But if it is no longer possible, as final attempt, decisions may be taken by voting.

Either the decision are taken by voting or consensus, a House meeting requires a certain quorum, in the sense those meetings are attended by more than a half of the members and consists of elements of all factions.

Law Making

A bill may originate from the government or may take the form of an Initiative Proposal from the House. It is discussed in the House in four stages, unless the steering committee decides otherwise.

When the Bill has been agreed upon by the House, it is submitted to the President for its enactment into law.

If the Bill comes from the Government, it is submitted to the leadership of the House with a message of the President including nominations of a Minister who will represent the Government in Discussion the Bill.
Its discussion in the House is done in four stages (readings), namely:

1. First Reading, carried out in a Plannery Meeting where the Government give explanation concerning the Bill.

2. Second Reading, in which a general debate is held.

3. Third Reading, where the discussion is done in the Committee Meeting, joint Committee Meeting or Ad Hoc Committee Meeting together with the government.

4. Fourth Reading, carried out in a Plannery Meeting and when it has taken a decision, the Government is given the opportunity to make its remarks.

But if the Bill originated from the initiative proposal, it must be signed by at least 20 members from not only one faction, for its submission to the leadership of the House.

The steps are the same with the steps before, and when a bill has passed through its parliamentary stages, is sent to the Head of State for enactment by putting this signature on it.

The Minister State Secretary will by authority of the President publish the ACT in the State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia.

September 1990
- Gatot B.U.
- Kelly S
- Faridla P.A.