

Special Day for Australia as nation says sorry to right the wrongs of the past. THE SPIRIT is not only for the Indigenous Australians but other non-Indigenous Australians to promote justice and equality among all fellow citizens.

We would like to share this moment with the world with the special speech from the new Prime Minister of Australia, The Honorable Kevin Rudd MP in Parliament.

We are pleased to add the Press Release of Dr Anthony Pun from Sydney, Australia

Dr Ka Sing CHUA

President

World Huaren Federation

www.huaren.org / www.chineseworldnet.org

PRESS RELEASE

from Dr Anthony Pun OAM, National President Chinese Community of Australia

With just 361 words, the Prime Minister Mr Kevin Rudd said sorry to the Stolen Generations. These opening words, spoken in the Federal Parliament this morning, signify the beginning of a healing process in our nation. We congratulate Mr Kevin Rudd for his leadership in uniting the nation by taking this reconciliatory and historical step forward. We also congratulate the Governor-General and the leader of the Opposition Dr Brendan Nelson for supporting the apology.

Australians can now lift their head up nationally and internationally and be proud that our nation has the courage and conviction to acknowledge the ill treatment of the Stolen Generations, their descendants and families.

We are also heartened that the apology extends to all Indigenous people and we are particularly moved by the Prime Minister's statement, "We apologise for the laws and policies of successive parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians".

We resonate with the PM's statement that Australia should harness the determination of all Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous to close the gap in life expectancy, educational achievements and economic opportunity".

The last paragraph in the PM's statement is indeed profound and as such, can be incorporated into the live definition of Multiculturalism, where the future of our nation is soundly based on good mutual relationships. What makes us proud as Australians is the inclusiveness of the statement "A future where all Australians, whatever their origins, are truly equal partners, with equal opportunities and with an equal stake in shaping the next chapter in the history of this great country, Australia."

Dr Anthony Pun OAM

National President

Chinese Community of Australia

STOP-PRESS

from Dr Ka Sing Chua President www.huaren.org/ www.chineseworldnet.org

Subject:

"No more discrimination against Chinese-Indonesians": President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

In 1998 when Chinese Indonesians cried out for help, many Chinese outside Indonesia responded and they established a global website namely www.huaren.org to assist them. They fought hard to lobby international media, Governments around the world to stop some irresponsible members of Indonesian military, police and gangster from slaughtering, murdering and raped Chinese Indonesians due to bad Indonesian Government policies.

Last Sunday 17 February 2008, we are very pleased that Indonesian President Yudhoyono has the courage to declare "no more discrimination against Chinese Indonesians". We salute him and his predecessors for doing so.

We hope other countries' leaders such as Malaysian Government which has a discriminatory policy against Chinese and other ethnic minorities, can learn from him and do the same and declare that all her citizens regarding their religions and ethnic backgrounds will be treated equally without discrimination.

This is the day when Huaren.org can hold its head high for promoting human rights and justice for Chinese Indonesians since its inception in 1998.

We need local Chinese Indonesians to continue to work closely with their governments to ensure what the President stated today will be carried out throughout Indonesia and we wish him and his Government and our Chinese brothers and sisters all the best for Chinese New Year and a bright future.

Dr Ka Sing Chua

No more discrimination against Chinese-Indonesians: President

Desy Nurhayati, *The Jakarta Post, Jakarta*

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono reiterated on Sunday his call for all government offices and state officials to provide Chinese-Indonesians the same level of service afforded all citizens.

In a speech marking the national commemoration of the Chinese New Year here, Yudhoyono said Chinese-Indonesians, as citizens, were entitled to the same government service as all Indonesians.

"In this nation, with its variety of cultures, ethnic groups and religions, we are all one," the President said. "Therefore, I remind the entire state administration not to discriminate against Chinese-Indonesians in public services. Treat them just like any other citizens."

The celebration, organized by the 52-year-old Supreme Council for Confucianism in Indonesia, was also attended by Religious Affairs Minister Muhammad Maftuh Basyuni, Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Widodo AS, Education Minister Bambang Sudibyo, House of Representatives Speaker Agung Laksono, Constitutional Court Chairman Jimly Asshiddiqie and Jakarta Governor Fauzi Bowo.

Organizing committee chairman Peter Lesmana said the Confucian community thanked the government for allowing the public celebration of the Chinese New Year, which had been banned for decades under Soeharto's New Order regime.

This is the ninth year since the collapse of Soeharto's regime that Chinese New Year has been celebrated as a national event.

Chinese-Indonesians faced discrimination during the New Order, with the government requiring ethnic Chinese to obtain an official letter declaring their Indonesian citizenship. Yudhoyono also thanked the Confucian community for their assistance for the poor and victims of natural and man-made disasters.

"Let's use this moment to improve the nation's unity. Don't create space between us. We should work together to build this nation toward prosperity and improvement," he said.

"Our country is in a transformation process, in which people are the main element. So, we should not let any policy or action of discrimination occur, as it violates human rights and will lead to disintegration."

Yudhoyono said the country was able to eliminate discrimination against ethnic Chinese following the issuance of the 2006 law on nationality, which stipulates all ethnic groups deserve equal treatment.

"We did have an unpleasant history, when there were conflicts among ethnic groups and discrimination against certain groups. But it's over now," the President said.