



Media Release

BOB McMULLAN MP

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FRASER

5 May 2009

Australian Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance to visit Lombok, Indonesia

Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, Bob McMullan, will visit Lombok, Indonesia from 5-6 May, 2009.

During his visit, Mr McMullan will inaugurate a junior secondary school in Gerung Selatan Village in West Lombok that was constructed under the Australia Indonesia Basic Education Program.

“Through this program, Australia has enjoyed over three years of close collaboration with the Indonesian Government and communities to improve educational opportunities for children all across Indonesia,” Mr McMullan said.

Australia is providing \$387 million (IDR 3.2 trillion) to the construction of more than 2,000 schools and to support better education quality and governance. This assistance will create at least 330,000 new junior secondary school places for children from poor and remote areas of Indonesia.

Mr McMullan will also announce the second phase of the Australian Community Development and Civil Society Strengthening Scheme and visit a village supported by the scheme. This \$26.5 million program aims to help communities play a larger role in local affairs, demand better governance and services and advocate on community issues.

The second phase will expand to another eight districts in East Nusa Tenggara, West Nusa Tenggara, including Dompu and Bima, and South and Southeast Sulawesi.

“This program is important because it enhances democratic processes at the local level and strengthens engagement between civil society and government,” Mr McMullan said. “It is vital that citizens are able to make their needs heard by government, to hold government accountable and to participate in making decisions about their lives.”

Mr McMullan will also launch a program which works very closely with the provincial governments and responding to their priorities and needs to help reduce poverty in West Nusa Tenggara.

Through the development assistance program, Australia and Indonesia work in partnership to alleviate poverty and promote regional peace, stability and prosperity.

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