

**WELCOME Guests – Mayor Leendert de Lange on 23 September 2020,  
Raadhuis De Paauw**

Thank you Mrs. Monica Bouman. First of all I would like to welcome :

- The Chargé d 'Affaires of the Indonesian Embassy, Mr. Fikry Cassidy
- The former minister of Defence, Mr. Wim van Eekelen
- Former minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ben Bot, born in Batavia, Indonesia and his partner Sybila Dekker (that makes three former ministers)
- Mr. Jesse Kuijper, founder of the Bourneo Initiative, for the promotion of sustainable forest management in Indonesia
- Mr. Din Wahid, Director of Sekola Indonesia in Wassenaar and Bob van den Steenhoven director of the Herenwegschool
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I am very sorry Mrs. Joty ter Kulve, the initiator of this planting of trees ceremony which unites Indonesia, the Netherlands and the United Nations, cannot be present, due to a nasty fall in the bathroom a few days ago.

Her son Peter will take over. Thank you Peter.

Joty insisted the others go on with her project.

We hope she will be able to join us later in the parc to reveal the plaque. She is of the very respectable age of 93 and her health is brittle.

But that did not stop her coming up with new ideas and keeping us informed of the progress. Mrs Monica Bouman was her assistant, and did a great job running this project together with Joty ter Kulve.

It is a great honour to host this special event here at Raadhuis De Paauw in Wassenaar, the former palace of Prins Frederik.

2020 is a very special year. In the Netherlands we commemorate the end of World War II and celebrate 75 years of freedom. And we all share the responsibility of passing on that freedom to future generations. That is a small step to the United Nations.

Also in 1945 the UN were established. On October 24<sup>th</sup> their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be commemorated in the Netherlands. For Indonesia also 2020 is an important year, the year of the 75th anniversary of the Republic Indonesia.

Celebrating moments like this is important to understand our shared history and to make plans for the future. Like Joty ter Kulve we must not linger in the past, but have to look at the future with mutual respect.

Nowadays over 2 million Dutch people have an Indonesian connection: by ancestors or by history. And in this region we love the Indonesian food! Personally I look back with great pleasure on the stories of my grandfather who sailed as chief mechanical engineer on the 'MS Oranje' to Indonesia.

As I said before, we have a responsibility to pass on freedom to future generations. We also have a mutual responsibility to sustain the Earth and take care of our natural environment. Trees provide oxygen and are about long term, their life spans beyond generations. That is why in Kalimantan 500 trees are planted. I am afraid we don't have enough space to plant so many trees here in the parc.

So we plant three, one for Indonesia, one for the Netherlands and one for the United Nations, symbol of passing on freedom and peace.

By preserving the forest and planting trees we can save the planet and provide a better future for our kids.

Thank you.