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## **MAYOR DE BLASIO ANNOUNCES AID FOR INDONESIA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE**

*City to send medical supplies to world's fourth most populous nation following spike in COVID-19 cases, deaths*

**NEW YORK** - Mayor Bill de Blasio announced today that the City will donate medical supplies and personal protective equipment to Indonesia, as the world's fourth most populous nation grapples with a recent surge in COVID-19 deaths. Donated items include test kits, ventilators, swabs, resuscitation bags, surgical masks and isolation gowns.

"COVID-19 has proven to be a relentless and stubborn disease. We must work together as global citizens to defeat this pandemic once and for all," **said Mayor Bill de Blasio**. "New Yorkers know all too well the pain and loss of this disease. We can't stand by and do nothing. I am proud that we are able to help our brothers and sisters in Indonesia."

"As a global city, and once the 'epicenter of the epicenter', we feel a moral obligation to provide aid to other countries as they continue to battle this horrible virus," **said Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Melanie Hartzog**. "As New York learned months ago, the only way to combat COVID-19 is by working together – whether it's within our city, or across the globe. New York City will continue to do everything possible to help our neighbors in Indonesia and beyond."

"None of us will soon forget those painful months when New York City was the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic," **said International Affairs Commissioner Penny Abeywardena**. "We received a lot of support from our diplomatic corps during our crisis. And so, I am thrilled that we are able to partner with our international community to provide much-needed relief for the people of Indonesia."

“The COVID-19 pandemic is a global challenge that requires all of us to come together to save lives and put an end to this crisis,” said **Lisette Camilo, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services**. “Our city was fortunate to receive an outpouring of support in the earliest days of the pandemic, and we are proud to pay it forward and provide supplies to those who are most in need.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the power of global solidarity and reshaped on how humanity interacts. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Mayor de Blasio, the City of New York, and all New Yorkers for their timely and sincere support. These donations would be channeled and formed as part of our best efforts to overcome the pandemic,” said **Erick Thohir, Minister of State Owned Enterprises for the Republic of Indonesia**.

“As a New Yorker, I feel so blessed and proud that the greatest city in the world, NYC, is showing its compassion and kindness to the rest of the world, particularly by sending its assistance to my birth country, Indonesia. Once again, the greatness of NYC is neither because of its Wall Street nor because of its skyrocketing buildings. It is about its compassion and connections to the rest of the world. Thank you New York!” said **Imam Shamsi Ali, director of Jamaica Muslim Center, president of Nusantara Foundation and founder of Pesantren Nur Inka Nusantara Madani U.S.**

“COVID-19 deaths in Indonesia have passed 2,000, making it the hardest-hit country in Southeast Asia’s latest surge. America is a proud nation of immigrants, and NYC is the home to thousands of Indonesian-Americans, mandating our City’s leadership to exercise its welcome moral leadership and initiative to help Indonesia overcome this devastating, global pandemic. Thank you for your exemplary care and leadership, Mayor de Blasio,” said **Albert Baldeo, founder and president, United Communities Alliance**.

“New York Corrections Department Desi Society fraternal organization (NYCD Desi Society) would like to give ‘Kudos’ to Mayor Bill de Blasio and Health Commissioner Dave A. Chokshi for making such an important decision to send COVID-19 medical supplies to Indonesia during this extremely critical time. We at the NYCD Desi Society believe that ‘it takes a village,’” said **Ray Persaud, president, NYCD Desi Society**.

“With compassion, faith, and unity, we can overcome the worst crisis and strive for a more equitable world. I deeply applaud the efforts of the de Blasio administration for providing personal protective equipment to our dear brothers and sisters in Indonesia who are battling the merciless pandemic. Our prayers are with all of you,” said **Dr. Renee Mehrra, chair, Public Relations and Media, Association of Indians in America, N.Y.**

“We hope this generous gift of ventilators and testing kits from New York City will provide a measure of relief for Indonesia. As New Yorkers, we have experienced firsthand the suffering that the epidemic brings, and we pray that our Indonesian brothers and sisters find the resilience and strength they need in this crisis. As always, it is heartwarming and inspiring to see our city standing by nation after nation that has been hit hard by this global pandemic,” said **Jo-Ann Yoo, executive director, Asian American Federation**.

“Our hearts go out to Indonesia and the families who are fighting to stay safe and healthy as it is currently Asia’s COVID-19 epicenter. It is such a blessing to know that our nation and its leaders are able to provide much-needed essentials to those in need and we pray that the situation will be under control,” **said Hindu Ambassador of the Vishnu Mandir and Founder of The Bharati Foundation, Bharati Sukul Kemraj.**

“Americans and Indonesians have acted with common purpose in trade and democracy for decades. New Yorkers of Indonesian heritage provided meals to emergency workers in March and April of 2020. It’s very gratifying for all of us that care about Indonesia to see this wonderful outreach of New York City,” **said Wayne Forrest, American Indonesian Chamber of Commerce.**

“We New Yorkers love and care about all people in Indonesia. Our prayers are with those who are suffering amidst the COVID-19 pandemic,” **said Guru Dileepji, founder of the World Yoga Community.**