

The Indonesian Update

Monthly Review on Economic, Legal, Security, Political, and Social Affairs



Main Report:
Promises of Independence:
Maintaining Democracy and Guarding Simultaneous
Local Elections

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A Look at the Problem of Low Budget Absorption ■

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FOREWORD

Coinciding with the preparations of Indonesia's 70th independence anniversary, the Government is also in the process of preparing a democratic party; that is, simultaneous regional head elections (Pilkada) on December 9, 2015.

The preparations of the simultaneous local elections have been surprised with the emergence of single candidates. The General Election Commission (KPU) as the election organizer, did not anticipate the single candidate phenomenon. Unfortunately, Law No. 8 2015 on the Elections of Governor, Regents and Mayors (Election Act) does not provide mechanisms for single candidate elections. As a result, the KPU must extend the candidate registration period two (2) times.

The main report in the August 2015 edition of the Indonesian Update is "Promise of Independence: Guarding Democracy, Guarding Simultaneous Elections". On economic affairs, it discusses "Looking at the Problems of Low Budget Absorption". On political affairs, it discusses "Single Candidates and Recruitment Failures of Political Parties". On social affairs, it talks about "World Breastfeeding Week in Indonesia".

The regular publication of the Indonesian Update with its actual themes is expected to help policy makers in government and business environment -- as well as academics, think tanks, and other elements of civil society, both within and outside the country, to get the actual information and contextual analysis of economic, legal, political, cultural and social developments in Indonesia, as well as to understand the public policy in Indonesia.

Happy Reading.

Promises of Independence: Maintaining Democracy and Guarding Simultaneous Local Elections

“The momentum of freedom is to pay the promises of independence.”
(Anis Baswedan).

Referring to Anis Baswedan’s opinion above, independence means to be free, rise up and stand up on our own feet. The essence of independence is the monumental gate that leads Indonesians to independent Indonesian State, which shall be free, united, sovereign, just dan prosperous.

The purpose of Indonesian independence is contained in the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. The purpose is protect the whole people of Indonesia and entire homeland of Indonesia in order to advance general prosperity, to develop the nation’s intellectual life, and to contribute to the implementation of the world order based on freedom, lasting peace and social justice.

The 70th anniversary of Indonesian independence should be an important day for us and especially for the leaders of this country to conduct an evaluation and introspection. Have they been faithful to the mandate of the freedom fighters? Have the leaders of the country been seriously in implementing the mandate given by the people? Or have they committed treason against the promises of independence?

The society is anxious to watch officials and state officials have almost lost the meaning of independence. The ambition of power and money have ensnared many of them in corruption cases, causing suffering to the people. Then, where and to whom the people should put their hopes that the independent Indonesian State shall be free, united, sovereign, just and prosperous?

Maintaining Democracy and Guarding Simultaneous Regional Elections

About the question to whom the people must give the mandate to realize the independent Indonesian State that is free, united, sovereign, just and prosperous, the answer is to all of us. Realizing such an Indonesian State will be a long process and involve all elements of the nation, the people, the government and state officials..

The first step that we can do is to maintain democracy. Talking about maintaining democracy means that we are talking about maintaining the instruments of democracy. One of the instruments of democracy is general elections (elections). Through these elections, people can consciously choose potential leaders who are rational, honest and accountable, non corrupt and not involved in various forms of fraud against the people.

However, we can say that general elections as a parameter of democracy is a success if both the people and all stakeholders are committed to keeping the general elections away from any cheating practices. General elections must be guided towards clean, free and democratic elections. Thus, the elections will be able to create potential leaders who are able to realize the Indonesian State sovereignty for the people.

Coinciding with the preparations of the 70th anniversary of Indonesian independence, the government is also in the process of preparing a democratic party; that is, simultaneous elections for regional heads (Simultaneous Pilkada) on December 9, 2015. Pilkada have become arenas for contestation between political parties for running for local offices. Pilkada are tools for political recruitment; that is, selecting the best figures by the people to achieve the ideals of regional autonomy. Therefore, political parties are required to strive to bring the best candidates to the elections.

Simultaneous pilkada this time have been surprised by the emergence of single candidates. The General Election Commission (KPU) as the election organizer did not anticipate the phenomenon of single candidates. Unfortunately, Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 8 Year 2015 on the Election of Governor, Regents and Mayors (Local Elections Law) does not provide any mechanisms of election for single candidates. As a result, the KPU must extend the candidate registration period 2 (two) times.

At the end of the first phase of the registration renewal period (1-3 August 2015), there were 7 (seven) regions with only one pair of candidates. The 7 (seven) regions include Tasikmalaya district (West Java), Blitar (East Java), Kota Mataram (West Nusa Tenggara), Samarinda (East Kalimantan), Kabupaten Timor Tengah Utara (East Nusa Tenggara), Surabaya and Pacitan (East Java).

Even at the end of the second phase of the registration renewal period (7-11 August 2015) for regional head candidates, 4 (four) regions still have single candidates. The regions are Tasikmalaya, Mataram, Timor Tengah Utara, and Blitar. In these 4 (four) regions, the Commission will postpone the elections from the beginning of December 9, 2015 to 2017.

The presence of single candidates, according to some experts, is a set back in democracy. The absence of prospective opponents will lead to unhealthy democracy, meaning that democracy cannot present a competition to bring the best future leaders for the people. The opinion that has been widely developed over this phenomenon of single candidates is a portrait of the failures of political parties in performing the function of regeneration. Additionally, the maturity of political parties to face winning and losing has not yet been developed. As a result, political parties only use the great names of potential candidates in the regions but have failed to generate potential candidates through regeneration.

However in the view of the author, political parties can not be entirely blamed for the issue of single candidates. We should be aware that many factors that influence or cause single candidates. First, the political costs to participate in the elections are very expensive. While up to now there have been no law enforcement efforts to prevent and combat “political dowry” or “money politics”. Second, strong incumbents who run again, such as the Mayor of Surabaya, Tri Rismaharini. There is the absence of other candidates as an alternative to incumbents. If political parties are forced to nominate candidates, KPU is concerned that this will open the space for “puppet candidates”.

Although “puppet candidates”, “political dowry” and “money politics” are not new and have been open secrets in the agenda of the elections, until now there is no commitment to prevent and crack down on political tricks in the elections.

KPU Decisions

Responding to the issue of single candidates, KPU is currently facing 2 (two) dilemmatic choices: (1) to postpone the elections until February 2017 for regions that only have single candidates; or (2) KPU issues a regulation on the mechanisms of elections of single candidates. Two options are said to be dilemmatic if each of these options will eventually deviate from the legislation (Local Election Law).

If the Commission chooses to defer the implementation of the elections in regions with single candidates, then the Commission has violated the provisions regarding the schedule of the elections as stipulated in the Local Election Law. The Local Election Law has set the schedule of the election according to the expiration of the term of office of each regional head. For regional heads whose term expire in 2015 until June 2016, the local elections will be held in December 2015.

Meanwhile, if the KPU decides to keep continuing the implementation of local elections for regions that only have single candidatea, it will also violate the Local Election Law. Local Election Law regulates that the electiona must be contested by at least two pairs of candidates. In the perspective of the KPU we can not call it an election if there is only one single candidate), and it also violates the Local Election Law.

Through KPU Regulation Number 12 Year 2015, KPU has finally decided to postpone the implementation of the elections until February 2017 for regions with single candidates. The weakness of this option is that if the candidates of the four regions are the incumbents, the regions will be led by Acting Officials (PLT). These acting Officials of the regions are not able to make strategic policies. This is certainly detrimental to the regions and the people. The regions will lose at least 2 (two) years to develop.

Does It Need Perppu?

To overcome the problem of single candidates, some parties insist that the government issue Government Regulation in Lieu of Law or Perppu. Some other worry that a perppu will give a bad precedence for our system of government. If a perppu is so easy to publish, it will give the impression that the formulation of legislation is not comprehensive. According to the author, the publication of perppu

will form a stigma of inconsistencies in the rule of law.

Constitutionally, the President has the right and legitimacy to issue a Perppu if there is something very urgent. Moreover, the Constitutional Court (MK) has issued a ruling that the regulation is a subjective right of the President. However, Perppu has its, such as it must be approved by the House of Representatives (DPR) in the trial. If the DPR does not agree with the perppu, then the regulation has to be revoked. The issue is whether the problem of single candidates can be said to be a force major situation that requires the Government to replace the Local Election Law with Perppu?

The existence of Local Election Law and KPU Regulation Number 12 year 2015 has answered the problem of vacuum of law on single candidates. Perppu is not the right solution because elections are the authority of the KPU. The solution to overcome the problem of vacuum of law regarding to single candidates in Simultaneous Pilkada should be in the hands of the KPU.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Essentially, direct elections for regional heads have significant values in the development of a healthy and dynamic democracy. A healthy democracy must be understood as a process towards a more intelligent, independent and dignified society. We need to realize that a local democracy is not always going to give birth to potential leaders who are rational, honest, clean, and non-corrupt. A democracy could be a full with a variety of fraudulent and manipulative engineering practices.

The author believes that the KPU decision to postpone the elections is a decision that we must obey. KPU as the election organizer, has the authority to make such rules. If there is a regulation on this matter that is issued by the Government, even though the KPU is the election organizer, this will prove the consistency of the rule of law. Law should be consistent to guard democracy.

In the future, the government should immediately revise the Local Election Law. Single candidates are an issue that must be anticipated in the future by the government. We should not rule out the possibility of single candidates even after the postponement. It must be anticipated by all stakeholders of course. The author agrees that there should be mechanism of elections for single candidates. For example, by providing the ballot box for the candidates and ballot box for those who do not agree with the candidate. Thus, the voice of the people is still accommodated democratically.

According to the author, the discourse about the sanctions for political parties that do not participate in the elections is interesting to study together. But, we should also not seek solutions that are expensive in the elections, “political dowry” and “money politics”. So, the people, political parties, and the government should share determination and a strong commitment to make the local elections a succes.

funds.

- Zihan Syahayani –

The independence agenda we must be filled with paying off the promises of independence. One promise of independence is to maintain democracy. Election as one of the instruments of democracy should be guarded. Through an election rational, honest, accountable and non- corruption figures will be generated.. Hopefully, in their hands Indonesia could become an independent country, which is united, sovereign, just and prosperous.

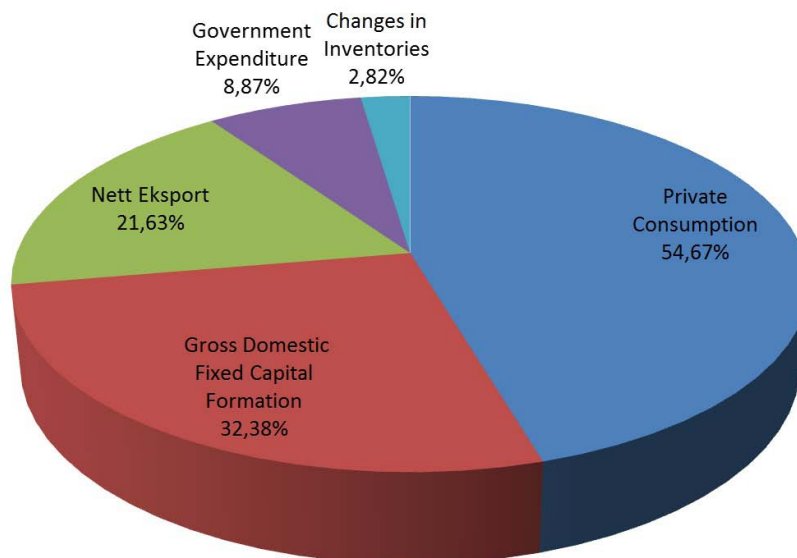
A Look at the Problem of Low Budget Absorption

At the beginning of August, the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) released the data on economic growth in Indonesia in the second quarter of 2015. In this period, as expected before, the growth rate slipped back to 4.67 percent. This figure was much less than that in the same period in 2014 (year-on-year), which reached a level of 5.03 percent and that in the previous quarter (quarter-to-quarter), which was at a level of 4.72 percent.

According to the expenditure side, it was recorded that the highest contribution was the private consumption, with 4.97 percent of economic growth. Investment, or Gross Domestic Fixed Capital Formation, had been growing at a level of 3.55 percent. Government expenditures grew a level of 2.28 percent. Unfortunately, the rest components of expenditures have been seen declining (bps.go.id, 05/08/2015).

Graphic of GDP Components

Based on Expenditures in Second Quarter of 2015



Source : Central Statistics Agency, 2015.

The composition of Gross Domestic Product in this quarter has also not changed significantly compared to the same period in 2014. From all of the components, private consumption is still the biggest contributor to the GDP, with 54.67 percent of the total share. Contributions of the others are 32.38 percent for Gross Domestic Fixed Capital Formation, 21.63 percent for Exports of goods and services, 8.87 percent for Government Expenditures, 1.11 percent for Consumption Expenditures of Non-Profit Institutions that Serve Household (LNPR), and 2.82 percent for Changes in Inventories.

According to the data, it seems that the idea to boost economic growth through government expenditures still cannot be implemented optimally. The Directorate General for Treasury at the Ministry of Finance (MoF) recorded that the realisation of budget for government expenditures up to the first semester of 2015 only reached 39 percent of the overall available budget.

If we look at the composition of the state budget in 2015 released by the MoF, the amount of budget for ministry/agency is the highest among the other expenditures. Therefore, it cannot be denied that ministry/agency is the one who has to be responsible toward the minimum contribution of government expenditure in increasing economic growth.

Minister of Finance Bambang Brodjonegoro said that there were twenty institutions that had low budget absorption, or in the other words their absorption is still under twenty percent from the overall budget agreed by the House of Representatives. Several ministries/agencies explained above; namely, the Ministry of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Manpower, and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Influencing Factors

In economics, money which will be spent by the government will definitely have a multiplier effect on economic development of a country. Research conducted by Suryadarma and Suryahadi in 2007 shows that for every component in GDP, only private investment and government expenditures that will significantly alleviate poverty in a state.

Unfortunately, the positive impact that should be enjoyed by the people of Indonesia cannot be felt optimally. The realisation of state budget for government expenditures is not even reaching half of the budget so far. It is believed that at least there are several factors

affecting the low budget absorption in ministries/agencies.

The first public attention in relation to this matter is the changing of nomenclature. The Working Cabinet led by Presiden Joko Widodo has decided to merge, add, and/or abolish thirteen ministries that previously had helped President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in his presidency.

This matter is believed to be having some effects on the running of these particular ministries. The changing of duties and new functions from the ministries will consume extra time for adaptation matters. Therefore, working programs that should be done immediately will be delayed for a certain period of time. In the end, budget absorption cannot be absorbed optimally.

The second issue that needs to be given attention is the problem related to coordination. The weakness of coordination occurs between the planning team and the budget executor. This has been seen as the cause of low budget absorption. Weak coordination will obviously make it hard to implement programs that have been planned before. Moreover, it is common to be found that price set in the budgeting process is not suitable with the real needs of ministries/agencies in the field.

The last point of public spotlight concerning of this matter is corruption. Many public officials in recent times have been entangled in corruption cases. This will at least make other officials more cautious in using state budget. Unluckily, this issue has produced excessive worries from the officials. As a result, much of state budget cannot be executed because of the worries.

Recommendations

As explained previously, government expenditures will have a positive impact on the economy. Consequently, it needs policies made by government to guarantee the realisation of state budget that suits with the state budget plan.

More than half a year this country has run with the new president. The matter of changing in nomenclature should be clear in recent days. This one needs a good performance of Ministry of Empowerment of State Aparaturs and Bureaucratic Reform. Programs run by the ministry should prioritize the public urgency, including the acceleration of this nomenclature changing, than popular policy which more to counter-productive.

Coordinating ministries should also be able to bridge the inter-ministries communications. The focus that should be built is on how

the programs that will be run suitable with the agreed plans. So, the internal organs of communication in institutions are part of the supervision in order to make the implementation in the field run in accordance with the needs.

Budget watchdogs should also be present in helping every state organisation not to be scared in using state budget. The amount of money in the state budget is trully for the people's interests. Public officials do not need to worry as long as the planning processes have been done meticulously. This point requires a synergy that is able to support each other between the ministries/agencies and the watchdog of state budget.

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- Muhammad Reza Hermanto -

Single Candidates and Failures of Political Parties

Local elections (Pilkada) will be held simultaneously for the first time in Indonesia. This great political celebration will be held on December 9, 2015.

Overall, there will be 269 local elections to be held simultaneously in 2015. At the provincial level, there will be nine regions, 224 districts and 36 cities, which will administer the elections simultaneously.

Single Candidates in 2015 Elections

Simultaneous local elections that will start in the next few months still face a number of issues. One is the emergence of the phenomenon of single candidates in some regions.

The registration of candidates was originally closed on July 28, 2015. But because there were only single candidates in some regions, the closing was postponed. According to the Election Commission Regulation (PKPU) No. 12 of 2015, if there are single candidates, then the elections will be postponed until 2017.

To address this problem, the Election Commission then has taken steps to implement the recommendations of the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) to extend or reopen the registration processes of the candidates of regent and deputy regent and mayor and deputy mayor in seven districts / cities, which only have single candidates.

The seven regions are Blitar, Pacitan, Tasikmalaya District, North Central Timor, Mataram, Samarinda, and Surabaya.

But until the closing of the extended registration period (August 11, 2015) there were only three areas with additional candidates. In four cities / regencies, the elections will be postponed until 2017. This is because no additional candidates during the fourth extension of the registration.

Four areas that only have single candidates are Tasikmalaya regency in West Java; Blitar in East Java, Kota Mataram in West Nusa Tenggara

(NTB), and North Central Timor regency in East Nusa Tenggara (NTT).

Political Parties' Recruitment Failures

A political scientist, Giovanni Sartori from Italy, argues that a political party is a political group that contest elections and through the general elections are able to put the candidates to occupy public positions (Budiarto, 2000).

Political parties have several important functions as a means to achieve their goals. One of the functions of political parties is political recruitment. Political recruitment usually covers the selection and appointment of a person or group of people to carry out a number of roles in the political system in general and in government in particular. (Surbakti, 1992).

Michael Rush and Phillip Althoff categorise political recruitment into two. First, open recruitment, this is by providing equal opportunities for all citizens to compete in selection processes. The basis of valuation is carried out through a process with conditions that have been determined by considering rational objectives. Every person is eligible to fill a political position with the same opportunities. Second, closed recruitment. This is where the opportunities to enter a political position are not the same for every citizen, meaning that only certain individuals who can occupy political office (Hesol Nogi Tangkilisan, 2003).

If this is associated with the emergence of single candidates in the simultaneous elections, the author believes that this has been the failure of political parties to carry out the function of political recruitment. Political parties have failed to find local leaders who will compete in the simultaneous elections..

Political parties have failed to seize prospective event ahead of the simultaneous elections. Political parties have forgot to conduct regeneration processes. This regeneration weakness has eventually resulted in the failure of political parties to recruit new cadres.

Second, the cost of "political dowry". It is no secret that each political party asks for dowry from regional head candidates in the elections. Bawaslu has found a number of findings of violations in the nomination phase of simultaneous elections of regional heads in 2015. One of them is the political dowry practice to run for regional heads among the parties (gatra.com, 3/8).

Third, the party central board recommendation letters. In addition to the costs of political dowry, there is also the issue of letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation are "tickets" for

candidates to contest the elections representing political parties. These recommendation letters are issued by the Central Executive Boards (DPP) of the political parties. Problems arise when party leaderships at the regional level nominate different candidates. This has a negative impact on the solidity of the parties.

The issue of single candidates in the 2015 simultaneous regional elections will have an impact on the political party recruitment function

Conclusions

The issue of single candidates in the 2015 simultaneous regional elections will have an impact on the political party recruitment function. Recruitment system has not been institutionalized well.

Starting from the simultaneous implementation of the elections, political parties should conduct self-evaluation. Political recruitment is a manifestation of the workings of regeneration process in the party system. This recruitment function can run well if it is only professionally managed in planned and systematic ways. Party cadres should be prepared well to run for local offices.

- Arfianto Purbolaksono -

World Breastfeeding Week in Indonesia

World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is celebrated every year between August 1 and 7. The theme for 2015 is “Breastfeeding and Work: Let’s make it work!”

The author believes that the theme is suitable with recent situations. The process of breastfeeding is a natural process after a childbirth. However, nowadays many challenges are faced by nursing mothers, especially by mothers who must work outside homes to meet economic needs of their families.

The dual roles of women often make them less able to harmonize domestic roles and their public roles. But, of course, various parties, ranging from family, government and their agencies, can also take the roles for the successes of nursing mothers. They should continue to be reassured that breastfeeding is important for babies and also for the mothers.

In addition to the various parties above, health institutions themselves should also be informed. Quoting Dr. Candra Wijaya, the Health Team Coordinator at Wahana Visi Indonesia, there are still not many hospitals and other health institutions that have an awareness of exclusive breastfeeding. Many of them even take the initiative to give formula milk since infants are born (detik.com, 9/8).

Policies Related to Breastfeeding

The basic rights of nursing mothers are related to labor policies and to the children’s rights. These are regulated in the 1945 Constitution. Article 27 Paragraph (2) of the Constitution stipulates that “Every citizen has the right to work and to have a decent living.” It means that working mothers still get a decent right to work, including to do breastfeeding, because breastfeeding is a human right and a child right to have a decent life.

Then, in Article 28B Paragraph (2), “Every child has the right to live, grow and develop and has the right to have protection from violence and discrimination”. As we know, one of the rights to grow is to get milk.

The rules in the Constitution have also been followed up in the various legislations. One example is Article 128 Paragraph (1) of Act No. 36 Year 2009 on Health, which reads “every baby is entitled to having exclusive breastfeeding from birth for 6 (six) months, except there is medical indication”.

Meanwhile, Paragraph (2) states that “during breastfeeding, the family, the government, local government and the community should fully support mothers with the provision of time and specialized facilities. Paragraph (3) states that “the provision of special facilities refers to Paragraph (2), which is in the workplace and in public places”.

According to the Health Act, it is very clear that all parties should be involved to achieve the success of breastfeeding. In relation to working mothers, the rules are also clear that the mothers’ workplace should provide time and special facilities to facilitate breastfeeding mothers. Some of the special facilities are special rooms for breast-feeding babies and the special time for breastfeeding and for breast pumping.

In addition to the Health Act, other rules that the author think should be appreciated and supervised are, first Kepmenkes No. 450 / Menkes / SK / VI / 2004 on exclusive breastfeeding in Indonesia. This regulation establishes exclusive breastfeeding in Indonesia for 6 months and recommends that it can be continued until the children reach the age of 2 years old or older, with appropriate supplements given.

Secondly, the Joint Regulation of the Minister of Women’s Empowerment, the Minister of Manpower and Transmigration and the Minister of Health No. 48 / MEN.PP / XII / 2008, PER.27 / MEN / XII / 2008 and 1177 / Menkes / PBXII / 2008 of 2008 on Improving the Provision of Air Susi breastfeeding milk during work hours. This regulation provides an opportunity for workers/laborers to deliver milk during working time to be given to their children.

Conclusions

There are various regulations that recognizes the importance of breastfeeding and mandates the provision of various special facilities to ensure that mothers, especially those working, to be able to give their children breast milk. Even the Health Act is equipped with criminal sanctions for those who do not obey the law.

Article 200 imposes criminal sanction on anyone who deliberately blocks the exclusive breastfeeding programme, as referred to in Article 128 paragraph (2). The criminal penalty is an imprisonment of one (1) year and a maximum fine of Rp. 100.000.000, - (one hundred million

rupiah).

Article 201: if an offense is committed by a corporation, in addition to imprisonment and fines against its officials, the criminals can be punished by giving a penalty that is three (3) times as the penalty specified in Article 200 (criminal fines for corporations in violation of Article 200 are at the maximum level of Rp. 300.000.000, - (three hundred million Rupiah)).

Article 201 Paragraph (2) says that in addition to criminal penalties, the corporation can be sentenced to an additional form of revocation of business licenses; and / or revocation of legal status.

Finally, according to the author, the number of rules relating to the protection of working mothers to continue breastfeeding will not succeed if the rules and penalties for violators are not implemented.

The awareness of all parties about the importance of breastfeeding and on the other hand, the realization that working mothers can still give breast milk for her baby. Awareness in this case I believe will also improve the productivity of the mothers, which would have a positive impact on the company and the families.

-Lola Amelia -



THE INDONESIAN INSTITUTE

C E N T E R F O R P U B L I C P O L I C Y R E S E A R C H

The Indonesian Institute (TII) is a Center for Public Policy Research that was established on 21 October 2004 by a group of young, dynamic activists and intellectuals. **TII** is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit institution, whose main funding stems from grants and contributions from foundations, companies, and individuals.

TII has the aim of becoming a main research centre in Indonesia for public policy matters and has committed to giving contribution to the debates over public policies and to improving the quality of the planning and results of public policy in the new era of democracy in Indonesia.

TII's missions are to conduct reliable research that is independent and non-partisan and to channel the research to the policy-makers, the private sector, and academia in order to improve the quality of Indonesian policy-makers.

TII also assumes the role of disseminating ideas to the society so that they are well informed about the policies that will have a good impact on the people's lives. In other words, **TII** has a position to support the democratization process and the public policy reform, as it will be involved in the process.

The scope of the research and review on public policies undertaken by **TII** includes economic, social, and political factors. The main activities have been conducted in order to achieve vision and mission based on research, surveys, training, public discussions, working group, weekly editorial articles ("Wacana TII"), monthly analysis ("Update Indonesia" and "The Indonesian Update"), annual analysis ("Indonesian Report"), and monthly discussion forum ("The Indonesian Forum").

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RESEARCH ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The economy tends to be used as an indicator of the success of the government as a policy-maker. Limited resources have often caused the government to face obstacles in implementing economic policies that will optimally benefit the people. The increase in the quality of the people's critical thinking has forced the government to conduct comprehensive studies in every decision-making process. In fact, the studies will not be stopped when the policy is already in place. Studies will be continued until the policy evaluation process.

The TII Economic Research Division is present for those who are interested in the conditions of the economy. The results of the research are intended to assist policy-makers, regulators, and donor agencies in making decisions. The research that TII offers: **(1) Economic Policy Analysis; (2) Regional and Sectoral Prospects; and (3) Program Evaluation.**

RESEARCH ON LEGAL AFFAIRS

According to stipulations in Law No. 12 Year 2011 on the Formulation of Laws and Regulations, every bill which will be discussed by the legislative and the executive must be complemented with academic paper. Therefore, comprehensive research is very important and needed in making a qualified academic paper. With qualified academic papers, the bills will have strong academic foundation.

TII can offer and undertake normative and legal research related to harmonization and synchronization of laws and regulations, especially in making academic papers and bills. In addition, the research will be conducted with sociological, anthropological, and political approaches in order to produce a more comprehensive academic papers and bills. It is expected that with such a process, the laws and regulations will be produced through such a participatory process, which involves the making of academic papers and bills to also go through process, such as focus group discussion (FGD) which will involve stakeholders related to the laws and regulations that will be discussed.

RESEARCH ON THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Social Research

Social development needs policy foundations that come from independent and accurate research. Social analysis is a need for the government, the businesspeople, academia, professionals, NGOs, and civil society to improve social development. The Social Research Division is present to offer recommendations to produce efficient and effective policies, steps, and programs on education, health, population, environment, women and children.

Social research that TII offers: **(1) Social Policy Analysis; (2) Explorative Research; (3) Mapping & Positioning Research; (4) Need Assessment Research; (5) Program Evaluation Research; and (5) Indicator Survey.**

POLITICAL SURVEY AND TRAINING

Direct General Election Survey

One of the activities that TII offers is the pre-direct election surveys. There are sundry reasons why these surveys are important (1) Regional direct elections are democratic processes that can be measured, calculated, and predicted. (2) Surveys are used to measure, calculate, and predict the processes and results of elections and the chances of candidates. (3) It is time to win the elections using strategies based on empirical data.

As one of the important aspects in the strategies to win the elections, surveys can be used to prepare political mapping. Therefore, campaign teams need to conduct surveys: (1) to map the popularity of candidates in the society (2) to map the voters' demands (3) to determine the most effective political machinery that will act as a vote getter; and (4) to find out about the most effective media to do the campaign.

THE INDONESIAN FORUM

The Indonesian Forum is a monthly discussion activity on actual issues in the political, economic, social, legal, cultural, defense, and environmental fields. TII organizes these forums as media for competent resource persons, stakeholders, policymakers, civil society activists, academicians, and the media to meet and have discussion.

Themes that have been raised were the ones that have caught public attention, such as migrant workers, social conflicts, domestic politics, and local direct elections. The main consideration in picking a theme is sociological and political reality and the context of the relevant public policy at the time that the Indonesian Forum is delivered.

It is expected that the public can get the big picture of a particular event as the Indonesian Forum also presents relevant resource persons.

Since its inception, the Indonesian Institute is very aware of the passion of the public to get discussions that are not only rich in substance but also well formatted, which support balanced ideas exchanges ideas and the equal involvement of the different elements of the society.

The discussions, which are designed to only invite a limited number of participants, do not only feature idea exchanges but also regularly offer policy briefs (policy recommendations) to relevant policymakers and also summaries to the participants, especially the media people and the resource persons at the end of each discussion. Therefore, the discussions will not end without solutions.

LOCAL COUNCIL TRAINING

The roles and functions of local councils in monitoring local governments are very important. They need to ensure that participative and democratic policies will be espoused. Members of provincial and regent local councils are required to have strong capacity to understand democratization matters, regional autonomy, legislative techniques, budgeting, local Politics, and political marketing. Thus, it is important to empower members of local councils.

In order for local councils to be able to response every problem that will come out as a result of any policy implemented by the central government or local governments, the Indonesian Institute invites the leaderships and members of local councils to undergo training to improve their capacity.

WORKING GROUP

The Indonesian Institute believes that a good public policy process can be held with some engagement and empowerment of the stakeholders. The Indonesian Institute takes a role as one of mediator agencies to facilitate some forums in which the Government, Council Members, Private Sectors, NGOs and Academicians can meet in interactive forums. The Indonesian Institute provides facilitation on working groups and public advocacy.

The Indonesian Institute takes the role of mediator and facilitator in order to encourage the synergy of public policy work between the stakeholders and policy makers and also to have a synergy with funding agencies (donors).

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