

The Indonesian Update

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



Main Report:
Licensing System Reform:
Strengthening Environmental Impact Analysis (Amdal)

Social

- Defending Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) ■
- One Map Initiative for Better Forest Governance ■

Economic

- Waiting for the Benefits of Village Funds ■

Politics

- Encouraging Revealing the Truth about Human Rights Violations in 1965 ■

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FOREWORD

One of the components of sustainable development is to protect the environmental sustainability and its impact. Therefore, in the documents on business licensing and/or development activities, the Government regulates the obligation to complete the Environmental Impact Assessment, which is referred to as Amdal, as the eligibility standards that must be met.

However, in practice, the provisions on licensing, particularly regarding Amdal, encounter many problems. Amdal has been considered not useful and hampering development. Because the process of conducting Amdal requires a long time, it is expensive and complicated. Some manipulative things are found in the field. These are carried out by certain elements to speed up the licensing processes.

This April 2016 edition of the Indonesian Update will raise important themes on several fields. The main report for this edition is “Licensing System Reform : Strengthening Environmental Impact Analysis (Amdal)”. On social affairs, it talks about “Defending Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)” and “One Map Initiative for Better Forest Governance”. On the economy, it will talk about “Waiting for the Benefits of Village Funds”. On political affairs, it talks about “Encouraging Revealing the Truth about Human Rights Violations in 1965”.

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 element of civil society, both within and outside the country, to get 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.

Licensing System Reform : Strengthening Environmental Impact Analysis (Amdal)

Licensing -- according to Philipus M. Hadjon, Professor of Constitutional Law and Administrative Law at University of Airlangga -- is one of the instruments of state administrative law that is intended to direct or control certain activities, to prevent hazards that can be caused by certain activities, to protect specific objects and to organize the distribution of items or goods that are scarce (limited) (Philipus M. Hadjon, 1994).

In principle, licenses becomes very important considering the reality that human beings should live together amidst limited space and resources. Therefore, permissions are needed to restrict individual freedom to prevent potential conflicts.

In the context of the activities to accelerate economic growth and development, licensing becomes an instrument to protect, prevent and limit the various forms of businesses and/or activities that cause harm or violate the provisions of the legislation. The aim is that each development activity is in line with the principles of sustainable development.

One of the components of sustainable development is to protect the environmental sustainability and its impact. Therefore, in the documents on business licensing and/or development activities, the Government regulates the obligation to complete the Environmental Impact Assessment, which is referred to as Amdal, as the eligibility standards that must be met.

However, in practice, the provisions on licensing, particularly regarding Amdal, encounter many problems. Amdal has been

considered not useful and hampering development. Because the process of conducting Amdal requires a long time, it is expensive and complicated. Some manipulative things are found in the field. These are carried out by certain elements to speed up the licensing processes.

There has been a discourse to remove the EIA documents on the requirement list to secure the licenses. Even though he has not explicitly mentioned the EIA, President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) had planned to simplify all forms of licensing. Through a speech delivered at the meeting held by the Indonesian Economists Association (ISEI) (30/3/2016), Jokowi expressed the need for accelerated economic growth and development by eliminating a number of licensing processes hampering the pace of investment and business.

The Cabinet Secretary, Pramono Agung, said that the government would remove a number of licenses, including nuisance permits, location permits, mUKM licenses, location permits, and Amdal permits. Correspondingly, the Minister of Home Affairs (Mendagri), Tjahjo Kumolo, has conveyed that he is in the process of cutting about 3000 Regional Regulations (Perda) that are considered problematic and burdensome. Licensing is hampering small- and middle-income communities (www.ekonomi.metrotvnews.com, 15/03/2016).

On one side, the government's policy to simplify a number of licensing processes needs to be appreciated. The move is part of the efforts to reform the bureaucracy to be efficient in achieving the goals of development and economic growth.

However, if the permit simplification is intended to remove Amdal, the author does not agree. The author does not believe that the government is able to ensure that the removal of Amdal will promote investment and business, not affecting the efforts to control environmental damage.

Why is the Amdal Trimmed?

The plan to remove Amdal has arisen following a growing discourse in the media that the Governor of Jakarta Capital Special Region (DKI Jakarta), Basuki Tjahaja Purnama (Ahok), is proposing the elimination of Amdal to President Jokowi and Minister of Environment and Forestry (LHK) Siti Nurbaya.

However, Ahok himself has clarified it. Ahok will not remove Amdal but only wants to make it more simple so as not to overlap. He said that if a building already had Amdal, but it would like to be expanded, then the building did not have to get another Amdal. The applicant just had to get the Environmental Management and Environmental Monitoring Effort licenses (UKL / UPL) (beritajakarta.com, 22/1/16).

Referring to Article 13 Paragraph (1) of Government Regulation (PP) Number 27/2012 on the Environmental Permit (PP No. 27/2012), an area that has already had a Regional Regulation on Detailed Spatial Plan (RDTR) will get an exemption from any obligation to conduct Amdal. The Jakarta Provincial Government (Pemprov DKI Jakarta) has had RDTR and Zoning Regulations, which are stipulated by the Regional Regulation No. 1 Year 2014. So, Pemprov DKI Jakarta is waived from of any obligation to provide Amdal documents.

Instead, the Environmental Monitoring and Environmental Management Effort (UPL/UKL) license is substituted for Amdal license. The UPL/UKL is considered more efficient because the Amdal documents need seven to eight months to complete. Meanwhile, the UPL/UKL only takes one month to complete (www.properti.liputan6.com/ 1/3/2016).

However, the Amdal exemption policy cannot be implemented yet. According to Article 13 Paragraph (3) of PP 27/2012, the Amdal exemptions for areas that have already had RDTR shall be governed by a Ministerial Regulation (Permen). Up to now the Permen in question has not been issued by the government. The Minister of LHK himself has refused the demand for removing Amdal (www.metro.sindonews.com/ 22/1/2016).

Improving Amdal through a Licensing System Reform

We need to pay attention to the provisions of Article 1 Paragraph 2 of PP No. 27/2012, which explain that Amdal is a study on the significant impact of a business and/or planned activities on the environment, which is necessary for the decision-making process regarding a business and/or activities.

The provisions imply that Amdal is not a mere formality. It is rather a comprehensive feasibility study on the feasibility of a business and/or activities, which has to consider technical, economic, social, and environmental factors.

Therefore, Amdal is an important instrument for development. The problem is that Amdal requires a long time, is expensive and convoluted, and is often just copied pasted. According to the author, the problem lies at the level of the process. This means that we need to pay attention to the Amdal making processes and its quality, not necessarily eliminating the obligation to prepare an Amdal itself.

According to the Decree of the Minister of Environment No. 5/2012 on Types and Business Plans and/or Activities Requiring Amdal, small projects are not obliged to make Amdal. But the projects are still obliged to make the Environmental Management/ Environmental Monitoring (UKL/UPL).

It is also stipulated in PP No. 27/2012 that the making of Amdal or UKL/UPL must be completed as a prerequisite for obtaining a business license and/or activities. A set of the process is to be evaluated and eliminated.

According to the author, there is a need to conduct in-depth study on why Amdal takes a long time and a big expense to complete. A set of unlawful actions such as bribery and other corrupt behaviors have caused employers to pay higher.

If there are corrupt behaviors, the government should improve the system of accountability and transparency of the licensing processes.

In addition, the government should also improve the integrity of the assessors. Also, the integrity of Amdal makers should also be improved. Accountability and transparency as well as the integrity Amdal assessors and makers will reduce any practical manipulative efforts in the making of Amdal.

Meanwhile, if a set of processes and mechanism permissions are also judged to be ineffective and if it is also one of the causes of the difficulty in taking care of Amdal, the provisions regarding the licensing system would also need to reform.

The government can draw from other countries; for example, New Zealand. New Zealand is one country that has a very solid framework of Amdal in regulation. The country has implemented the Strategic Environmental Assessment in the entire region as the basis for a comprehensive spatial that does not take a long time. This was evidenced by New Zealand always obtaining the highest rank in the Ease of Doing Business index (Thamrin School, 28/03/16).

Conclusions and Recommendations

Amdal and investment should be conducted together. Through the making of Amdal, it is expected that investment and economic growth will be in line with sustainable development, including sustainable natural environment.

It is time for President Jokowi to take a strong action and a strong commitment to preserve and protect the natural environment. The author argues that the simplification of licensing by the government should not only based on the aspects of investment, business and economic growth alone, but also on environmental sustainability. Basically, environmental sustainability for future generations is the main capital for the strenght of the economy.

Once more, the authors hopes that the government and all parties concerned change the view that Amdal is not important, hampering economic growth and development. In contrast, Amdal is actually

useful for business continuity and/or activities as the author has earlier described.

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- **Zihan Syahayani** -

Ignoring Amdal is not the right strategy for the sustainability of environmental resources that the main capital for the strenght of the economy.

Defending Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has recently been discussed. The AMDAL of some controversial projects, such as the Jakarta-Bandung fast train project and the Jakarta reclamation project, have been questioned. There has been a discourse on the reduction of time needed to secure EIA. There has also been a discourse on the elimination of the obligation to secure EIA.

The government wants to cut the time needed to secure EIA and also to abolish EIA. The reason is that EIA are often not comprehensive, tending to just copy and paste from other EIAs. Also, the long time in securing EIAs has inhibiting investment objectives. As a result, the ease of doing business ranking is also low.

The Benefits of EIA

Nowadays, EIA is one of the “ environmental guards” for projects and industrial activities taking place in Indonesia. There are three components of the EIA; namely, the Presentation on Environmental Information (PIL), the Terms of Reference (KA), the Environmental Impact Analysis (Andal), the Environmental Monitoring Plan (RPL), and the Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

We also know that a comprehensive EIA document is very beneficial for all parties. For the people around a project, they learn early about the potential impact of an activity so that they can carry out control over it. However, the involvement of local communities in the decision-making process must be ensured.

For companies or parties that will build projects, EIA ensures business continuity and mutually beneficial interactions with the surrounding communities.

For the government, the EIA is beneficial for preventing pollution

and environmental damages, avoiding conflict with the surrounding communities, ensuring the construction taking place is in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. What is also important is that the EIA is a manifestation of the government's responsibility in environmental management.

Conclusions and Recommendations

According to the author, the government's plan is still to be studied and criticized. It appears that the EIA will not be useful not only for the environment or the surrounding communities but also for the proponents of EIA (typically companies implementing the projects) and the government itself.

In addition, if we look again at the definition of EIA in Government Regulation No. 27, 1999 (PP No.27 / 1999), there is a study on the major and significant impact of the decision making of businesses or planned activities. EIA is an analysis that includes a wide variety of factors, such as physical, chemical, social, economic, biological and social cultural factors.

A comprehensive and accurate EIA will show us whether a project is feasible to run. If the government believes that EIA is tended to be copied and pasted, then the author challenges the Government to solve it. That is, the government must take a firm action against the perpetrators of EIA copying. The government should not abolish EIA, which has been proven to have many benefits.

Finally, we will be able to see from the submitted EIA documents which projects or investments that are eligible to Indonesia. That is, the investment should not merely make money circulate in the country, but the money should also be "friendly" to the surrounding environments. "Money" should be beneficial for all, moving the economy with the responsibility of protecting the environment and ensuring the development is sustainable.

- Lola Amelia -

Comprehensive EIA document is very beneficial for all parties, not only protecting the environment but also reducing social conflicts and moving faster the economy.

One Map Initiative for Better Forest Governance

President Joko Widodo introduced the One Map Initiative (OMI) during the Conference of Parties (COP) 21 on December 2015 as one of the tools to improve Indonesia's forest governance. OMI aspires to become the national reference for all forest estates in the country. This program is intended to solve the current state where different agencies hold different reference maps. In 2009, the primary forest cover data according to the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Ministry of Forestry (MoF) were different. In Papua, the MoE stated that there were 59.8 million hectares of forests, whereas MoF's only recognized 44.2 million hectares. This difference had something to do with the absence of a standardized method for map digitization across ministries, thereby contributing to bureaucratic problems (Samadhi, Geospatial World Forum 2013).

OMI's goal is to provide one portal as a national reference that is derived from one standardized database (Samadhi, Geospatial World Forum 2013). It holds on to four principles: consistency, accessibility, transparency, and participation. The reference map must be consistent with real-life conditions as well as consistent across different map sources. Maps should also be easily accessed and free of charge. Map digitization processes should be transparent and capable of promoting collaboration of all involved agencies.

OMI had actually been conceived during President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's time in office, but there had been no final product until 2010. In 2010, President Yudhoyono issued the Presidential Instruction 11/2011 to freeze new forest concession issuance for two years as a means to improve bureaucracy. However, the forest moratorium had been extended twice in 2013 and 2015. Today, OMI is still a work in-progress that is updated every six months. The current maps can be viewed online at www.tanahair.indonesia.go.id

A History of Indonesia's Forest Policy

The first legal framework on forest governance in Indonesia was arguably the Basic Forestry Law 5/1967, which was issued by President Soeharto. The Forestry Department had absolute sovereignty over all of terrestrial areas in the country. President Soeharto allocated 62% of terrestrial areas as forest areas without proper acquisition to launch the country's timber production. Indonesia, which at the time underwent a huge debt and large inflation, needed to restore its national revenue (Wibowo and Giessen, Land Use Policy 2015). As a result, Indonesia sought an increase in capital income during the 1990s. However, the Forestry Department was heavily criticised for excessive deforestation. In addition, many of the affected people expressed antipathy towards the government.

The introduction of regional autonomy in 1999 by President B.J. Habibie returned forest sovereignty to the municipalities. Although the public responded positively to this feat, the new policy brought an increase in law violation. Limited subsidy from the central government drove municipalities to rely on investors, allowing lax law enforcement. This was further supported by the MoF's already poor control on forest estates.

At the 2009 G-20, President Yudhoyono announced that Indonesia was committed to lowering 26% of national carbon emissions by 2020. Bappenas became the initiator by formulating the National Action Plan (RAN-GRK). In addition, the Presidential Unit for the Supervision and Control of Development (UKP4) was formed to coordinate directly with the President. Under UKP4, the National Council on Climate Change (DNPI) and the REDD Task Force (BP-REDD) were formed to tackle specific programs on climate change and the UN-REDD. Each ministry also had specific carbon commitments. The MoF had the largest commitment; that is, to lower 74% of current carbon emissions. Despite this, the MoF did not hold any mandate on programs from the DNPI and BP-REDD. Although carbon commitment was shared between government agencies, there was a lack of coordination that had further weakened bureaucracy. It can be argued that the MoF did not have the appropriate authorization to control its own commitment (Wibowo and Giessemn, Land Use Policy 2015).

Returning the Authority to One Agency

The establishment of OMI inadvertently reflects the return of Indonesian forest authority to a single body. Although it was President Yudhoyono who launched the OMI, President Widodo was the one who returned all forest authority to one body: the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF). Initially, the decommissioning of DNPI and BP-REDD had caused a brief uproar, as people were worried that climate change and forestry programs would be terminated. However, these programs are continued and now under the flag and full coordination of the MoEF.

OMI's principles incidentally influence the forest policy reform. Astuti and McGregor (Third World Quarterly 2015) identified three factors that are central to this issue: forest moratorium, one database, and one standard. Forest moratorium, as explained previously, was aimed to aid the government in reflecting the current forest policy before moving forward. The moratorium period was intended to give the government time to look at issued concessions, both legal and illegal, as well as data consistency across different agencies. One database was formed to initiate collaboration and integration of spatial data from different sources. One standard was applied to all existing data to aid data consistency and integration. As a country with a relatively high corruption index, Astuti and McGregor argued that OMI promoted public participation, good governance, and transparency.

Despite its grand concept, the implementation is still flawed. Two of the most significant hindrances to the OMI are: inadequate collected data and limited public participation (Astuti and McGregor, Third World Quarterly 2015). Most regencies and municipalities failed to provide the requested data due to poor documentation or intentionally covering 'sensitive' information. UKP4 estimated there was only 5-40% of readily available data that was relevant to the OMI. The said "sensitive" information was assumed to be related to illegal concessions. The Geospatial Information Agency was also criticized to have reduced the extent of "participation" from non-government stakeholders. "Participation" was reportedly to be merely data confirmation on names of villages, rivers, lakes, or indigenous sites. Further, map digitation did not consider that boundaries between indigenous lands were not fixed and open to change. These obstacles may have contributed to the OMI completion delay.

Nonetheless, OMI has introduced new values to empower Indonesian forest policy. Apart from returning forest authority to the central government, the OMI also intends to provide a positive working environment for relevant stakeholders

- **Lalita Fitrianti Pawarisi** -

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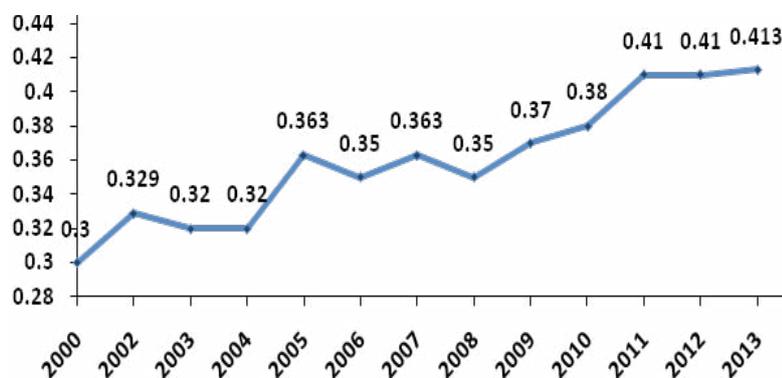
Waiting for the Benefits of Village Funds

Poverty is a problem of economic development entangling people living in rural areas. Central Statistics Agency (BPS) recorded that poor people living in rural places had experienced an increasing trend for at least two consecutive years, from 17.94 million people in March 2014 to 17.37 million people in September 2015. This did not happen without any reasons, as working opportunities were only available in the agricultural sector, and the absence of innovation creating added value had made most people there living in poverty.

This is one of the reasons of why there have been a big number of people in villages deciding to migrate to big cities in Indonesia. Some of them have been successful but the rest have been suffering and cannot survive living in cities. One of the economic development problems arising is income disparity.

From the data released by BPS, the Gini ratio, a measurement to count income disparity in an area, has increased from year to year. Below are the the income disparity data for Indonesia from 2000 to the last data available, 2013.

Gini Ratio of Indonesia
2000 - 2013



Source : Central Statistic Agency, 2000-2013.

From the data, it was evident that the previous high economic growth era was only for the rich, whereas years ago the Gini ratio level of Indonesia was equal to those of countries having low or moderate income disparity like Scandinavian countries or former Soviet countries (CEDDS, 2015). However, the Gini ratio level of Indonesia nowadays can be categorized as that of a country with relatively high income disparity.

Village Fund Policy

It is almost impossible to achieve zero income disparity. However, this does not mean that the government has no duties in addressing income disparity problems. Currently, there is particular agenda in rural areas, called the village funds. This program was designed by the central government to allocate such amount of Rupiah to be given to village governments.

This program is one of President Joko Widodo's concrete programs as written in Nawacita, which is one of the developmental priorities in developing Indonesia from rural areas through strengthening remote areas and villages in the framework of unitary state.

According to the mandate of Law No. 6/2014 on Village, 2015 was the beginning of channeling of village funds. Philosophically, village funds are used in order to increase welfare and developmental equality through improving public services in villages, advancing village economy, overcoming disparity across villages, and strengthening rural people.

On the ground, the utilization of village funds now can be accessed by people living there. The people of Wukirsari Village, Sleman, Yogyakarta; for instance, they now can access village-owned enterprises (BUMDes), feel advancement of the agricultural sector, as well as use newly built infrastructure like bridges and irrigation facilities.

Village resources potential is a remarkable asset. The challenge is to improve good practices of management. Therefore, village funds are expected to be able to contribute to the development of Indonesia, which is based on President's statement, will be started from villages.

Improving the Distribution of Village Funds

The village fund policy under the Ministry of Village, Disadvantage Regions, and Transmigration (PDT) is now in its second year. The internal evaluation of the ministry shows that the usage of village funds in the 2015 budget period has a bias of 7 percent. This means that there is some discrepancy in the using of village funds.

It is natural to evaluate the experiences from the first year of utilizing village funds as learning material for the next year's utilization of village funds. The author records at least there are several things needed to be concerned in the running of village funds in the future.

The first thing is the information dissemination among budget users. The internal evaluation conducted by Ministry of PDT shows that there was a bias in the delivery of information, causing a misunderstanding between the provincial, district, and village governments. Therefore, the policy needs additional information dissemination which is more intensive and more concerned about technical aspects that need to be immediately executed so that the village governments will no longer be confused if there are overlapping policies.

The second thing is the formulation of budget allocation. According to the World Bank, the formulation of village funds will be unfair for villages with high population, as 90 percent of the total funds will be distributed in the same proportion for every village, and the rest of the funds will be distributed in accordance with demographic and geographic conditions. This will have an impact on the budget per capita. Therefore, it is important for related authorities to reformulate the budget of village funds.

Terakhir adalah kurang tanggapnya aparatur desa dalam mencairkan dana desa. Selain informasinya yang diterima kurang maksimal, aparatur desa juga masih terlihat gagap dalam mencairkan dana desa (Elshinta, 2016). Dengan diberikannya pelatihan untuk meningkatkan kapasitas aparatur desa tentu manfaat yang akan diterima oleh masyarakat desa juga dapat dirasakan secara lebih optimal. Sehingga menanti manfaat dana desa bukanlah suatu lelucon yang tidak tahun kapan datangnya.

The last thing is the unresponsiveness of village officials in distributing village funds. In addition to incomplete information, village officials are

also not competent in using village funds (Elshinta, 2016). There should be capacity building programs for village officials so that the benefits gained by the people will be more optimal. Therefore, the benefits of village fund should no longer be a joke that it is not certain.

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- Muhammad Reza Hermanto -

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Encouraging Revealing the Truth about Human Rights Violations in 1965

On 18 and 19 April 2016, the Indonesian Government that was represented by the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal and Security Affairs facilitated a national symposium that discussed the tragedy in 1965 from a historical perspective.

This discussion on the 1965 tragedy supported by the government was the first one in the reform era. This symposium brought together victims, historians, former military generals and some figures who experienced the events in 1965.

The Chair of the Steering Committee of the Symposium, Agus Widjojo, said that a historical approach was taken because it would give the most objective views based on the facts in order to reveal the truth to provide a comprehensive understanding of the background of the tragedy of 1965. If the symposium produced useful things, they would be used as a starting point for the government to formulate policies in order to answer any questions about the settlement of past human rights violations (www.bbc.com, 18/4)

Meanwhile, the Coordinating Minister for Political, Law and Security Affairs, Luhut Binsar Panjaitan, said that in this event there would be no apology from the government regarding the issue of past human rights violations, especially in the events of 1965. But according to Luhut, the government has an interest to resolve the issue of human rights violations that occurred, including formulating the chronology of the events that happened in the past as well as the potential solutions (www.tempo.co, 18/4).

Responding to the symposium, several human rights activists in

Indonesia had different views. The Commission for Missing Persons and Victims of Violence (Contrast) refused the 1965 symposium. Contrast stated that revealing the truth or enforcement of any past human rights violations should be prioritized over reconciliation (www.cnnindonesia.com, 18/4).

In line with Contrast, Setara Institute, as represented by its human rights and law researcher Achmad Fanani Rosyidi, stated that the symposium had only become the vehicle for the government to maintain impunity. The symposium justifies reconciliation. The reconciliation process should be carried out after the truth-seeking efforts by the government through a judicial mechanism are completed (www.kompas.com, 16/4).

Encouraging the Truth Revelation through the Draft Law on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

A number of national figures at the 1965 Symposium recommended the solving of human rights violations by way of reconciliation. Unfortunately, at the moment there is no legal umbrella to conduct the process.

After the annulment of Law Number 27 Year 2004 on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) by the Constitutional Court in 2007, there is currently no legal framework regulating the mechanisms for solving the cases of human rights violations in Indonesia.

The Head of the Human Resources Development at the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, Harkristuti Harkrisnowo, said that the government was re-drafting the Bill on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). If the bill is passed, it would regulate the setting up of a truth commission to investigate and report violations of the past (www.voaindonesia.com, 20/4).

The TRC bill itself has been included in the priority of the National Legislation Program (Prolegnas) in 2015 as an initiative of the government. Until now is still in the drafting process.

Conclusions

The revelation of truth about past human rights violations is a burden to the nation's history. The author argues that the passing of the Bill on the TRC can be used as a legal basis for the disclosure of the truth and national reconciliation process, including in human rights violations in 1965. The revelation of truth and reconciliation process will be performed by a truth and reconciliation commission that has the mediation function. It is expected that by revealing the truth, we will not make the same mistake in the future.

*The revelation of truth
about past human rights
violations is the burden
of the nation's history.*

- Arfianto Purbolaksono -

**THE NDONESIAN 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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