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Main Report:
The Revised ITE Law: a New Era of Freedom of Expression

Politics

A New Chapter of the Ahok Case ▪

Economics

Policies for the Elimination of Violence Against Women ▪

THE INDONESIAN INSTITUTE
CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

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Contributors :
Arfianto Purbolaksono (Coordinator), Lola Amelia, Zihan Syahayani, Editor : Awan Wibowo Laksono Poesoro

FOREWORD

The revised Law No. 11/2008 on Information and Electronic Transactions (UU ITE) came into effect on Monday, November 28, 2016. Although it has been revised, UU ITE is still drawing criticisms, which are mainly concerned with the articles on insults and / or defamation regulated in Article 27 Paragraph (3) UU ITE.

Generally, both before and after the revision, Article 27 Paragraph (3) of UU ITE is still considered by many restricting te freedom of speech and expression. In other words, the article is considered contrary to the spirit of freedom of expression guaranteed in Article 28 of the 1945 Constitution.

The main report in the December 2016 edition of the Indonesian Update is " The revised Law on ITE: The New Age of Freedom of Expression ". On political affairs, it discusses, " A New Chapter of the Ahok Case". On social affairs, it talks about, " The Policies on the Elimination of Violence against Women ".

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.

The Revised ITE Law: a New Era of Freedom of Expression

The revision of Law Number 11 Year 2008 on Information and Electronic Transactions (ITE Law) officially came into effect on Monday, November 28th, 2016. The revision of ITE Law came into effect after it was approved by the House of Representatives (DPR) and the President on October, 27, 2016 (Kompas.com, 28/11/16).

Although ITE Law has been revised, it still invites criticisms, which are mainly concerned with the article on insults and/or defamation; that is, Article 27 Paragraph (3) of ITE Law. In general, both before and after the revision, Article 27 Paragraph (3) of UU ITE is still considered by people could restrict or hamper the freedom of speech or expression. In other words, the article is considered contrary to the essence of freedom of expression guaranteed in Article 28 UUD 1945.

Now, most of the public does not agree with the existence of ITE LawBut, some people consider that the existence of ITE Law is important, considering the number of internet users is quite large, about 88.1 million people. ITE requires restrictions to ensure the comfort and safety of every Internet user. Some examples are the safety from the danger of fraud, fake information, sites that contain negative content, and so forth. The Communication Studies Center at the University of Indonesia (Pusakom UI) shows that not all internet users in Indonesia are ready and aware to use it wisely, especially on social media pages (metrotvnesw.com, 28/10/16).

As a middle way,, the existence of ITE Law is still appreciated. But, on the other hand some civil society organizations have encouraged

efforts to improve the articles that are considered crucial. Some of which are Article 27 that regulates defamation and Article 28, which regulates the act of touching the issues of ethnicity, religion, race and intergroup (SARA). Because of these articles often have multiple interpretations and potential as a tool to punish someone for being of defamation or blasphemy (elsam.or.id, 11/12/16).

Some Important Points in the Revised ITE Law

Through the enactment of the revised ITE law, there are at least seven (7) points on the important changes that make the new ITE Law is different from the one before. The first one are the changes in Article 27 Paragraph (3), including: (1) adding explanations of the terms distribute, transmit and/or making the inaccessibility of electronic information; (2) confirming that such provisions are not common offenses; (3) confirming that the criminal elements in the provisions refer to the provisions of defamation and slander set out in the Criminal Code. This change was made to avoid multiple interpretations of the provisions of insult and / or defamation (news.detik.com, 28/11/16).

The second one is lowering the penalties of the two following conditions: (1) the imprisonment charges for insult and/or defamation of four years to a maximum of six years and/or a maximum fine of Rp 750 million to Rp. 1 billion; (2) the imprisonment charges for the electronic information distribution of threat of violence of four years to a maximum of 12 years and/or a maximumfine of Rp 750 million to Rp. 2 billion (news.detik.com, 28/11/16).

The third one is adding a description of the electronic information as legal evidence in Article 5 (1) and (2). The fourth one is synchronizing the legal procedures for searches, seizures, arrests, and detention in Article 43 Paragraphs (5) and (6) with the Code of Criminal Procedure (KUHAP). The fifth one is strengthening the role of civil servant investigators (PPNS) as regulated in Article 43 Paragraph (5) of the Act ITE to cut off access to criminal offenses that are related to the technology of information (ICT) (news.detik.com, 28/11/16).

The sixth one is adding the condition "right to be forgotten" in Article 26; namely, the obligation to remove content that is not relevant to the organizers of the electronic system based on a court warrant. The seventh one is strengthening the role of the Government to prevent the dissemination of negative content on the Internet under Article 40. Under this provision, the Government has the authority to cut off the access and/or instruct the Electronic System Operator to terminate access to electronic information that has unlawful charges (news.detik.com, 28/11/16).

Donny Budi Utoyo of the Monitoring Group on Information and Technology (ICT Watch) said that the new ITE Law was a new round of cyberspace rules in Indonesia. Crime reduction will be functionalized so that there will be no criminalization using defamation. In addition, the law is intended to keep people from easily criminalize other Internet users (metrotvnews.com, 28/10/16).

Through this revision, the Governmen has also been given the authority to cut off access to electronic information that is considered unlawful. But actually these provisions have long been stipulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Communication and Information Technology (Menkominfo). Actuall, there is no legal umbrella that confirms the government is obliged to block negative contents.

In the ITE Law, some negative contents that are prohibited include: (1) content that violates decency can be given charges of a maximum of six years in prison; (2) the content of gambling can be given charges of 6 years in prison; (3) content that contains insults and/or defamation, with a maximum penalty of 4 years in prison; (4) extortion or threatening content can be given charges of a maximum of 4 years in prison; (5) content that harms consumers can be given charges of a maximum of 6 years in prison; (6) content that causes hostile racial issues can be given charges of a maximum of 6 years in prison.

ITE Law and the Freedom of Expression

Now, the existence of ITE Law is always associated with the freedom of expression. Some provisions of the ITE Law, especially Article 27 Paragraph (3), are often seen as the cause of people choose to be silent, or to have "self censorship" on political and social conditions that exist in the society. People have become afraid to speak out about injustice around them and to voice against violations committed by the authorities for fear of insults or defamation.

According to Emir Chairullah, the Coordinator of Indonesian Graduate Students in Queensland Australia, it is ironic that in practice the articles on insults and/or defamation in ITE Law are often only applied to the lower-class people. These provisions become dull when the authorities apply them to higher-class people. An example is the case of Prita Mulya Sari in 2009, whom were charged with Article 27 Paragraph (3) of ITE Law for criticizing the Omni International Hospital services in her personal blog (mediaindonesia.com, 4/12/16).

Since its enactment in 2008, ITE Law has several times claimed victims because of its multiple interpretations. According to Southeast Asian Freedom of Expression Network (SafeNet), from 2008 to November 2015, there were 118 netizens who were victims of ITE Law. In 2015, the Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM) also reported that there were around 47 casualties of ITE Law (elsam.or.id, 11/12/16).

Interestingly, according to Remotivi data, the Center of Media Studies and Communication, in the period of August 28, 2008 until August 23, 2016, there were a total number of 126 reports in relation to ITE Law. 50 cases were reported by heads of the region, parliament members at the regional level, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials (elsam.or.id, 11/12/16).

Then, according to the data collected by the Care Activists of Media Literacy, as many as 200 people had been sued and advocated as a result of allegations of contempt on online media during 2016. According to Fiona Suwana, a doctoral candidate from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), in some

cases some people were exposed to bondage articles simply for complaining about the conditions experienced on social media. In fact, there were people who remained subjected to the bondage articles although they did not mention any names, as in the case of defamation by a citizen named Yusniar in Makassar (mediaindonesia.com, 4/12/16).

This are the conditions that have made people worry that ITE Law will only silence the critical powers of civil society. When it is run with no clear boundaries, this Act could be potentially used for the abuse of power practices. Some examples are the authorities' desires to criminalize someone.

One of the implications of the revision of the ITE Law is that a suspect in a defamation cases is no longer to be detained. Nevertheless, according to Donny Budi Utoyo of the ICT Watch, there are still risks of Internet users being subjected to defamation as a result of trivial matters. So, Donny argues that defamation should be abolished because it could restrict the freedom of expression (Kompas.com, 28/11/16).

Challenges of Law Enforcement Against Crime in Cyberspace

ITE Law can be referred to as Cyber Law as the charges and setting are in cyberspace. The presence of UU ITE is motivated by the growing trend in cyber crime in the community, not only in the real world but also in the virtual world. So, the law must also be dynamic in order to function well to ensure security.

According to the author, on the one side. ITE Law has the disadvantagesbin the forms of some provisions that could potentially restrict the rights and freedom of expression. The author agrees that some of the provisions in the ITE Law potentially make people unwilling to be critical as there are fears being considered insulting or defamatory.

But, on the other hand this law has the advantage of being able to anticipate the possibility of the abuse of the Internet. Some examples are the hacking of government websites and electronic transactions, including various forms of fraud through social media networks. In addition, this legislation not only discusses the problems of obscene

or pornographic contens but also other contents about the rules of life in the virtual world and the transactions that occur in it.

Another important thing is that ITE Law adheres to the principle of extra-territorial jurisdiction, which means that ITE Law applies to any person who committs an unlawful act located in both the jurisdiction of Indonesia and the jurisdiction outside of Indonesia that has legal effects in the territory of Indonesia and/or outside the jurisdiction Indonesia and harms the interests of Indonesia.

This means that in the face of cyber crime, Indonesian positive law is no longer merely the lex locus delicti bound by territory, evidence, physical places or events. Cybercrime is not limited by state territories. For example, crimes that are committed in the United States may have an impact in Europe or even in Indonesia. Electronic data are relatively easy to be changed, intercepted, falsified and sent to all parts of the world in a matter of seconds.

It should be recognized that not all users of the internet or social media know or understand about the provisions of defamation, insults and other actions prohibited by ITE Law. Many people may also be unfamiliar with the legal provisions. Therefore, the Government and civil society organizations are also concerned with the use of media and technology. They should be jointly campaigning about digital literacy to all members of the public so that they are not mistaken in using the technology.

With the existence of this legislation, there are hopes that people will become more responsible and cautious in using or doing electronic transactions. Regarding the freedom of expression, ITE Law actually also tests our maturity in the use of these freedom; that is, in using the right and freedom of opinion or expression, we should not harm the freedom or rights of others.

Our rights are limited by the rights of others. As stipulated in Article 28 J (2) of the 1945 Constitution, "In exercising his/her rights and freedoms, every person shall have the duty to accept the

restrictions established by law for the sole purposes of guaranteeing the recognition and respect of the rights and freedoms of others and of satisfying just demands based upon considerations of morality, religious values, security and public order in a democratic society."

- Zihan Syahayani -

The presence of ITE Law actually tests the maturity and sense of responsibility in the use of our rights and freedom of speech in cyberspace. The enforcement of the legislation must be accompanied by efforts to educate people to use technology wisely.

A New Chapter of the Ahok Case

The alleged blasphemy case involving the non-active Governor of Jakarta, Tjahaya Basuki Purnama (aka Ahok), had entered a new chapter. After being named a suspect on 15 November 2016, the inaugural court session was held on Tuesday (13/12) at the North Jakarta District Court. The trial took place less than three months after his controversial statement about the Verse 51 of Al Maidah.

The case started from the release of a video footage of Ahok quoting the Verse 51 of Surah Al Maidah. Ahok has been perceived blasphemous. considered a blasphemy. The video had become viral on social media, sparking demonstrations by Muslims on October 14, November 4, and December 2, 2016.

Indictment against Ahok

The inaugural session began with the reading of the indictment by the Prosecutors. The prosecutors charged Ahok with the blasphemy article. Ahok was charged with Letter A of Article 156 of the Penal Code or Article 156 of the Criminal Code. The lead public prosecutor, Ali Mukartono, said that Ahok's statement about the prohibition of making non-Muslims as leaders is an insult to most segments of the society. In the indictment, the prosecutor mentioned that Ahok's statement had insulted Islamic scholars and the people. c(kompas.com, 13/12).

Responding to the indictment, Ahok's attorneys stated that the indictment against Ahok was premature. That was because the prosecutors had ignored the special rule and immediately applied the general rule in the case of alleged blasphemy by Ahok. The ignored special rule was the Decree of the President (PNPS) No. 1 of 1965 on the Prevention of the Abuse and / or the Blasphemy of Religion. Ahok's lawyers stated that the formulation of religious offense as stipulated in Law No. 1 of 1965 can legally be qualified as special in nature. The UU has been ignored by the prosecutors, even though it is still valid and not revoked until today. Although it has been sub-

mitted twice to the Constitutional Court (MK) to be reviewed, the law is still valid.

A number of people from civil society organizations have also responded to articles that are being used by the police and the prosecutors to indict Ahok. Director of Research Setara Institute Ismail Hasani said that there were two legal norms were used if there was a case of alleged blasphemy; namely, Article 156a of the Criminal Code and Presidential Decree No. 1 of 1965 on the Abuse and / or Blasphemy of Religion (Presidential Edict No.1 / 1965). Ismail Hasani stated that Ahok did not commit blasphemy because Ahok's statement did not meet the elements of the act of blasphemy in the Presidential Edict No. 1/1965 and Article 156a of the Criminal Code. Ismail argues that Ahok did not insult the Koran or the Islamic scholars but criticized the people who took advantage of the Verse 51 of surah Al-Maidah for specific purposes (beritasatu.com, 14/11).

Senior Advisor to the Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) Choirul Anam said that Article 156a was a rubber article and did not provide legal certainty. According to Choirul, generally in cases of blasphemy, the police usem the logic of offended feelings and not the act itself (kompas.com, 17/11).

The Case's Implication on Ahok's participation in the Jakarta Election

So far, the naming of a suspect and the inaugural court session have not impacted on Ahok's participation in the Jakarta regional elections.

This has been confirmed by the Chairman of the Elections Commission of Jakarta, Sumarno, who said that Ahok's status as a suspect in the case of alleged blasphemy did not affect his candidacy for the Governor of Jakarta position. Ahok can still contest the regional election. KPU will cancel Ahok's nomination if he has been found guilty with a penalty of imprisonment of five years or more. This is regulated in Article 88 of Commission Regulation (PKPU) Number 9:2016 re Regional Elections (tempo.co, 16/11).

In Article 88 Paragraph 1 Letter B of PKPU No. 9 2016, a pair of candidates that is convicted of a felony punishable to imprisonment for a minimum of 5 (five) years or more prior to the voting date will be disqualified.

The alleged blasphemy case has resulted in the decrease of the electability of Ahok

But on the other hand, although Ahok's participation in the regional election has not been canceled by the Elections Commission, Ahok's electability level has been declining according to some survey results. Before the alleged blasphemy case, his electability level was higher than those of the other candidates.

The decline in Ahok's electability rating can be seen from the results of several surveys that were conducted during November 2016. The survey results of the Indonesian Political Indicators put the Ahok-Djarot pair in the second place, at a level of 26.2 percent compared to the electability level of the Agus-Sylvi pair, who were in the first position at a level of 30.4 percent (kompas.com, 24/11).

Furthermore, Poltracking Indonesia put the Ahok-Djarot pair (at a level 22 per cent) below the Agus-Sylvi pair, at the electability rate of 27.92 percent (antaranews, 27/11). Then, Charta Politika which puts couples Ahok-Djarot 29.3 percent. Narrowly lost a couple Agus-Sylvi with 30.4 percent (liputan6.com, 29/11).

Paying attention to the above survey results, the author argues that the outcome was the confirmation of the effects of the alleged blasphemy case on the electability of Ahok. Robust public scrutiny through the media and social networking media have changed the perception of voters Jakarta towards Ahok.

Jakarta voters are usually more rational, with a high orientation on the work programs offered by candidates, and usually have less binding to ideology, origin, traditional values, culture, religion. However, the alleged blasphemy case has changed the people's perception. The views of the majority of voters in Jakarta have become more traditional with an emphasis on the issue of religion.

- Arfianto Purbolaksono -

Policies for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

For 16 days each year, from November 25 to December 10 was held the 16 Days Campaign on Violence against Women. This campaign is an international campaign to encourage efforts to eliminate violence against women worldwide. This activity was first initiated by the Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership.

Why 16 days?
Selection of time range from 25 November to December 10 is not without reason. Komnas Perempuan mention that the time span was chosen in order to symbolically connect between violence against women and human rights and emphasizes that violence against women is a violation of human rights. During the 16 days, both National Commission for Women and other elements of society, doing various activities such as public seminars, peaceful action, exhibitions and so forth.

In addition to November 25 and December 10, there are at least five important date in the range of those dates which the activities of Violence against Women campaign could be integrated.

The first, December 1, as the World Aids Day. Health ministry data said housewife The ranks of people with HIV-AIDS people living with HIV, according to livelihood groups, as many as 9,096 (2015). Generally they are infected by their husbands who frequent sexual intercourse is not safe to come and go a couple. Important then Anti Violence against Women campaign is integrated in Combating Aids campaign.

Second, December 2 is celebrated as International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. Today is the day of the adoption of the UN

Convention on the Suppression of people trafficked and exploiting others in the UN General Assembly resolution No. 317 (IV) in 1949. This Convention is a milestone in efforts to provide protection for victims, especially for groups vulnerable such as women and children, for the crime of human trafficking.

Thirdly, on 3 December is celebrated as the International Day for Persons with Disabilities. Today is the birth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Persons with Disabilities. The action program is to enhance public understanding of issues concerning persons with disabilities and also raise awareness of the benefits that can be gained, both by society and people with disabilities, by integrating their presence in all aspects of community life.

Fourth, on December 5 as International Day of Volunteers. Today is a tribute to the people who have contributed so meaningful to society by devoting his life as a volunteer.

Fifth, December 6 as the Day No tolerance for violence against women. Warning is intended to continue to remember and interesting reflections on the events of 1989, where there was a massacre at the University of Montreal Canada who killed 14 students and wounded 13 others (13 of them female) using a 223-caliber semi-automatic rifle.

Moving from the realm of policy

In the context of the policy, the author assesses important in the 16 Days Campaign on Violence against Women in 2016 is for us all to see a draft policy related to the elimination of violence against women, namely Bill (the Bill) Elimination of Sexual Violence.

Elimination of Sexual Violence Bill into the National Legislation Program (Prolegnas) Priority 2016. The discussion in Parliament needs to be continuously monitored. It is none other than the existence of the Act is considered urgent if the condition and the number of cases of sexual violence occurred.

According to the 2016 Annual Notes issued by the National Commission for Women issued on March 8, 2016 to coincide with International Women's Day, the number of cases Violence against Women in 2015 as many as 321 752. Of the total 60 per cent of violence in the domestic sphere, 31 percent in the realm of community and the rest in the realm of the state.

As for the specific case of sexual assault itself, in the domestic realm ranks second only to physical violence (38 percent) in the amount of 30 percent. While in the realm of community ranks first as much as 61 percent of the total 5,002 cases.

Some notes on violence data from 2016 Catahu Komnas Perempuan above are, first, the data presented is data-specific violence against women; second, the data presented do not represent the rest of cases of violence against women only based on case files / cases handled by the Religious or Religious Courts (PA-BADILOG), Komnas Perempuan and partner services institutions.

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It means then is, the data of sexual violence against men has not been mapped, and the real number of particularly violent, especially of a sexual nature certainly greater. However, data from the National Commission for Women is already showing how precarious condition of sexual violence in Indonesia. Urgent because it is not just in the realm of community / public but also in the domestic realm, the realm of the family with the perpetrator is a family member.
Based on the above, the question of whether Indonesia might be free from sexual violence, we can be sure will be answered with a no. There, then, legalization Elimination of Sexual Violence becomes a necessity to be the first step towards zero sexual violence in Indonesia.

Related Sexual Violence bill yourself, here are some things that need to be observed. This bill needs to be defined more broadly and comprehensively about the sexual violence itself, the handling of the case to any aspects of recovery for the victims of the surrounding community, including the victim's family.

The principle that should be built is that all forms of sexual violence

is a serious crime and all forms of sexual violence is also a violation of Human Rights (HAM) and every citizen is entitled to be free from all forms of sexual violence.

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-Lola Amelia -

The principle that should be built is that all forms of sexual violence is a serious crime and all forms of sexual violence is also a violation of Human Rights (HAM) and every citizen is entitled to be free from all forms of sexual violence.

THE INDONESIAN INSTITUTE
CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

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").

Contact Address:
Jl. K.H. Wahid Hasyim No. 194
Jakarta Pusat 10250 Indonesia
Phone. 021 390 5558 Fax. 021 3190 7814
www.**the**indonesian**institute**.com

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).

Gedung Pakarti Center Lt. 7
Jl. Tanah Abang 3 No. 23-27 Jakarta Pusat 10160
Phone : (021) 38901937 Fax. : (021) 34832486
Email: contact@theindonesianinstitute.com
www.theindonesianinstitute.com

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