

The Indonesian Update

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



Main Report :

The Opportunities and Challenges of Village Community Participation

Economy

The Dilemma on the Increase in 12 Kg LPG Price ▪

Law

Look at the Religious Harmony Bill ▪

The Purification Authority of the Judicial Commission ▪

Politics

A Look at to the Stages Campaign In the 2014 Elections ▪

Youth Voter Behavior ahead of the 2014 Elections ▪

Voter Turnout Tends to Decrease ▪

Social

The Flood and Development ▪

Analyzing the Polemics over National Health Insurance Implementation ▪

Questioning the Increasing Number of Poor People ▪

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	1
MAIN REPORT	
The Opportunities and Challenges of Village Community Participation.....	2
ECONOMY	
The Dilemma on the Increase in 12 Kg LPG Price	6
LAW	
Look at the Religious Harmony Bill	9
The Purification Authority of the Judicial Commission.....	12
POLITICS	
A Look at to the Stages Campaign In the 2014 Elections	15
Youth Voter Behavior ahead of the 2014 Elections	19
Voter Turnout Tends to Decrease.....	22
SOCIAL	
The Flood and Development	26
Analyzing the Polemics over National Health Insurance Implementation	29
Questioning the Increasing Number of Poor People	32
INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE.....	35
RESEARCH PROGRAMS.....	36
EVALUATION	38
PUBLIC DISCUSSION.....	39
TRAINING & WORKING GROUP FACILITATION	40

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FOREWORD

The passing of the Village Law in December 2013 has brought fresh air to increase the participation of rural communities. The Village Law will open up the space for public participation in governance and development in villages. Looking at the substance of the Village Law, it seems that this is the answer to the need for a comprehensive legislation on villages

However, how the space is used and the village elite can distort the meaning of community participation.

The February 2014's edition of the Indonesian Update raises a main theme on "the Opportunities and Challenges in Creating Rural Community Participation. On the economy, it discusses "the Dilemma over the 12 Kg LPG Price Increase". On law it talks about "Looking at the Draft Law on Religious Harmony". On politics it reviews, "Paying Attention to Campaign Stages in the 2014 elections". On social affairs, it talks about "Flood Problems and Urban Development"

In addition, in this edition of the Indonesian Update, on law, it also discusses "Purification Authority of Judicial Commission". On politics it discusses "Youth Voter Behavior ahead of the 2014 Election" and "Voter Participation Tends to Decrease". On social affairs, it touches on "The Polemics over the Implementation of JKN" and "Questioning the Increasing Number of Poor People".

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 Opportunities and Challenges of Village Community Participation

Before the Village Law was passed in December 2013 by the House of Representatives (DPR), participation was limited to the elections of head of village and the Village Consultative Body (BPD). The villager did not have space to participate in further process of governance and rural development.

In the old Government Regulation (PP) No. 72/2005 on Village Governance, people only received information through oral statements from village government and media. Furthermore, only rural community institutions were involved in village development plan. Thus the villagers did not have space to conduct the monitoring of the village governance.

Meanwhile, the Village Law gives villagers the opportunity to monitor the village government. Moreover, village communities have space to be involved in and monitor the development planning.

The Village Law brings the spirit of public participation in village's governance and development. The Law is the answer to comprehensive legislation needs in villages, as the previous legislations; namely, Law (UU) No. 22 /1999, UU No. 32/ 2004 and PP No. 72/2005 were not sufficiently detailed and clear, especially in providing access for the participation of rural communities.

Public participation in village government

In the Village Law, the village government is run by the head of village and is assisted by village assistants. The head of village submits a government annual report every year, and a regent / mayor gives a written report to BPD each year. For the community, the head of village should disseminate a written report every year.

The position of village head is balanced by the BPD and also by villagers' participation. The head of village can no longer exercise power by simply following the instructions of higher structures like in the New Order era. Instead, the head of village is required to

run the village government with the principles of accountability, transparency and transformative.

The head of village and BPD have a function to set village rules and to channel the aspirations of village communities. BPD currently has an important role in the process of governance and development in the village. BPD will be a partner for the head of village to make accountable and transparent governance.

In the past, the monitoring of the village government was carried out by the Village Representatives Body (the name was changed to the Village Representatives Body with Law No. 32/2004). However, with the Village Law, the community has an access and an opportunity to participate in supervising the village government.

There is a forum for people to channel their aspirations through the Village Council (Musyawarah Desa). Article 54 of the Village Law states that the Village Council is a consultative forum that is attended by the village government, BPD and rural elements to discuss strategic matters in village governance. The forum is held at least once a year.

There are several provisions of the policy making that are important in the villages under the Village Law, which also involve the participation of villagers. The provisions consist of village regulation-making process and the establishment of village-owned enterprises (BUM Desa). According to the Article 69 Paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Village Law, a regulation draft shall be consulted with the villagers. The villagers have the right to provide input on the village regulation draft. Subsequently, Article 88 states that the establishment of BUM Desa should be agreed through the Village Council.

The accountability of village government would improve with the monitoring from the BPD and the public over the village government. The transparency of policy-making process and the using of the village budget also would be better, too. The access to policies and budgets will improve transparency in village governance.

Public participation in village development

Article 80, paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 of the Village Law states that to plan the village development, a village government is obligated to conduct village development planning involving village communities. In the process of village development planning, there should be a villager forum attended by the head of village, BPD and village communities. The villager forum becomes a place for public participation in village development. In addition, people

also can oversee the development process and be involved in the implementation of the evaluation.

Article 82 mentions that the villagers are entitled to have access to information about the plan, implementation, and monitoring of village development. Villagers participate in the forum to respond the reports on village development.

From that mechanism of community involvement in the village development, the development is expected to meet the village communities' needs. Furthermore, by always involving the communities in planning, implementation and evaluation, it is hoped that the corruption of village funds of Rp 1 billion a year can be avoided.

In the development of the village, the head of village is expected to have a vision to advance people's lives and rural development. So the head of village can move and coordinate the participation of the community to build the village.

The Implementation of Public Participation

The participation of villagers can be categorized as voice, access and control. Voice is citizens' rights and aspirations, ideas, needs, interests, and demands. The means of access is space and capacity to enter the arena of government, which is involved actively in influencing policies and managing public goods. The control is the control of citizens over community environment and political processes associated with the government (Syahdan, 2005).

In the Village Law, the principles of participation have been accommodated properly. Communities can express their voice to the head of village and BPD. Furthermore, people also have access through the village forum to be involved in planning of the village development and control of the village government.

Communities can take advantage from local organizations (RT, RW, PKK, Karang Taruna, farmer communities, and etc.) , which participate in village development and governance. Article 94 of Village Law states that civil society is institutions that can help villagers who help carry out the functions of governance and village development.

However, we should keep in mind the role of the village elite, including the elite who are in village civil societies. They can distort the meaning of community participation. Because the voice from the elite is sometimes regarded as the voice of the whole community or

the people that they represent, but it is not always true. To prevent it, is necessary to open up participation to the general public to voice their opinions, at least in the activities of village forum to planning the development of the village.

Community participation in order to appear and not just be a provision in the bill has just yet been realized. There are things that need to be considered, namely the capacity of society. Community capacity can be improved by providing a good formal education so that the educational level of rural communities is also increasing. Then inform the masyarakat about channels and their rights in the governance and rural development. As well as the awareness of the necessary government BPD village and encourage participation in the village.

Village Law is intended to achieve public participation in the process of governance and village development. Therefore, it is necessary for the head of village and BPD to encourage community participation, as well as community capacity building.

- Annas Syaroni -

The Dilemma on the Increase in 12 Kg LPG Price

The new year in Indonesia has not only created happiness for the people but also some restlessness. If in the early year 2010, the people were made restless by a new era of free trade between Indonesia and China through a scheme of ASEAN China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA), in this new year, many people have been disappointed by Pertamina's decision to increase significantly the price of the 12 kg Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) by IDR 3.975 per kg, to a new price of IDR 9.350 per kg.

This of course had a reason. According to a Press Release distributed by Pertamina on December 31, 2013, at least there were three reasons that pushed the increase of the 12 kg LPG. *First*, Pertamina experienced losses due to the non-subsidized LPG business according to the National Auditing Agency (BPK) findings.

Second, the domestic supply was insufficient; therefore, forcing Pertamina to import in order to fulfill domestic needs. During 2009-2013, the average national demand of LPG that could be fulfilled was not more than 50 percent.

Therefore, Pertamina imported LPG to fulfill the needs. On the other hand, the exchange rate was depreciating in the last two years. Nowadays, Indonesian Rupiah had touched the level of 12,000 against USD – deprec 35 percent weaker than that in January 2012 (Bloomberg, 2014).

Third, the regulated price of IDR 5.850 per kg had made Pertamina bear the gap between the selling price and the economic price, which reached up to IDR 10.875. Therefore, Pertamina had an accumulation loss of IDR 22 trillion within the last 6 years.

The three reasons prompted Pertamina on January 1, 2014, to increase the price of non-subsidized LPG simultaneously across Indonesia.

Reviewing the Dilemma on the Increase of LPG Price

The President's instruction for Pertamina to review the increase in the 12 kg LPG 12 prices on January 5 forced Pertamina to revise the decision to only apply a IDR 1,000 per kg increase.

In addition to political interest from the government and the political parties that were involved in the cancellation of the price, we should review the dilemma on the increased prices of the 12 kg LPG.

First, in my opinion, the difference between the price of the 12 kg LPG (non-subsidized) with the 3 kg LPG (subsidized) has already posed a big question. Who deserves to consume the subsidized LPG and who should buy the LPG 12 kg?

This is what is known as the subsidy concept that creates a distortion in the economy because it creates *free riders*. It is not clear which consumers should buy product A or product B. If the 12 kg LPG has a relatively high price, this should prompt the consumers to switch into consuming the 3 kg LPG, and thus there will be an excess demand that will create scarcity in the product.

This problem is also found in the fuel commodities where when the difference between Pertamax and Premium prices are relatively far then consumers with luxurious vehicles can switch to premium to avoid a high price.

Second, the one who will bear the economic price of the 12 LPG is Pertamina. That is because the government, through the State Budget (APBN), only subsidizes the 3 kg LPG 3, where the amount of subsidy increases every year. In 2014, the subsidy allocation is IDR 36.77 billion – 16.65 percent higher than the previous year.

As explained before, the losses suffered by Pertamina were detected by BPK. The losses in 2013 were IDR 5.7 trillion. On one side, as a State Owned Enterprise (BUMN), Pertamina should pursue profit according to Law Number 19/2003 on BUMN. This seems to be unfair for Pertamina.

Third, Pertamina is the only producer that has the authority to set prices. This is regulated in the Minister Regulation (Permen) Number 26/2009 on the Provision and Distribution of LPG. However, in the Permen, Pertamina should report to the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resource (ESDM) in setting the prices.

The government's intervention contradicted the regulation that has already issued by itself. In addition, it is clear that the 12 kg LPG is

a non-subsidized commodity, and Pertamina should only report its decision/

Finding the Solution

The problem will persist if there is no solution. The author offers several solutions. *First*, Pertamina must disseminate information about financial report to public. This is to answer public demand about transparency from Pertamina regarding how big are the losses that they are really facing.

Second, the government should decide clearly who the consumers of LPG are. If there are still two types of LPGs supplied to the society, the government should clarify which consumers can buy product A and which consumers can buy product B. Therefore, the policy of having price difference can be more effective. After that, the monitoring system of the distribution the 3 kg LPG (SIMOL3K) from Pertamina should be conducted effectively.

Third, it would be better if the government started to subsidize directly to the poor society than imposing subsidy over commodity such as PKH. The burden of subsidy is relatively vulnerable to distortions, so problems related to LPG subsidy, fuel subsidy, and others will keep on repeating. Therefore, it will not be fair for the poor people who have rights to obtain the subsidy from the government.

The burden of LPG subsidy has created dilemma for Pertamina to increase the price of the non-subsidized LPG. The migration of the consumers from non-subsidized to subsidized can lead to the subsidized LPG scarcity problem. Therefore, the government should channel the subsidy directly to the poor society if it wants to reach the right target.

- Akbar Nikmatullah Dachlan -

Look at the Religious Harmony Bill

As a large and diverse country, Indonesia consists of various ethnic groups, religions, races, and ethnicities. With the diversity of Indonesia, then the people also have different belief systems. So, great tolerance is required to build religious harmony. On the other hand, religious tolerance in a pluralistic society such as Indonesia is still a problem until now; for example, the cases of inter-religious conflicts in Poso, Central Sulawesi and Ambon, Maluku.

According to the Wahid Institute's Annual Report Freedom of Religion/Belief and Tolerance 2013, the number of cases of religious intolerance and discrimination that occurred in Indonesia was still high, or in other words the quality of assurance of freedom, conscience or religious tolerance in this country was still minimal. In the past five years, the total number of cases of abuse or religious intolerance in Indonesia touched a level of 1,095 cases, or an average of 219 cases per/year.

The cases of intolerance and religious discrimination remains a complex problem, and the number is rising as well, so the Government has prepared a bill called Religious Harmony Bill (*RUU KUB*). Although not included in the 2014 National Legislative Program, the Government is continuing to assess this bill by taking the opinions of various parties as considerations. Now, *RUU KUB* has entered the stage of discussion at the Religious Affairs Ministry (sindonews.com, 2013).

Criticizing the Religious Harmony Bill

The content of *RUU KUB* includes four main things, which are considered as the causes of the cases of religious intolerance. They are the procedure of religious festivities, proselytizing, funeral, and the establishment of places of worship (Tabloid Reformata issue

147, January 2012). By regulating these four things, the Government hopes to take precautionary actions and find resolutions for cases of religious intolerance.

However, there are many people who do not agree *if RUU KUB* is passed into law. Even during an information dissemination stage, the bill was heavily criticized.

There are few things that need to be criticized from the *RUU KUB*. *First*, judging from the level of urgency, the four main points stated above are actually not urgent matters. This bill just regulates things that can undermine pluralism, such as the unclear definition of proselytizing (Article 1 of Paragraph 4); the prohibition to perform actions, to say things, and to publicize materials that are considered threats to people of other faiths (Article 44); increasing understanding of one's own religion (Article 7), and others.

The non-urgency things can also be seen from the goal, which is to overcome cases of religious intolerance. This matter actually can be settled by the laws that Indonesia already had, like Law No. 7/2012 on Social Conflict Management (*UU PKS*) and Law No. 17/2013 on Community Organizations (*UU Ormas*). In fact, both of the laws above are still 'problematic', so that *RUU KUB* will become a new problem.

Second, discrimination will lead to conflict. This can be seen from its content: the complexity of the rules regarding the establishment of houses of worship (Article 24 and Article 25); the issues of religious defamation (Article 1); and the issues of proselytizing (Article 45).

Third, the bill will become violation of human rights. *This is because RUU KUB* will be seen as violating the Constitution and the existing legal regulations, such as the 1945 Constitution, Article 28 I and 29 (Paragraph 2), Law No. 39/1999, as well as the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (Article 19); wherein all the rules state that freedom of religion is a fundamental human right.

Recommendations

With reference to the matters described above, the authors feel that *RUU KUB* is still not feasible to be passed into law. The goal of this bill is to overcome cases of religious intolerance, so the Government should look at some of the legislations that have been issued previously issued, like *UU PKS*. If it is linked religious intolerance, which is usually carried out by the community organizations, Indonesia has already had *UU Ormas*, which can be used as a reference.

The Government needs to come up with some solutions, which will answer the question of 'how individuals can tolerate the religious rights of others'. As the example, the Government can organize interfaith dialogue on a regular basis in the regions that are 'prone to religious intolerance'.

-Santi Rosita Devi-

To overcome the problem of religious intolerance in Indonesia, the Government is deliberating the Religious Harmony Bill. However, the content of the bill is not yet able to respond and/or resolve the problem of religious intolerance. From the level of urgency, the content of the bill will only legalize discrimination, and it would become the trigger for human rights violation.

The Purification Authority of the Judicial Commission

The Judicial Commission of the Republic of Indonesia (KY) is one of the state bodies that were formed in the process of amending the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia Year 1945 (1945) during the year 1999-2001. The state body was established to strengthen and purify the judicial branch of power often infiltrated by political interests.

The presence of KY provided a hope for the improvement of judicial power in Indonesia. However, since the establishment of KY through Law Number 22/2004 on the Judicial Commission, its functions and authority are so limited, so it cannot work optimally.

Firstly, there was a conflict between KY and the Supreme Court (MA) on the code of conduct and supervision of the judges. In addition, the judges of the Constitutional Court have also considered that the judges' attitude cannot be supervised by KY, which has become a hot topic in the literatures of jurisprudence.

The end of 2013 and beginning of 2014 seems to be a momentum for KY to purify its functions and authorities. This has been indicated by the issuance of some laws that significantly refine the functions and authorities of KY.

The legal basis is the issuance of the Government Regulation in Lieu of Law (Perppu) No. 1/2013 on the Second Amendment to Law Number 24/2003 on the Constitutional Court and the Constitutional Court Decision No. 27/PUU-XI/2013.

The Instrument of Purification

The existence of KY in the constitutional system is considered very important. It can be seen from the KY arrangements in Article 24B of the 1945 Constitution. State bodies that are regulated in the Constitution are legally sustainable.

Article 24A Paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution regulates that KY proposes nominees to the DPR for approval. Then, after that the president will appoint the nominees that have been approved by DPR. KY's authority is enshrined in Article 24B Paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution, which stipulates that KY has the authorities to propose the appointment of KY and Supreme Court justices and to preserve and uphold the honor, dignity and behavior of judges.

This provision was then revised in KY Law and MA Law. In both of these laws, it is stipulated that the DPR can do a fit and proper test, thereby reselecting the previous nominees selected by KY. The implication is that there are two selections of the MA judge candidates, wthe one conducted in KY and the one in DPR.

In order to get the best MA judge candidates, they should not be selected through a political mechanism in DPR. The mechanism for the selection of judges in the DPR is very vulnerable to political intervention. In addition, this mechanism, according to several former candidates, is detrimental to their constitutional rights.

This has become the legal standing for several former judge candidates to file a judicial review of KY Law and MA Law on the election mechanism of justices in the DPR. This application was then used as the entrance for the purification of KY authority as mandated by the 1945 Constitution. The instrument was the Constitutional Court's verdict.

Another KY authority that has been purified is the supervision of MK. In 2006, MK has issued Verdict No. 005/PUU-IV/2006 on Judicial Review of Law Number 22/2004 to the 1945 Constitution. The verdict ruled that that constitutional judges are not included in the list of monitored objects of KY.

The lack of supervision to MK has been considered particularly worrying as in a democratic state, there are no state institutions independent from other institutions' oversight. The concern has become evident when KPK arrested the then MK Chief Justice, Akil Mochtar, who allegedly received bribes from litigants in MK.

This event was an entrance for the President to issue Perppu that was later passed by DPR. The substance of the rule of law gives the authority indirectly to KY to be involved in the selection and supervision of constitutional judges.

Two legal instruments that are the results of the ratification of the law on Government Regulation in Lieu of Law (Perppu) Number

1/2013 on the Second Amendment to Law Number 24/2003 on MK and MK Verdict Number. 27/PUU-XI/2013 have become a tool to purify KY authorities to keep pace with 1945 Constitution.

Slowly but surely, KY has regained its authorities, which previously had been reduced through a number of laws. The purification of KY authorities is very important so that KY can do its work in accordance with the mandate of the 1945 Constitution.

Hoping to KY

The establishment of KY was a response to concerns over the state of the judiciary that is less likely to receive scrutiny from external bodies. The collusion in the judicial world is a challenge for MA and KY to immediately fix.

In the beginning, KY's authority in the judge selection process was introductory. KY just submitted the names of candidates to DPR for then selected and voted by DPR. The results of the selection made by KY can be overridden by the political mechanism in DPR.

The presence of Perppu Number 1/2013 on the Second Amendment to Law Number 24 Year 2003 on MK and MK Verdict No. 27/PUU-XI/2013 has given new energy to KY to do their job properly.

Both legal bases can be a foundation for KY to be a stronger, authoritative institutions. To improve the justice world, strong, authoritative institutions and underlying legal framework are needed.

At least, KY must perform three basic steps to follow both laws. *Firstly*, KY needs to prepare and improve the quality of human resources in order to carry out the internal authorities of the judicial functions well. *Second*, KY needs to coordinate with the DPR regarding the selection process of MA judges, as it is important to interpretate the MK's verdict.

Third, KY also needs to coordinate with MK in relation to the establishment of Supervisory Council tasked with supervising the constitutional judges. It is important that in the future, the supervision of MK does not pose a legal problem because it is not arranged in the 1945 Constitution.

-Asrul Ibrahim Nur-

End of 2013 and beginning of 2014 be a momentum for KY to purify the functions and authority. This is indicated by the presence of some basic laws which significantly refines the functions and authority of KY.

A Look at to the Stages Campaign In the 2014 Elections

Ahead of the General Elections in 2014, the competition is getting fierce amongst the contestants. Political parties contesting the elections have been campaigning more vigorously to attract constituents.

The campaign itself is an official event for the participants of the elections to convince voters to vote them by offering the vision, mission, and programs. In the General Election Commission Regulation (PKPU) No. 21 of 2013 on the Stages of the 2014 Elections, the campaign will be conducted in two phases.

In the first phase, the campaign is conducted through limited meetings, face to face meetings, distribution of campaign materials to the public, and the installation of props. This will run from January 11, 2013 to 5 April 2014. In the second phase, the campaign is conducted through rallies and advertisements in the mass media, which will begin from March 16 to April 5, 2014.

Election Campaign In Indonesia

The campaign is an important activity carried out in the arena of political contestation. Pfau and Parrot states that a campaign is a process designed consciously, gradually, and continuously to be conducted at regular intervals with the aim of influencing the target audience (Gun Gun Heryanto, 2013).

In Indonesia, the campaign has been conducted in the method of delivery of the vision, mission, and programs to constituents. In the 1999 and 2004 elections, we still saw a model that was still dominated by campaign speeches, distribution of T-shirts, billboards, banners. Then in the 2009 elections, it was also carried out by using electronic media.

According to Bank Indonesia, the circulation of money in the 2004 General Election campaign period reached Rp 115.3 trillion. While in the 2009 elections, money supply increased more than doubled to Rp 251.4 trillion. The magnitude of the velocity of money in the campaign period is the price that must be paid by the candidates in order to gain legislative seats.

How will the 2014 election campaign be?

2014 election campaign, has started since January 11, 2013. Political parties campaigning unlimited meetings, face to face meetings, dissemination of campaign materials to the public, and the installation of props.

Stocking billboards and banners had begun since the campaign schedule is set. Like the previous elections in Indonesia, billboards, banners and t-shirts into the main props in a campaign.

The results of a survey by Puskapol UI in the 2009 elections found that the majority of people said that the information about political parties and candidates was generally obtained from banners or billboards (72%). Meanwhile, direct relationship through face-to-face contact was still lacking, which was only 13%. Social activities such as free medical care, were still rare (5%). A campaign that was conducted through SMS (1%), while the one that was conducted via internet (8%).

Based on the experience of the previous elections, it is not surprising that in the lead-up to the 2014 elections, almost all political parties and candidates have been busy to put up banners and billboards all over the place. This has disturbed public order.

To address this, KPU then issued PKPU No. 15/2013 on the Guidelines on the Campaign. The PKPU includes new rules regarding the zoning of campaign props.

With these rules, campaign props cannot be put in any places.. But the question is whether this campaign an effective ways to promote the vision, mission, programs and the names of candidates? This question becomes important when we pay attention to the current voter behavior.

According to the survey results by Pol-Tracking Institute “Reading Trends Voter Attitudes and Behavior in the 2014 legislative elections” candidate figures greatly influence voting behavior. A total of 34% of voters would voting candidates based on names. 28.7% would vote based on the images of political parties and, and 16.8% based

on the serial numbers of candidates in legislative elections. The figures indicate that the candidate information dissemination is very important to do.

The survey also found that the public motive for selecting candidate figures was very high at 69% compared to the serial numbers of political parties, which only stood at 12%. The figures also indicate that the candidate figures were still more important than the political parties (www.poltracking.com, 19/12/2013).

Responding to polemics over restrictions on props, KPU commissioner Arief Budiman said that restrictions on props, are limited to banners and billboards. KPU still allows candidates to campaign through shirts, books, leaflets and campaign materials.

Arief thinks that the distribution of shirts, books, and campaign materials can be done during *blusukan*. This method will make candidates have direct contact with the public. If *Blusukan* activities are done correctly, they will cost cheaper than putting up banners and billboards (www.rumahpemilu.org, 31/08/2013).

Media campaign and community meetings are effective ways to introduce the vision, mission, programs and names of candidates. However, without sufficient oversight, the meetings will also be vulnerable to the practice of money politics.

This concern is very reasonable if we look at the results of the survey on the indicators of Indonesian Politics “Voter Attitudes and Behavior of the Money Politics.” The survey found that as many as 41.5% of respondents considered money politics is a natural thing. It was slightly different with the number of respondents who rejected money politics, which amounted to 57.9% (www.indikator.co.id, 12/12/2013).

Money politics is still a big problem in the administration of our democracy today. It will be prevalent in the upcoming elections, as it was in the past elections. The prevalent money politics has resulted in high costs election campaign in Indonesia.

Recommendations

As mentioned above, according to the author, there are several things that need to be considered in the 2014 election campaign. *First*, KPU and Bawaslu should provide comprehensive information dissemination to the Election Commission and the Internal Audit Agency and Local Government to implement the PKPU No. 15 of 2013.

Secondly, KPU and the Election Supervisory Body should meet with political parties to find a common understanding of the implementation of the campaign set in PKPU No. 15/2013. Political parties should be expected to deliver the vision, mission, and programs to the community so that people can consider and choose a political party of his or her choice.

Third, Bawaslu should increase the supervision over money politics by political parties during the campaign. Fourth, KPU and Bawaslu should cooperate with civil society groups in campaigning for anti-money politics during the campaign period. Fifth, political parties should be encouraged to intensify direct meetings with residents in the constituencies. The commitment must be based on anti-money politics.

- Arfianto Purbolaksono-

Media campaign and community meetings are effective ways to introduce the vision, mission, programs and names of candidates. However, without sufficient oversight, the meetings will also be vulnerable to the practice of money politics.

Youth Voter Behavior ahead of the 2014 Elections

Youth are on the frontline of any nation's changes. In history, the youth are national assets that are very expensive and priceless.

The development of the Indonesian nation depends a lot on its youth as agents of change, including in the 2014 General Elections.

The definition of youth in the Law No. 40/2009 is Indonesian citizens who have entered an important period of growth and development of 16 to 30 years of age.

Young voters will play an important role in the process of power transition in Indonesia in 2014. As the number of young voters, ranging from 64 million people, is equivalent to 34 percent of the vote. Given the importance of elections, it is no wonder that great hopes rest on the shoulders of young people.

Youth Voter Behavior ahead of the 2014 Elections

Voting behavior according to Ramlan Surbakti (1997) is the activities of voting by individuals that are closely related to the decision-making activities to choose or not to choose (to vote or not to vote) in a general election. When voters decide to choose (to vote), then the voters will vote or support a particular candidate.

Ahead of the 2014 elections, it is interesting to monitor the behavior of today's young voters. According to a survey by Indocratia Perludem about youth voting behavior towards the 2014 elections, youth participation in elections in 2014 is predicted to reach 84 percent. However, their knowledge about elections, especially about the dates of the elections of 2014, was very low at a level of only 32 percent (www.rumahpemilu.org, 09/12/2013).

Not surprisingly, the voting behavior of young people is part of the

swing voters in any election. Swing voters are voters who vote for different parties and candidates from one election to the next. This is because swing voters share weak psychological bonds to political parties.

The Perludem and Indocratia survey shows that as many as 53 percent young voters said that they did not know the candidates in their respective regions. Youth involvement in political parties was only at a level of 30 percent. Therefore, 67 percent of the young people are undecided.

Second, there is disappointment on the performance of the government and the political parties. The youth's dissatisfaction with the government of SBY-Boediono was at a level of 53 percent. Meanwhile, the youth's dissatisfaction with the performance of political party was at a level of 55 percent.

The survey's results are in line with the results of the survey conducted by Unified Data Center (PDB), which said that the level of satisfaction of the people with the government of SBY-Boediono declined. The survey's results stated that 49.2 percent of PDB were not satisfied. The level of satisfaction of the people with the government had declined due to the economic sector (detik.com, 17/1).

Youth Current Conditions

The dissatisfaction of youth and society in general is a description of the conditions of young people today. According to the global employment trends report from the International Labour Organization (ILO), two-thirds of young people in developing countries are still unemployed or stuck in low-quality jobs.

Six of the ten countries in the survey have revealed that more than 60 percent of youth are still unemployed or still stuck in low quality jobs. In addition, labor costs are still low, and many still work in the informal economy. Education and training for workers are still lacking. (satuharapan.com, 08/07/2013).

According to the data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the number of unemployed in the month of August 2013 reached a level of 7.4 million people, with the Unemployment Rate (TPT) tending to increase. The August 2013 TPT was at a level of 6.25 percent, up from 5.92 percent in February. In August 2013, the TPT for vocational high school education occupied the highest position at a level of 11.19 percent, followed by TPT High School at a level of 9.74 percent (BPS, December 2013).

Meanwhile, according to data of the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas), the number of unemployed young people (15-24 years of age) in urban areas reached a level of 2.38 million people (30.8%) and in rural areas reached a level of 1.79 million people (Koran Sindo, 29/12/2013).

Recommendations

As expressed above, young people's weak ties with political parties, the disappointment on the performance of the government and political parties, and the poor conditions of youth today have made the youth voting behavior is still floating.

On the one hand, this is actually a great opportunity for any political parties to get the youth vote in the 2014 elections. On the other side, the disappointment and apathy of young people on the 2014 elections can also lead to young people's absence from the elections.

Therefore, the organizers and participants of the current elections have the obligation to conduct political education for youth ahead of the 2014 elections.

There are some necessary steps. *First*, political parties are encouraged to be responsive to the emerging interests of young people through political education, which provide information and explanations to the young people.

Second, political parties are expected to build alternative ideas to address the needs of young people. Third, KPU, civil society organizations and educational institutions (schools and universities) are to work together to improve the activities of political education for voters. Fourth, civil society organizations should monitor the political education by political parties during the campaign to prevent money politics.

- Arfianto Purbolaksono-

Young people's weak ties with political parties, the disappointment on the performance of the government and political parties, and the poor conditions of youth today have made the youth voting behavior is still floating.

Voter Turnout Tends to Decrease

The General Elections Commission (KPU) expects a 75 percent voter turnout in legislative elections in 2014, or 4 percent higher than the turnout rate in the previous elections. This expectation was expressed by the Commission in the declining trend of participation rate in the democratic elections after the New Order (See Table 1).

Table 1. Voters Participation in Legislative Election 1999-2009

Legislative Election (Year)	Degree of Participation (percen)
1999	92,99
2004	84,07
2009	70,99

Source: KPU (www.kpu.go.id)

The declining trend in voter turnout has also happened in many democratic countries around the world, such as USA, UK, Switzerland and some other countries (Hague & Haropp, 2004). In the United States, voter turnout has declined from a level of 63 percent in 1960 to 51 percent in 2000. Meanwhile, the voter turnout in the UK has declined from a level of 78 percent in 1992 to 59 percent in 2001.

The Declining Levels of Trust on Political Parties

There are several reasons for a decline in the voter turnout. Hague & Haropp (2004) discusses the decline in the voter turnout that occurred in some democratic countries in the 1980's as the level of trust on the government and the political parties had declined due to several reasons, such as corruption in the government. It is what makes voters do not use their voting rights.

Therefore, the Commission has started to campaign and invited political parties to increase voter participation in the elections. One of the main objectives is to provide information for the voters,

because many of them have not had previous experience of casting vote. The Commission has also continued to campaign to voters to inform about the voting dates of the elections and other technical procedures.

Beyond the issue of voters who are not informed about the technical matters and information about the elections, the Commission has been facing a bigger problem in increasing the voter participation in elections. The problem is the decline in public trust on the political parties. It makes voters not motivated enough to use their voting rights. It happens due to corruption by political parties and their cadres in the legislative and executive.

Some recent examples of the corruption of political party cadres are the cases of corruption committed by some officials of the Democratic Party (PD) in relation to the case of construction of sports facilities in Hambalang and athlete's housing complex in Palembang. The case involves former PD chair Anas Urbaningrum former member of the Board of Trustees and former Minister of Sports PD Andi Mallarangen, former PD treasurer Nazaruddin and former PD Deputy Secretary General Angelina Sondakh, who was also a former member of the House of Representatives. PD gained the trust of the majority of voters and became the winning party in the 2004 and 2009 elections

Furthermore, some parties in the government coalition and the House of Representative (DPR) were involved in corruption, such as the Golkar Party and the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS). For example, the case of bribery in the local election dispute that afflicts the political dynasty of Ratu Atut Chosiyah, who is also the governor of Banten and Golkar cadre and former Chief Justice (MK) Akil Mochtar, who was also a former member of the House of Representatives for three times from the Golkar Party. From PKS, former PKS president Lutfi Hassan has been involved in corruption in the cattle imports policy.

In regards to the number of cases of corruption, Transparency International released Corruption Perception Index in 2013, which put Indonesia in the 114th rank out of 177 countries, with a score of 32. Its score was still below the average score of other ASEAN countries. Furthermore, the data from the Global Corruption Index 2013 states that the legislature is the second most corrupt institution after the police. Meanwhile, political parties are the fourth most corrupt institution.

The cases of corruption by political parties and the legislature

have become news of the media, such as television. The incessant news on television can make public trust on the political parties and members of the legislative lower. Indeed, television is the most popular reference for public to access information, which has become a perception to look something.

In almost all democratic countries, television has become the most widely accessible medium compared to other media. Television is able to present attractive images, credible news and is easily owned by almost households. Through the television, people can get information on political developments (Hague & Haropp, 2004).

The media proclaim that the massive corruption has been committed by members of political parties and legislators. This information by the media has affected people's perception to the political parties and legislators in DPR, which makes people assume that politicians who are members or candidates in next year legislative elections will do the same.

Moreover, the data from the Forum for Community Care of Parliamentary (FORMAPPI) also mentioned that 89.64 per cent of the candidates who would run in the 2014 legislative elections were members of DPR today. This will further add to the voters' apathy to the elections, as they see the old faces on the candidate list.

These developments, where voter turnout has declined in many democratic countries and where there is a low level of trust on political parties and candidates in Indonesia, will post a tough challenge to boost voter participation in elections this year.

The action to not use the right to vote or not to vote **TIDAK DATANG KE TPS TEMPAT PEMILIHAN** or intentionally damage the ballot to is often referred to as abstention (Golput). Golput is a phenomenon to protest a dissatisfaction with government, elections and political parties.

However, it is difficult to know the exact number of Golputs in the election. Because it is difficult to distinguish between voters who intentionally or unintentionally damage the ballot; intentionally or unintentionally does not cast the vote.

However, the author argues that most voters who do not use their right to vote and who make invalid ballots are Golputs. It was based on the 1999 turnout rate, which was very high and then dropped to 22 percent in the 2009 election (see table 1). So the problem is not about voters' ignorance about when and how to vote, but is

rather about the apathy and political behavior of voters who think the elections will not bring a better change.

On the other hand, the campaign to disseminate election information should not force voters to use their voting rights. Although not stipulated in the legislation, it should not be done. Until now, the elections after the New Order have still been adhered to the democratic principles; namely, the right to vote or not to vote is not an obligation.

It is stated in Article 19 of Legislative Election Law Number 8/2012 that voting in the elections is the rights of citizens. It is not mentioned that to vote is a civic duty.

According to the law, forcing the right to vote can actually get the reverse effect; namely, the urge to not vote in protest over state intervention against voting rights possessed by citizens (Evans, 2004). Therefore, coercion to voters to cast the vote should be avoided.

Conclusion

The one important thing to increase voter participation in elections is to restore voters' trust on the political parties. It has become a big job for the Commission, political parties and all institutions related to corruption eradication. However, because of the poor conditions of the image of political parties at this time, it is difficult to increase voter participation in elections this year.

Restoring the voters' trust on the political parties will automatically increase voter turnout in elections.

For the Commission itself, it should not be stuck in the paradigm that high voter turnout reflects the success of the elections. High level of political participation is not the only measure of success. The important thing is that the elections are clean and have good output. The output is the legislators who have integrity. This would be the success of the elections' procedure and substance.

- Annas Syaroni -

The Flood and Development

Less than a month in 2014, Indonesia has experienced ‘various’ natural disasters. For example, an earthquake happened in Kebumen on 25th January and the eruption of Mount Sinabung in Tanah Karo, North Sumatera. In addition, another disaster that has occurred and been considered a ‘national phenomenon’ in Indonesia is flooding.

According to the data from the National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB), in mid-January 2014, at least 106 disasters have occurred, including 75 floods, 28 landslides, and three flood landslides. This condition appears to have been caused by extreme weather in Indonesia since early year. Furthermore, the Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) said that Indonesia had entered the peak of the rainy season in early January.

Extreme weather is the main cause of disasters. Yet, human negligence in maintaining the environment is also a major cause. In addition to ‘littering habit’, another cause that has become the main problem is the concept of development in Indonesia.

Learning from Manado Floods

Manado was hit by flash floods on 15 January. In fact, the flash floods that occurred this time, were the worst disaster that have ever happened in Manado (investor.co.id, 2014). The flash floods in Manado, which were also the worst disaster in Indonesia that occurred at the beginning of this year, have caused enormous losses, both material and non-material. Up to January 22, 2014, there had been 19 people died, and a total of 11,592 units of homes and other buildings (BNPB, 2014).

The occurrence of flash floods in Manado was caused by many things, which can be grouped into two types, natural factors and human factors.

In terms of natural factors, flash floods and landslides in Manado were due to the unusual weather anomalies, such as extreme rainfalls and the weather pressure from the Philippines whose

impact was felt in North Sulawesi (BMKG, 2014).

In terms of human factors, the disasters had been caused by the massive development, regardless of geographical conditions of the city. According to DR Denny Karwur, an environmentalist from University of Sam Ratulangi, Manado unusual weather anomalies that occurred in Manado were compounded by the loss of several water reservoirs to serve both business and residential areas.

Moreover, the loss of forest areas caused by massive development has led to the changing of the Manado's natural contours, so the flood impact has become more severe (merdeka.co.id, 2014), and has also led into landslides, and erosions.

Manado's 'poor development' had been caused by a regional government regulation (*Perda*) that was issued late. The Provincial Spatial Planning (RTRW) of North Sulawesi had just been confirmed on October 24, 2013 after being delayed for eight years (tribunmanado.co.id, 2013). A month later, RTRW 2013-2033 Manado, began to be discussed.

A problem arose as when the *Perda* RTRW of North Sulawesi and Manado had not been approved there were no basic rules to formulate North Sulawesi's and Manado's development plans. At the same time, development in Manado had become more massive.

According to the law, Manado is 'the main activity center' of North Sulawesi, so Manado has become the center of government and also business center. Therefore, infrastructure development in Manado has increased as well.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The causes of Manado's flash floods can be grouped into two factors, natural factors and human factors.

In terms of natural factors, the causes were weather anomalies and natural landscape of Manado. Then, these factors were compounded by the human behavior, which planned the massive development in Manado but ignoring the conditions of Manado's landscape. Therefore, when Indonesia was hit by extreme weather flash floods occurred in Manado. This became worse as this disaster was also followed by landslides and erosions.

The disaster became worse because the massive development in Manado, which is regulated in RTRW of North Sulawesi as the capital of the province, making it the center of government and

business activities. The development became harmful as the *Perda* about RTRW of North Sulawesi and Manado were issued late.

Therefore, if North Sulawesi Government is serious to solve by the harmful development in Manado, they can start from improving RTRW North Sulawesi so that Manado as the capital of the province will not become the center of government as well as a business center. In other words, equitable and sustainable development is what is needed.

However, if this cannot be avoided because of the strategic position of Manado, one thing that should be improved is the RTRW of Manado. Matters that can be arranged are the availability of green open space, sustainable development, and also environmental impacts or risks involved.

Flash floods in Manado can be a valuable lesson for other cities in Indonesia to observe landscape conditions when conducting development.

-Santi Rosita Devi-

In addition to natural factors, the massive development of Manado had made floods even worse. Therefore, there are some regulations that need to be repaired, such as RTRW Manado and RTRW North Sulawesi, to create equitable and sustainable development.

Analyzing the Polemics over National Health Insurance Implementation

The National Health Insurance (JKN) was rolled out on January 1, 2014. JKN is expected to become a standard basis for the social security of all citizens (Hafidz, 2013). This means that the applications of JKN do not see if the citizens are rich or poor. All citizens should be eligible to get access to the social security of the country.

As JKN is the only social health system prevailing in Indonesia, then all participants of Jamkesmas, Jamkesda and Jakarta Health Card (KJS) are automatically integrated to JKN as of January 1, 2014. For example, KJS covered 3.4 million residents of Jakarta, of which 1.2 million participants were covered by the National Health Insurance (Jamkesmas) and an additional 2.2 million were covered by the Capital City Government, all integrated in JKN.

Less than a month since it was launched, various complaints and discontents about JKN have been emerging. In this paper the author will try to record some of the polemics over the implementation of JKN that have led to many complaints and to try to look for strategic actions that could solve the problems related to this JKN.

Polemics over the Implementation of JKN

According to the head of the Health Social Security Agency (BPJS), which became Indonesia's organizing body of JKN, Fahmi Idris, in the third week of JKN implementation, BPJS had received between 3000-4000 Health BPJS complaints.

Their complaints are mainly about Health BPJS not covering all previous health claims, either from Jamkesmas, Jamkesda or Jakarta Health Card (KJS) in DKI Jakarta. Some complaints about JKN were revealed at a meeting with disappointed JKN users with the Chairman of the House of Representatives Marzuki Alie, Thursday, January 16, 2014 (DetikHealth, 16/01/2014).

One of the complaints is that JKN only covers medical expenses, while people still have to pay for the medicines. For certain diseases, the prices of the medicines are expensive, so JKN participants who are poor cannot afford them.

Another complaint has come from cancer patients. They said that previously they got free chemotherapy treatments. But now, the treatments are limited to Rp. 600 thousand and they need to pay the remaining balance by themselves. The costs of chemotherapy at the Dharmais hospital range from 30 million (Khadafi,2013). Again, the JKN poor participants cannot afford.

In relation to this, BPJS Health said that the amount of the premium of BPJS Health was likely to touch a level of Rp 222 thousand per month per person.

Beneficiaries Contribution (PBI) is a group of poor people at the time BPJS Health began in January 2014, whose premium due will be paid for by the government. The quota for 2014 has been drawn by PBI for as many as 96.4 million people. There is 40 percent of Indonesia's population with the lowest income.

Therefore, the amount of premium that can be covered by JKN system is limited by the majority of JKN participants. In relation to the amount of the premium and the types of services covered JKN and health insurance systems for the poor communities, the author have not found that this is related to the opinion of BPJS of Health.

Another thing that is being debated is that the dissemination of the information tends to be late and not smooth. Director of Health BPJS Fachmi Idris revealed that the JKN implementation will be carried out by the new task force declared this January. This delay had been caused by the delay in the issuance of the new procedures signed by the Ministry of Health last December.

During this time, public access to information about JKN only comes from the mass media, the internet, posters installed in certain places and limited information dissemination at various health centers and other public health services. In other words, information dissemination that is thorough and massive should be executed.

In regards to the substance, the information dissemination does not provide sufficient information on JKN. The Director of BPJS said that the information dissemination has been conducted since last year through mass media, leaflets and banners at various health facilities.

The information dissemination to the public will be more detailed if it is carried out through print and electronic media after the budget has been approved by the Board of Trustees BPJS Health. It is still not clear when it is going to be approved.

Conclusions and Recommendations

From the above description, it appears that the confusion and complaints about JKN are due to the lack of information dissemination. The delay in information dissemination also leaves a question about the JKN management implementation.

The information dissemination by the government and civil society is part of the preparatory stages of the implementation of a program. The information dissemination should have been done with more massive and thorough, before JKN is implemented.

Back to the execution of JKN, the late information dissemination has caused polemics and complaints from the users of this health care system. Health BPJS as the party responsible for the implementation of this JKN needs to solve these polemics. One way would be through the implementation of information dissemination.

Another point to note is that the information dissemination should be right on target, have the appropriate substance and be delivered correctly. This way, the JKN could be better implemented. Proper information dissemination will make JKN beneficiaries be served well and JKN's goal to ensure the health of all citizens of Indonesia materialize.

Information dissemination is an important component in the preparation phase of the implementation of a program. The information dissemination should be right on target, have the appropriate substance and be delivered correctly. This way, the JKN could be better implemented. Proper dissemination will make JKN beneficiaries be served well and JKN's goal to ensure the health of all citizens of Indonesia materialize.

- Lola Amelia -

Questioning the Increasing Number of Poor People

The Central Statistics Agency (BPS) reported that the number of poor people in Indonesia in 2013 increased. There were 28.55 million poor people, or 11.47 percent of the total population in September 2013, increasing by 11.37 percent, or 28.07 million people, from March 2013.

Another important thing to note from the poverty rate increase from the early 2013 trimester to the last of 2013 trimester is that the number of poor people had increased in many urban areas. In March 2013, the number of poor people in urban areas was at a level of 10.33 million (8.39 percent) of the total population, while in September it touched a level of 10.63 million (8.52 percent).

Meanwhile, in rural areas, there were more poor people, ie 17.92 million or (14.42 percent) of the population. There were 17.74 million poor people (14.32 percent of the population) in March 2013.

The cause of the increase in the number of poor people in urban areas could not be separated from the government's policy to increase fuel prices (BBM), which then caused commodity prices to also rises. BPS noted an increase in the number of poor due to high inflation to 5.02 percent tail fuel price hike (BBM) in June 2013.

Another essential commodities go up nationally has been caused the increase in the number of people contributed to the poor. In addition to rising fuel prices, and rice, the increase in retail prices of some commodities also contributed to the increase in the number of poor people. Throughout March to September 2013, the price of chicken meat rose 21.8 percent, the price of eggs rose 8.2 percent, and red pepper prices rose 15.1 percent.

Everything then becomes a factor increase in the number of poor people. BPS also recorded during the period from March to September 2013, the poverty line increased by 7.85 percent, from Rp 271 626 per capita per month in March 2013 to Rp 292,951 per capita per month in September 2013.

Questioning the Effectiveness of Government Poverty Reduction Programs

The increase in the number of poor people is not doubt the result of the failures of various poverty reduction programs. This is a portrait of the failure of the SBY-Boediono administration in general.

Some poverty alleviation programs that have been done tend to fail because of the following factors. *First*, the approach taken is less precise and often misdirected. Often, we have found the fact that people are able to access a range of services that should only be free for the poor, for example, the Community Health Insurance (Jamkesmas), the distribution of rice to the poor (Raskin) and so forth.

Second, as povert is a multi-complex issue, the approach taken should not only rely on one aspect, but on a lot of integrated aspects. The approach should be used consistently and continuously.

It can be seen in the National Program for Community Empowerment (PNPM Mandiri) the principles of public participation. In fact, according to various studies, including the one carried out by the Indonesian Institute (2012), the level of public participation in the formulation of poverty reduction programs in the framework of PNPM is still below 15 percent, especially for the women.

Another thing that we should pay attention to in addition to the increased number of poor people is what measures that will be taken by the government to respond it, as the rise in fuel prices will have a domino effect that will be felt long enough. The improvement of the welfare of the whole people of Indonesia, which is the goal of each development program is, has not been achieved. Instead, the number of the poor people have increased.

The impact of the Increased Number of Poor People

A little look at a map of the history of social conflicts shows a concrete manifestation of intolerance amongst some groups of people in Indonesia, as poverty and unemployment have helped trigger social conflicts. This happened in Ambon (1999) and Poso (1998). Therefore, one way to prevent potential conflicts is to achieve economic welfare, and not the contrary.

The correlation between the increased number of poor people to violent crime is common, as we hear and see on the news from the media. One example is the story of a mother who stola a cassava to feed her family.

In the present context of our nation 's life, the upcoming 2014 General Elections have related various social issues (racial/ethnic/religious/ class/gender) that are susceptible to be used by various political parties. The participants of the elections will use those issues to try and gain votes through taking advantage of poor people whom are psychologically more easily provoked.

Conclusions and Recommendations

From the above explanations, it is clearly seen how poverty can have an impact on the people's lives. The handling can no longer only be done within the framework of the project, but it should be a continuous treatment by the government in various development programs budgeted in the State Budget (APBN).

To prevent the poor from being exploited by unscrupulous candidates to gain votes, there should be political education for the poor people. This means giving them an understanding that an act of giving money to the people to be replaced with the votes is not a feature of democracy, as it is not good and honest.

However, the political education for the voters, especially amongst the poor, cannot stand alone. The government should also implement various poverty alleviation programs that can empower the poor economically and politically.

The government needs to put back the poverty alleviation paradigm on its original purpose, that it, the obligation of the government to achieve the goals of the nation, the welfare of the whole people of Indonesia as stated in the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution as the Constitution of our country.

The government needs to put back the poverty alleviation paradigm on its original purpose; that is, the duty of the government to achieve the goals of the nation, the welfare of the whole people of Indonesia as stated in the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution as the Constitution of our country.

-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 which was officially established since 21 October, 2004 by a group of young and dynamic activists and intellectuals. **TII** is an independent, nonpartisan, and non-profit institution having its main funding source from grants and donations from foundations, corporations, and individuals.

TII aims to become the center for major researches in Indonesia for issues regarding public policy and committed to contribute to debates on public policy and to improve the quality of the creation and results of public policy in the new democratic situation in Indonesia.

TII's mission is to conduct researches that are reliable, independent, and nonpartisan, and to channel the researches results to policy makers, the business world, and civilians in order to improve the quality of public policy in Indonesia. **TII** also has the mission to educate the community in policy issues that affect their livelihoods. In other words, **TII** is in a position to support the process of democratization and public policy reform, as well as taking an important and active role in that process.

The scope of the researches and public policy studies conducted by **TII** covers the fields of economics, social, and politics. The main activity conducted in order to reach the vision and mission of **TII** among others are researches, surveys, trainings, working group facilitation, public discussions, public educations, editorial writings (**TII** expression), publications of weekly analysis (*Wacana*), monthly studies (*Update Indonesia*, in Bahasa Indonesia and English) and annual studies (*Indonesia Report*), and public discussion forum (*The Indonesian Forum*).

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POLITICAL RESEARCH

The consolidating democracy needs direction and guidance in order to realise a strong national political system. In addition, decentralization as part of democratization has created room for more issues in the development of political system in Indonesia. Therefore, political analysis are present for the government, political parties, the business sector and professionals, academics, non-governmental organizations, donors, and civil society to answer recent political issues.

TII's Political Research Division provides policy analyses and recommendations in order to produce strategic policies to consolidate democracy and to achieve good governance at the central and local levels. Types of political research offered by TII are: **(1) Public Policy Analyses, (2) Media Monitoring, (3) Mapping & Positioning Research, (4) Needs Assessment Research, (5) Survey Indicators.**

RESEARCH ON THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS

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.**

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 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.**

Project or Program Evaluation

One of the activities that have been conducted and offered by TII is a qualitative evaluation on a project or a program of a non-governmental organization or a government agency. Evaluation activities that are offered by TII are a mid-term evaluation and a final evaluation.

As we may already know, evaluation is one of the important stages in the implementation of a project or a program. A mid-term evaluation is intended to see and analyze challenges, lessons learned during the project or the program, and to give recommendations on the implementation of the project or the program. Meanwhile, a final evaluation will be useful to see and analyze the achievements and lessons learned to ensure that all the projects or the program's goals are achieved at the end of the project or program.

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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