

The Indonesian Update

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



Main Report:
The President as the Leader of Corruption Eradication

Economic

The Prospect of Infrastructure Development ■

Political

Looking at the Revised Local Election Law ■

Politics in Taste and Power ■

Social

The Dissolution of BP REDD + and NCCC ■

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FOREWORD

The action of a group of Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) employee representatives (WP) last week (Tuesday, March 3, 2015) is history that provides important lessons for public support for anti-corruption.

The action is an indication that the Commission is not a robot that can be controlled by a remote control to cater the political tastes and calculation power of the rulers.

The main report in the February-March 2015 edition of the Indonesian Update is “President as the Leader of Corruption Eradication”. On the economy, it discusses “Quo Vadis Infrastructure Development”. On politics, it talks about “Looking at the Revised Local Election Law” and “Politics in Sense and Power”. On social affairs, it discusses “The Dissolution of BP REDD + and DNPI”.

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 President as the Leader of Corruption Eradication

The Eradication Commission (KPK) is an “untamed” institution, meaning that there are no great powers in this country, including the House of Representatives and the Presidential Palace, that are able to control the direction and the internal policy of the Commission on the agenda of jihad against corruption.

The independence and neutrality of the Commission have been created by the internal brainstorming to be always committed to the principles of integrity, accountability, and transparency in order to maintain the dignity of the Commission. The commitment is supported by rigorous internal control mechanisms to strengthen the integrity of the institution.

The integrity of the Commission is the main difference with the other state institutions. To that end, if there are elements that are counterproductive; that is not in line with the principles of integrity, moral commitment, and the rhythm of work in the Commission, the mechanisms of checks and balances will run by themselves (automatically initiated).

The action of a group of employee representatives (WP) who staged a rally last week (Tuesday, March 3, 2015) was a history that provided important lessons for public support for anti-corruption. The movement was an indication that the Commission is not a robot that can be controlled by remote control catering to political tastes and power calculations of the rulers.

The strategic steps taken by the Commission are not the results of any individual piracy conducted by the leadership of the Commission.

The attitudes and decisions of the Commission are collective steps that do not escape the attention of and criticisms from its internal elements.

The admission of defeat voiced by Taufiqurrahman Ruki and Indriyanto Seno Adji, which led to the transfer of the case file to the Office of the Attorney General and the Commission leadership's reluctance to file a pretrial judicial review against the decision issued by the South Jakarta District Court, have prompted the movement.

The KPK leaders who seem weak and negotiable in the face of external challenges could potentially undermine the sustainability and institutional solidity of the Commission. This somewhat confirms the anti-corruption community's concerns that in the year 2015 under the new government, the Commission will be going through a super-powerful turbulence.

Saldi Isra in his article titled "2015, the Critical Year for the Commission (Kompas, 08/01/2015) predicted that there would be systematic steps to weaken the Commission with a higher intensity level in the 2015.

Saldi predicted that the challenges came in the forms of the end of the term of office of KPK leaders, the agenda to establish the Commission's representative offices in the regions, and also the idea of revising the Law on the KPK, the Criminal Code, and the Criminal Code Procedures, which have been conducted in the dark to escape from public observation.

In reality, the weakening of the Commission has been happening openly. Moreover, the tragedy had started during the 100-day period of the Jokowi-Kalla administration, which came into power after winning the 2014 presidential elections.

President Jokowi seems to still be in his 'learning' period to master and to control the new government authority he holds. There is no doubt that the President's rescue measures to the Commission have been perceived as slow and less assertive, leaving room for public debates that sparked national political instability.

In fact, the President's unpreparedness has also led to increasingly destructive impacts. After naming two KPK leaders Abraham Samad and Widjojanto suspects, the Indonesian National Police also named 21 Police investigators (out of the 70s investigators) suspects in an unclear case. Not only that, the police have also targeted all parties who have been critical of the Bhayangkara corps, such as the Tempo magazine and other media.

In this situation, President Jokowi has not done much to stop the maneuvers of the Indonesian National Police. Some say that President Jokowi is practicing a Javanese leadership style, which is soft and tends to avoid direct confrontation with the opposing parties (Anderson, 1970). This is intended to dampen volatility and bring back stability.

However, from the outset, the Jokowi-JK government should realize that the tense relationship between the Police and the Commission will directly affect the credibility of the government. More importantly, the government should also be aware that it has the executive authorities and powers to manage conflict and stop the clashes between state institutions.

John ST Quah, a professor at the National University of Singapore, in *Curbing Corruption in Asian Countries, an Impossible Dream* (2013) and also in many books and journal articles published since the 1990s, has always emphasized the importance of support and political will of leaders (the political will of the top political leaders) as one of the key successes of anti-corruption institutions in many countries.

So, it would be a big mistake if the President, who is supposed to be 'the Imam' in the anti-corruption agenda, to keep a distance from the conflicts between state institutions stemming from acute ego-sectoral problems. Looking back at the Geico vs. Crocodile Volume I (2009) and Volume II (2012), Yudhoyono government many times had almost lost credibility in public. The Yudhoyono administration was responding slowly to the situation, thereby eroding public confidence in the president.

Luckily, even though it was too late, President Yudhoyono managed

to reduce the turbulence that had developed and created political instability. The criminal charges against KPK leaders Chandra Hamzah and Bibit Samad Riyanto could be dropped by the Attorney General. Also the INP Chief stopped the investigation into Novel Baswedan's involvement in a crime case. The continuation of the driving simulator case investigation by the Commission would not have happened without the strict instructions of the president.

Maintaining the independence and neutrality of the Commission is a political and constitutional mandate that must be executed by the President.

People believe that still consider that the President is required to be present (*wajibul wujub*) to protect the anti-corruption agenda in general. Maintaining the independence and neutrality of the Commission is a political and constitutional mandate that must be executed by the President. Without the cooperation between the president and governmental leaders, the existence of anti-corruption agencies will be harmed.

Weaknesses, destructions, and decay from within will continue to occur repeatedly, including by those who have been claiming themselves pro-democracy elements and supporting the creation of good governance.

Looking ahead, President Jokowi must quickly learn from this phenomenon. History will record whether the Commission would receive strong government supports. Jokowi has even destroyed political reluctance and impartiality of government to strengthen the Commission.

- Ahmad Khoirul Umam -

The Prospect of Infrastructure Development

Almost all developing countries, including Indonesia, follows standard economic logic that the development of infrastructure, especially in an export-oriented economy, is a major prerequisite for economic development. The logic works with a transmission mechanism as follows. If a country or region has adequate infrastructure, production costs will decline. With low production costs, investment activities will increase. The continuation of investment activities will boost economic growth. Furthermore, the high economic growth will create universal prosperity through job creation.

Therefore, a design of economic development today is always linked to how much investment in mega infrastructure projects set out in national development planning documents. The pattern and trend of further infrastructure development will be designed in the form of export-oriented infrastructure, with the main purpose of accelerating the flows of exports and imports. Thus, patterns and trends in export-oriented infrastructure development is actually intended to boost economic growth. Furthermore, to keep the altar of economic growth, a number of key infrastructure components such as water supply, logistics, labor, energy supply, and education are needed. Of the five key components of infrastructure, logistic infrastructure is usually a bigger part in the design of infrastructure development of a country or region.

Thus, it is not surprising that infrastructure development is identical with development projects on highways, ports, airports, railways, and so on, which do not necessarily have a strong correlation with the interests and needs of the lower middle class. Ironically, there is a general agreement agreed by most policy makers at the global level that there will be no prosperity without infrastructure. However, many development planning documents so far have not been able to explain precisely how the processes and transmission mechanisms of infrastructure projects work to reduce poverty and

inequality as well as to improve the quality of lives especially of the poor.

In fact, infrastructure development does not always bring a broad impact on the quality of economic growth and social development. The reason is that the impact of infrastructure development on economic development in general can only be measured only at the macro and or the industry level. Meanwhile, if it is evaluated using household-level data, especially in developing countries, large-scale infrastructure projects do not automatically create a universal welfare. For example, the World Bank study (2008), which took samples in Brazil, Ghana, India, Mexico, Russia, and Uganda, found that infrastructure did not have a strong correlation in reducing inequality across those countries. The study also revealed that infrastructure did not provide a positive contribution to reduce poverty in those countries. Ironically, the study found that the development of infrastructure only had a positive impact on the improvement of spatial efficiency.

In Indonesia, the development of infrastructure is still biased towards urban and industrial interests. Consequently, infrastructure development tends to ignore the interests of the poor especially those living in rural areas. Moreover, infrastructure development is accompanied by the emergence of “economic refugees”. The group emerged as a result of the development process that has displaced them through coercion so that they have lost their homes, jobs, and livelihoods. As a result, infrastructure development has increased the pace of urbanization, the proliferation of slums and informal sectors as well as mass poverty in the centers of economic growth. In some cases, the quality of their lives has declined or even worsened because of the presence of infrastructure projects.

No less than Rp 206.6 trillion has been disbursed to finance infrastructure development in Indonesia in 2014. Compared to 2009, the budget for infrastructure development in 2014 had increased very sharply. The infrastructure development budget in 2009 was only at a level of Rp 76.3 trillion. Ironically, the World Bank data showed that there was 41% of Indonesia’s population who did not have access to sanitation, 15% did not have access to clean water, and 27% did not have access to electricity. Unfortunately, those living in rural areas only had basic infrastructure. Their conditions are worse than those of people who live in urban areas. Related to this, the World Bank noted that 64% of the population living in rural

areas had no access to sanitation and 24% did not have access to clean water.

This conditions occur because until now Indonesia has no macro strategy that is capable to synergize short-term oriented infrastructure development (economic growth) and long term-oriented infrastructure development (equitable development). The policy implication is that infrastructure development today tends to be more dedicated to the acceleration of economic growth rather than to the basic infrastructure for the improvement of capabilities of marginalized communities. The form of the infrastructure projects is large and pro-industry as well as biased to urban consumers. The infrastructure development process is also considered discriminatory and in an undemocratic way. As a result, instead of improving the people's access to natural resources, infrastructure development has actually increasingly distanced the access of the lower middle class people to natural resources.

Furthermore, the quality of infrastructure development in Indonesia has become increasingly worse in the absence of comprehensive details of the basic infrastructure, physical infrastructure, and intangible infrastructure, such as information and communication technology. All three types of infrastructure must be built simultaneously, putting forward planning and sustainable development in a democratic and accountable way. If not, the infrastructure development will only create internally displaced persons without providing significant benefits especially for those whose land is affected by infrastructure development projects.

In many cases, subsistence farmers and fishermen are generally used as a scapegoat for the construction of large-scale infrastructure. They are often removed forcibly, not transferred to adequate shelters, and also do not receive adequate compensation. These cases do not include those who have lost their homes, land and access to natural resources, forcing them to live in poverty. A number of past infrastructure projects such as Wonorejo Dam, Saguling Dam, Koto Panjang Dam and Bili-Bili Dam have caused thousands of people deprived of access to natural resources and have even become poor.

Under the circumstances, infrastructure projects will become as means of rent-seeking activities for the government and private sectors. These projects are generally not conducted through careful planning. These projects often ignore the principles of healthy and

balanced development. Although they manage to pass the stages of social and environmental analysis, but the processes are still questioned by many parties, as they seem to be only procedural processes - not transparent and less accountable. In contrast, the processes of infrastructure development in developed countries are conducted in a quite stringent way, especially for large-scale infrastructure projects. They are run by the principles of fairness and balanced ways, especially for those affected by infrastructure projects either directly or indirectly, such as via rehabilitation, provision of appropriate compensation, fair profits and burden sharing schemes.

Therefore, infrastructure development should be returned to its real purpose, which is to improve the people's basic capabilities. To do so, the infrastructure development of basic rights such as the right to food, housing, education, health, employment, water, social security, and so on should be placed as a top priority in infrastructure development over the infrastructure for production and consumption activities. In addition, the design of infrastructure development should also be accompanied by open and democratic processes, adequate compensation schemes, as well as risk-sharing mechanism and fair profits. Accordingly, infrastructure projects are not transformed into a new impoverishment engine so that infrastructure development is expected to be the locomotive of development with social justice.

- Pihri Buhaerah -

In Indonesia, the development of infrastructure is still biased towards urban and industrial areas. Infrastructure development has also ignored the interests of the poor, especially those living in rural areas.

Looking at the Revised Local Election Law

The House of Representatives (DPR) ended its sessions on Tuesday, February 17th, 2015, passing Bill No. 1/2015 on local elections (Pilkada).

The revised Pilkada Law is a revision to a Government Regulation in Lieu of Law (Perppu) issued by the Government of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (SBY) that had been passed into Law No. 1/2015 on January 20, 2015. The Law was passed to cancel local elections by local parliaments, as regulated by Law No. 17/2014 on Pilkada.

Revised Law No 1/2015 on Local Elections

In the revised Law passed in 2015, there are several agreed changes with regard to the implementation of the elections. The first is that direct elections are scheduled to be held simultaneously nationwide in 2027.

Second, there is a task of strengthening the General Elections Commission (KPU) and the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) as the organizers of local elections. Third, the education requirement for the candidates of governors and regents/mayors is at least high school level or its equivalents. Fourth, the minimum age is 30 years old for the candidates of governors, while for regent / mayor candidates, the minimum age is at least 25 years.

Fifth, the requirements for the numbers of independent candidates are raised. For a province with a population of less than two million people, the support should be at least 10 percent of the population, while for a province that has a population of two to six million people, then the support should be at least 8.5 percent. For a province of six to 12 million people, the support should be at least 7.5 percent, while for a province of more than 12 million people, the support should be at least 6.5 percent.

Meanwhile, for the candidates of regents / mayors from indepen-

dent paths in a district with a population of less than 250,000 inhabitants, the support should be at least 10 percent, while for a district with a population of 250,000 to 500,000, the support should be at least 8.5 percent. Then, for a district with a population of 500,000 to one million, then the support should be at least 7.5 percent, while for a province of more than one million people, the support should be at least 6.5 percent.

The requirement for the head and vice head candidates through individual paths is 3.5 percent higher than the requirement set in Perppu No. 1/2014, which is only three percent.

Sixth, the requirements of parliamentary threshold for political parties or a coalition of political parties also rise from a threshold of 15 percent to a threshold of 20 percent of parliament seats, or 20 percent of the vote to 25 percent of the vote in their respective regions.

Seventh, the election budget will be supported by the state budget. Eighth, simultaneous Pilkada will happen in only one round due to the minimum threshold. Ninth, the removal of public scrutiny, which is replaced with the information dissemination of prospective region.

Tenth, disputes over election results will be handled by the Constitutional Court (MK) during a transition period before the establishment of Special Courts. Meanwhile, disputes over the determination of pairs of candidates will be handled by the State Administrative High Court (PTTUN), after exhausting all the efforts at provincial Bawaslu and the Election Supervisory Committee.

Pilkada Law Revision and the Quality of Regional Leaders

The author believes that the revised Pilkada Law, in general, has no significant changes. The revised Pilkada Law does not touch substantive issues, such as improving the quality of regional heads.

In fact, the results of the Indonesia Governance Index (IGI) in 2012, generally showed that the performance of regional heads touched the lowest level, compared to the performance of bureaucracy, civil society and economic society.

Indeed, in some provinces the regional heads have brought significant progress to the regions. But, on the other side, there are also many regional heads who have contributed to the decline of regions.

The absence of substantive improvements to Pilkada Bill will only make the elections mere political competitions, without any impact on the achievement of regional development.

This situation reminds the author of an analogy introduced by Joseph Schumpeter (1942) on competitive democracy. According to Schumpeter, in competitive democracy, voters are consumers, parties and politicians are companies, and policies implemented by the government are the political goods and services.

- Arfianto Purbolaksono-

The revised Pilkada Law does not touch substantive issues, such as improving the quality of regional heads. Local elections will only be an arena of political contestation without any impact on regional development.

Politics in Taste and Power

Politics, for those who are involved in it, is a fascinating world. Sometimes, politics presents a festive world, but sometimes a gloomy world. Politics presents a mixture of words, behaviors, images, and powers.

Like games, the political world is really exciting, full of contestations and competitions for positions and sympathy. In reality, politics is not a fun world of entertainment. It is a world of striving for the interests of the people.

But sometimes, there is a point in what famous comedian Will Rogers (1879-1935) had said that politics and politicians were jokes. According to him, the doings of politicians are always much funnier than the jokes he intentionally made to be funny.

Politics is at times funny and sad as the following story. There are politicians who wear clothes that seem mediocre, but the prices of the clothes are millions of dollar. They also wear hundreds of millions of rupiahs' worth of rings. They do their shopping in Paris, Egypt, and Singapore.

On the other hand, there is also a story of the people who still encounter difficulties in finding food and in sending their children to schools. To add the ordeal, sometimes their homes get flooded.

The income gap between the political elite and the common people has become a drama of ordinary people in a variety of media. There is a huge wall that separates the elite who enjoys the benefits and privileges of the country and the common people who have to struggle for survival.

In addition, we are already accustomed to hearing about politicians and public officials who are corrupt. Actually it is a common phenomenon. Sometimes, political commotion is erratic. Something trivial can turn into a political.

If we look closely, to be involved in politics and to become public officials are normal, not needing to be excessive. They should be like modest lives that do not need unnecessary things: such as corruption and violations of public ethics.

Some people say that politics is dirty, judging that it is merely a political arena to seize power and to become rich. Those who go into politics for such a purpose forget that politics as emphasized by Aristoteles, focuses on the interests of others in a political community (polis), and not on self-interests or group interests alone.

Therefore, ethical relationship between politicians and the people must be maintained. Politics should bring goodness and benefits to the consolidation of democracy in this republic. There should be exemplary moments in the implementation of governance and power.

However, the reality is complicated, as the political elite is fixated with seductive charms. Public officials or politicians are also human beings, who have desires, passions, and who sometimes make mistakes. However, the simplicity of life is an extraordinary thing. Only those who are virtuous and wise who will understand.

Ideally, when we have chosen to engage in politics, everything should be voluntary. The path is not always smooth from the beginning. Moreover, the path may chance. Political leadership at high levels have consequences and implications.

Finally, Kristi Poerwandari quoted George Marcus in a political psychology article in Kompas (8/02) that politics is as much about “ feeling” as it is about “ thinking “. A political situation may bring very strong emotions, such as dislike, happy, angry, disgust, desire, revenge, and anxiety.

- David Krisna Alka-

The income gap between the political elite and the common people has become a drama of ordinary people in a variety of media

The Dissolution of BP REDD + and NCCC

President Jokowi, through Presidential Decree No. 16/2015 on the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, has dissolved two state institutions in the field of climate change: the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Management Body (BP REDD+) and the National Council on Climate Change (DNPI).

In relation to the dissolution of state institutions, this is not the first time the President Jokowi has done it. On December 5, 2014, President Jokowi issued Presidential Decree (Decree) No. 176 that dissolved 10 non-structural state agencies. The dissolution of the ten institutions was intended to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of government affairs.

In contrast to the dissolution of the 10 institutions, the dissolution of the two state agencies dealing with climate change is not regulated in a specific regulation of its own but in the regulation on the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

The dissolution is stipulated in Article 59 of the Perpres, Chapter VIII Final Provisions, and in Article 63 paragraph c and d. In addition to the transfer of assignments and functions of BP-REDD + and DNPI, the Perpres also regulates the revocation of the Presidential Decree No. 62/2013 on the BP-REDD + and Presidential Decree No. 46/2008 on the DNPI.

The Pros Cons of the Dissolution BP REDD + and DNPI

The dissolution of the two institutions has raised the pros and cons from various parties, particularly those who have been focusing on issues related to the climate change. On the one hand, the work of these two institutions focusing on a particular field was believed to

have made breakthrough work on climate change over the years.

On the other hand, the dissolution of both institutions and transferring their tasks and functions to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry are believed to make the work on climate change more optimal, as the Ministry has representatives in the regions.

In addition, the dissolution is believed to be Jokowi's step to realize lean state agencies so that they can work more effectively.

Still, there are some issues in relation to the dissolution of these two institutions. As we know, the formation of BP-REDD + was as one of the conditions in the letter of intent (LoI) with Norway. When the agency was dissolved, Indonesia's commitment to the agreement has been questioned.

Although there are no sanctions mentioned in the LoI, the two countries need to think about the potential of undermined relations between the two countries in the future. Therefore it is necessary to use the diplomatic channels to discuss this decision with the Norwegian side.

Another unfortunate thing is the regulation does not clearly explain about the two institutions and only regulates the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. It is only stipulated that there are no more positions in both institutions. This article can have multiple interpretations. It can be interpreted that these two bodies can no longer operate as the tasks and functions are no longer there. Alternatively, it can also continue to perform their duties and functions until the new regulation is passed.

One thing to remember is that the dissolution or consolidation of state institutions was not merely a bureaucratic downsizing or budget saving, but primarily a responsibility for achieving the objectives of the state according to the Constitution. This was never disclosed by Irma Putra Sidin, an expert in Constitutional matters.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This ambiguity should be noted and must be addressed, because in addition to involving the energy of the personnel working in both institutions, this also involves the relationships between countries at the global level, the mastery of funds, and more importantly the environment and society themselves.

With regard to inter-state relations, diplomacy with other relevant countries eg Norway should be run continuously until all the relevant parties understand this policy.

Re the institutions, there should be clear rules regarding the form of fusion of these two bodies to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, especially on human resources.

The most important things are the climate change policies Indonesia themselves. They need to be formulated and reviewed, as they will go into the work plans of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. It is important then to involve all relevant stakeholders in this issue, including civil society groups.

-Lola Amelia-

The dissolution or consolidation of state institutions is primarily a responsibility for achieving the objectives of the state according to the Constitution.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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RESEARCH ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

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

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

RESEARCH ON LEGAL AFFAIRS

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

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

RESEARCH ON THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Social Research

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

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

POLITICAL SURVEY AND TRAINING

Direct General Election Survey

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

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

THE INDONESIAN FORUM

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

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

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

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

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

LOCAL COUNCIL TRAINING

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

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

WORKING GROUP

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

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

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