

# The Indonesian Update

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



**Main Report:**  
Reflection on Health Issues in 2017  
towards the 2018 Direct Regional Elections (Election)

## **The Economy**

- Assessing the Feasibility of the Zero Rupiah Down Payment Housing Program ▪
- The Education Loan Program: between Challenges and Opportunities ▪

## **Politics**

- Looking for the Vice President Candidates, Firming the Coalitions ▪  
for the 2019 Presidential Elections
- The Urgency of Redesigning Governance for Implementing ▪  
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# FOREWORD

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Health issue is one of public policy issues included in political campaigns. How is health issue packaged in the direct regional election campaigns? In the lead-up to the 2018 direct regional elections, the April 2018 edition of the Indonesian Update raises a main topic about the Reflection on Health Issues from the 2017 Direct Regional Elections.

On the economy, the Indonesian Update touches on the challenges and opportunities arising from the education load program and also on the zero down payment housing program introduced by the Jakarta Provincial Government. On politics, we discuss sole candidates in the direct regional elections and also promoting open governance in the post-2018 direct regional election period.

On politics, we also talk about the coalitions for the 2019 presidential elections. Another important political topic is the maintenance of DPD honour in the 2019 elections. On social affairs, the Indonesian Update talks about the issues surrounding the land titles.

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.**

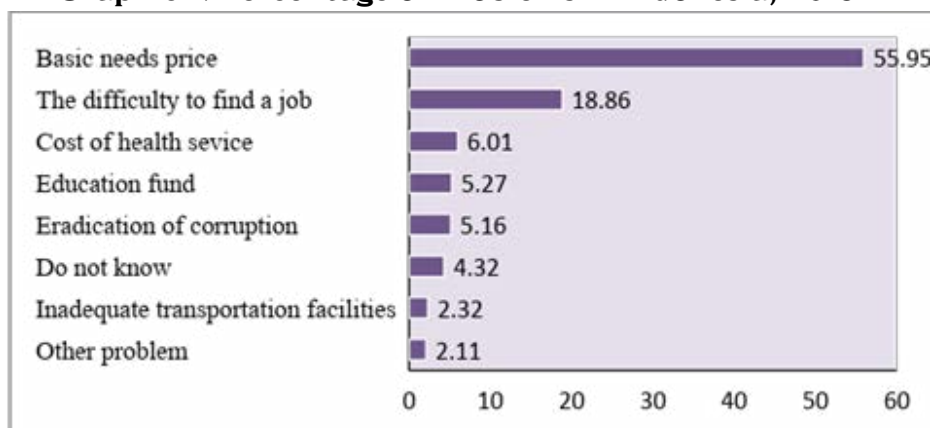
## Reflection on Health Issues in 2017 towards the 2018 Direct Regional Elections (Election)

In 2017, the direct regional election has been implemented in seven provinces, 76 districts, and 18 cities. This year, there will be more elections held in 17 provinces, 39 cities, and 115 districts. The candidates have already begun formulating their vision, mission, and excellent programs to attract the public votes. Some of the priority issues include education, health, economics, and social. One of the important issues that should be prioritized is a health problem. Health issues will affect of other aspects, such as the economic growth of this country.

### The People's Expectations

Various issues raised by the candidates definitely have attracted the attention from the community. One of them is health issues. The Poltracking Indonesia's survey informed that economic issues are still a major problem that is expected to be solved immediately. While health issues in terms of health services are the next issue that most people are expected to resolve (Poltracking, 2015).

**Graphic 1. Percentage of Problems in Indonesia, 2015**



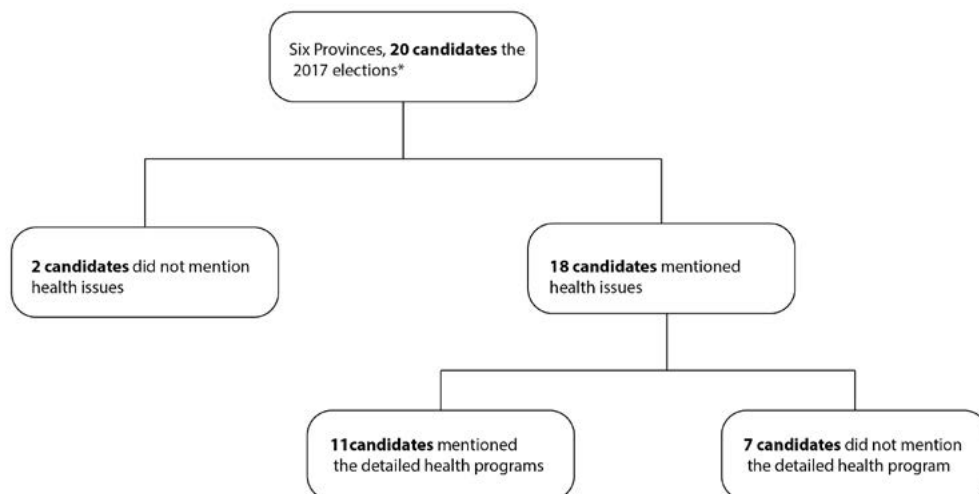
Source: Poltracking Indonesia, 2015

## The Position of Health Issues in Election 2017

The health issues as a society's expectations should be captured by candidates who will contest in the 2018 elections. However, no one can guarantee that all candidates understand about the issues that the society hopes for. This fact can be seen from the visions and missions of candidates.

The seven provinces that had implemented the regional election 2017 were Aceh, Bangka Belitung, Jakarta, Banten, Gorontalo, West Sulawesi, and West Papua. Amongst all the issues, health issues are actually quite a priority for the candidates. There were eighteen out of twenty candidates touched on health issues in their vision and mission. However, only eleven candidates who mentioned in detail the proposed health programmers. The other candidate did not mention clearly about what kinds of proposed program to be implemented.

**Chart 1. Health Issues in the 2017 Provincial Elections**



\* one province could not be found on the data on the website of Provincial Election Commission

Source: A Vision Mission Data of the Candidates from  
the Provincial Election Commission

There are many factors why health issues are not mentioned in the visions and missions of the candidates. Health issues are not strategic issues that attract social attention. Why do they have to mention health issues in their program? Actually, health issues will impact on economic growth. The research on the effect of education and health against poverty rates in Padang revealed that bad health conditions had contributed to the increasing number of poor people in Padang (Yuhendri, 2013).

It is even possible that the absence of health programs in the visions and missions is the indication of the lack of understanding and of seriousness of the candidates to work on health issues. They tend to only consider the public health issues as populist issues. Some examples of populist programs that appeared in the 2017 direct elections but were difficult to survive in the long term included: free health care for all citizens, improving the quality of life, as well as expanding the access and quality of healthcare. The programs were still very common and their presence would depend on the budget of each region. This means that the programs will be vulnerable and unsustainable.

### **Facing the 2018 Elections**

In June 2018, there will be direct regional elections held simultaneously in seventeen provinces. The candidates and teams should set out the visions, missions, and programs, taking into account the people's expectations and the existing data.

Table I informs us that the problem maternal mortality rate, infant mortality, health insurance, the shortage of health personnel and health facilities, medical expenses, as well as access to clean water are still problems in some provinces. This is consistent with the focus on health issues and policies at the national level. Health targets at national level are listed in the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) 2015-2030, which include a community nutrition problems, national health systems/health care, reproductive health, family planning, maternal and infant mortality, and the access to clean water (the 7th National Conference of Health Promotion, Bappenas, 2017).

**Table 1. Health Problems in Several Indonesian Provinces**

PROVINCE	ISSUES
<b>CENTRAL JAVA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Maternal Mortality</li> <li>■ Seven districts/cities have not been integrated with JKN</li> </ul>
<b>WEST JAVA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Low number of first-level health facilities PHC</li> <li>■ Lack of beds in hospitals</li> <li>■ Lack of health professionals (physicians, dentists, community health workers, sanitarians, and pharmacists)</li> <li>■ Maternal Mortality Rate (60% at the time of parturition)</li> </ul>
<b>NORTH SUMATRA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ MMR</li> <li>■ Lack of health professionals (physicians, dentists, undergraduate public health, sanitarian, and nutritionists)</li> <li>■ JKN reach is still at a rate of 58.22 %</li> <li>■ Health budget is &lt;10 percent of the budget</li> </ul>
<b>WEST NUSA TENGGARA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Infant Mortality Rate</li> <li>■ Malnutrition</li> <li>■ Membership of JKN still 67.36 percentn</li> <li>■ The distribution of RS is uneven</li> <li>■ IHC is at level of 51.27 percent</li> <li>■ Poskesdes are only in West Sumbawa regency and North Lombok</li> <li>■ Lack of health workers (specialists, general practitioners, physician dentists, nurses, and midwives)</li> </ul>
<b>SOUTH SULAWESI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The membership of JKN is still at a level of 25.54%</li> <li>■ Lack of dentists</li> </ul>
<b>WEST KALIMANTAN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The low Birth Weight Babies trend had increased from 2012 to 2015</li> <li>■ Infant Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Rate, Infant Mortality Rate</li> <li>■ The percentage of active posyandu still very low (26.9 percent)</li> <li>■ Lack of health workers (physicians, dentists, midwives, pharmacists, community health workers, sanitarians, nutritionists)</li> </ul>
<b>MALUKU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Access to clean drinking water</li> <li>■ Access healthy latrines</li> <li>■ Maternal mortality rate, one of them due to lack of operational funds to remote areas</li> <li>■ The limited number of facilities and health personnel (quantity and quality)</li> </ul>

Source: Health Profile Province, Provincial Health Office, 2015, 20016, 2017

Health problems at the provincial level that are consistent with national priorities should be prioritized by the candidates in the form of a work program. However, we should keep in mind that policies or programs at the provincial level must not be contrary to the program at the national level; for example, the policy of expanding health insurance coverage.

Table1 shows that there are some provinces with low level JKN participation. Article 67 of Law 23/ 2014 states that the local governments are obliged to implement the national strategic

program (<https://www.wartaekonomi.co.id,13/3>). The candidates will break the regulations if they separate Jamkesda Program from the JKN (National Health Insurance) through BPJS (Social Security Agency).

Until now there have been no legal aspects governing the obligation of local governments to combine Jamkesda with JKN specifically. Strict sanctions for regions that do not perform integration still cannot be found, so some areas up to now have not joined JKN. The mechanisms are still not clear, so most current and future leaders in the areas do not understand that in 2019 the whole area of Indonesia should be integrated with JKN for achieving the Universal Health Coverage in 2019.

### **Recommendations**

Towards the 2018 elections, it is time for the health issues to become priorities. The health aspect is closely related to other aspects. Good public health will affect the level of education and the economy.

A healthy community will have a better chance to continue their education to a higher level. With the provision of good education, people are expected to get better job with better income levels. In addition, the condition of a healthy society will improve productivity and will reduce the burden on the state. For example, when poor people are sick, the state will pay much to cover medical expenses. As we know, with the condition of poor people's health and the number of catastrophic illness, the state should allocate big funds to finance BPJS.

Health issues that are included in the visions, missions, and campaigns featured program must also consider the expectations of society and the factual data on health priority issues in each region. This is very important because the need for one region and another will obviously be very different.

Regions with problems of insufficient number of health workers are inadequate will require increasing number of health worker programs. In the areas that the number of health workers already meet the standards (the minimum amount), it is not necessary to recruit additional health workers. The concept of needs analysis should be applied to the use of the budget so that they can be used appropriately.

Another thing that is important is the candidates and the team must always match the visions, missions, and programs featured at the provincial level with the policy at national level. As stipulated



by law, the Government has been given the discretion to determine local governance. However, the policy may not overlap and be in conflict with the national strategic program, including free health programs, which are often used as a strategic campaign by the candidates. Candidates and their team have to have literacy policies at the top level. Otherwise, knock policy, the candidates' campaign promises cannot be realized.

*Vision, mission, and a candidate featured program in the elections have to include evidence-based health issue and do not contradictive with the policy at the central government level.*

**- Umi Lutfiah -**

## Assessing the Feasibility of the Zero Rupiah Down Payment Housing Program

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The availability of decent houses is one of the most complicated issues in the capital city, which has a population density of 15,000 people /km<sup>2</sup>. The demand for property that is increasing every year has not been supported by the availability of area, causing property prices to be more expensive in the DKI Jakarta.

The presence of the zero down payment housing program introduced by the government of DKI Jakarta (Anies-Sandi) become a magnet for the people of Jakarta. Governor Anies Baswedan argues that eliminating down payment houses is a better option for low-income people to be able to buy a house (*detik.com, 1/2*).

Furthermore, as quoted from the official website of Anies-Sandi, Jakarta residents still need more shelters in the total number of 302,319 units. Moreover, 40 percent of these residents are identified as poor people (*jakartamajubersama.com, 02.22.2017*).

Pros and Cons about the Zero Down Payment Housing Program  
Generally, the zero down payment housing program utilizes the Housing Finance Liquidity Facility (FLPP) scheme from the central government. In this scheme, the interest rate is set at a flat rate of 5 percent with payment instalments for 20 years. Thus, the zero down payment program in Jakarta, which has an FLPP interest of 1 percent, is subsidized directly by the Jakarta Government.

The zero rupiah down payment housing program is aimed at households earning less than \$ 7 million per month as well as in the category of Low Income Communities (MBR). There are two types of housing, the first one is the type 36 at a price level of Rp 320 million and the type 21 at a price level of Rp 185 million. (*liputan6.com, 18/1*).

This Government of Jakarta housing program has caused polemics. The author assesses that the inauguration of this program on 18 January 2018 in East Jakarta Pondok Kelapa was political. There was no clarity in detail regarding the project development financing mechanisms. The condition is reinforced by the statement of Agus Martowardojo as the Governor of BI. He said that there should be a strong basis for the regulation in APBD and APBN. This is to avoid the risk of relaxation of the financing of the programs (*republika.co.id*, 27/1).

The financing scheme carried out by the Jakarta Government has also widely been criticized by the Chair of DPRD DKI Jakarta Prasetyo Edi Marsudi. He explained that program had the potential to be in conflict with Regulation No. 21 of 2011. The zero down payment zero program cannot be executed because the payment scheme is made for the duration of 20 years, exceeding any government period (*tempo*, 21/1).

Furthermore, Agus Pembagio as a public policy analyst argues that the program cannot continue the process of development because it has not yet established a Regional Service Unit (BLUD) as a management unit (*merdeka.com*, 19/1).

### **Recommendations**

The author argues that there is still confusion regarding those that can use the facility of the program. The condition was worsened with the initial draft specification program that could not accommodate household income clearly. In addition, the local unit Service Agency (BLUD) as the main organizer of the program has also not yet been formed.

Further, with a house price set at Rp 320 million per unit, the instalment level is Rp 1.5 million per month. Then, for households with the income of Rp 7 million per month and the spending level of Rp 3.8 million per month, a household can still set aside about 25 percent of income as the instalment fee. In addition, the policy has a limited target of MBR outreach, and it will become poorly targeted if it is aimed at poor people with an income level of below Rp 7 million per month.

Then, the government needs to mitigate risks by using Bank Indonesia financing schemes, as the financing of the project also makes

use of the provincial budget and the state budget. Risk mitigation is necessary to minimize the occurrence of subprime mortgage as had happened in the United States in 2008.

The author appreciates the optimism of the government of Jakarta in launching the program. However, it is important to note that the role of subsidies in the program must be limited especially if the specifications of the targeted households, the financing and risk mitigation schemes, as well as the project managers for this program remain unclear. These conditions will certainly affect the efficiency of the budget.

In addition, the funding should be assessed carefully between the government (through the Ministry of Housing), the developer, as well as the banking sector. Therefore, Jakarta people can afford to have decent houses through the housing program.

**- Riski Wicaksono -**

*A decent shelter is a right for every citizen. The affordability of housing through government subsidies can be an alternative solution as long as it is carried out through a proper assessment and the mitigation of risk financing is done carefully.*

## The Education Loan Program: between Challenges and Opportunities

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Thursday, March 15, 2018, President Jokowi held a meeting with the Education Minister to discuss plans for the educational loan program. The idea has arisen as the government wants to expand the credit scope. President Jokowi tried to compare the loans in the United States, where the total special education loans have reached a level of 1.2 trillion US dollars. Meanwhile, the credit card loans have reached a lower level of 800 billion dollars (<https://kompas.com,16/3>).

Wimboh Santoso, the Chair of the Board of the OJK, said that OJK had not yet formulated in detail the loan mechanisms. He also added that OJK was preparing special schemes for determining the amount of the interest rate, the payment scheme and the repayment period. Then, the education loans are scheduled to be packaged in the form of Loans without collateral (KTA) ([www.bisnis.com,16/3](http://www.bisnis.com,16/3)).

### Do We Still Need Education Loan?

The education loan program is actually not a new program in Indonesia. Previously, Indonesia had implemented an education loan program in the 1980s, which was known as the Kredit Mahasiswa Indonesia (KMI). However, the program did not continue as many students were not able to pay after graduating, thus causing Non Performing Loans (NPL) problems (<https://kompas.com,16/3>).

At that time, the Kredit Mahasiswa Indonesia (KMI) was managed directly by the government through the Bank Negara Indonesia (BNI). The loads were given to students that had written a thesis without collateral. (<https://kompas.com,11/1/2012>). In other countries, such as the United States, the credit application schemes are also without collateral and the loans can be repaid in installments in

four years of work. However, the program is managed by an agency (*thecollegeinvestor.com, 01.11.2017*).

The idea of the government issuing an educational loan program will involve a high risk. The author argues that giving massive loans will be very risky if there are no prudential principles. Moreover, the education loan program is planned to be packaged in the absence of collateral.

Currently, the majority of countries in advanced economies have already been implementing educational loan programs; for example, the United States, Britain, Australia, Canada, and Germany. However, some of these high-income countries have encountered problems of bad educational loans.

Recently, The Wall Street Journal published the results of the Brookings Institute. According to the study, the Government of the United States has been experiencing an average bad loan of 50,000 USD per student, as the majority of students have not been able to pay their installments within four years after graduating.

In addition, the author argues that the facilitation of educational loan program can be an alternative solution. Moreover, the problems faced by the middle class society in reaching higher education are due to economic factors. This is consistent with the findings of the Center for Population and Policy Studies UGM 2017, which revealed that as many as 47.3 percent of the people could not access higher education due to the cost factor.

In addition, according to BPS, the percentage of school enrollment to the college level (age 19-24 years) was still low, amounting to 24.77 percent in 2017. The conditions showed that of the total people aged 19-24 years who could not afford college education was only about 24.77 percent.

### **Recommendations**

The author argues that the facilitation of educational program must be encouraged in order to improve accessibility and to create high quality human resources. Indonesia is expected to face demographic bonus in the period of 2020-2035. Minister of Bappenas Bambang Brojonegoro said that the peak of demographic bonus will occur in 2034 where there will be 60 productive workers to support 100 people, contributing 0.22 percent to economic growth (*<https://kontan.co.id,14/2>*).

The author provides some critical notes if the education loan program should be implemented this year. First, if the program is packaged in the form of Kredit Tanpa Agunan (KTA), it is necessary to mitigate credit risk appropriately.

In this case, the banks can work together with local education authorities to identify the number of loan recipients. Such data can be used to project the determination of the amount of bank loans to be distributed, the determination of a decent interest rate, the installment payment mechanisms, as well as determining the probability of failure to pay as anticipatory measures.

Second, simultaneous direct and indirect information dissemination through OJK is extremely important in cooperation with the local education authorities. Thus, the candidates receiving the education loans will understand the rights and obligations in using this program.

Third, to minimize any credit risk that may occur, it needs a clear legal framework, because the credit program is packaged without the use of collateral.

In addition, the author argues that the government should learn from past failures and should obey prudential principles. If these things are not addressed, then the program will be difficult to be implemented effectively.

**- Riski Wicaksono -**

*The appropriate credit risk mitigation, information dissemination and the existence of legal framework in managing the education loan program can improve the ability of the society to access higher education.*

## Looking for the Vice President Candidates, Firming the Coalitions for the 2019 Presidential Elections

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On Saturday morning (24/3), at the Bogor Palace, President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) was jogging in the morning along with Minister of Industry Airlangga Hartarto, who is also the Chair of Golkar Party. Jokowi admitted that there were many things that were discussed during that morning run. One of the topics was the vice presidential candidate who would be contesting the 2019 presidential elections with him (*detik.com*, 24/3).

Not only with Airlangga, previously on various occasions, Jokowi has also met with the chairs of political parties supporting his government. As in early January 2018, where Jokowi met with Chair of PKB Muhaimin Iskandar (Cak Imin).

Furthermore, Jokowi also met with the Chair of PPP Romahurmuziy (Romi). Jokowi also met with PAN General Chair Zulkifli Hasan. Then, Jokowi met with the Chair of the NasDem Party, Surya Paloh.

In addition to rallying political support, the meetings have been aimed at finding a candidate for the vice president. Until now, there is no final answer about the figure who will accompany him in contesting the 2019 presidential elections. PKB and PAN have not officially declared their support for Joko Widodo.

Re support, as we have seen, Jokowi has managed to get the support of eight political parties to contest the 2019 presidential elections. Political parties that have officially supported Jokowi are the PDI-P, the NasDem Party, the Indonesian Solidarity Party (PSI), the Golkar Party, the United Development Party (PPP), Hanura Party, Perindo, and the Indonesian Justice and Unity Party (PKPI). Not only Jokowi, Prabowo Subianto as a potential challenger has also been officially supported by the coalition of Gerindra Party and PKS. The Coalition is considering the names to run with Prabowo Subianto in the 2019 presidential elections. Head of the DPP Gerin-



dra Habiburokhman Party states that there are a number of names discussed like Chair of Kogasma PD Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono; TGH Muhammad Zainul Majdi, or Teacher Bajang; Anis Matta; Sohiful Iman; Zulkifli Hasan, and Muhaimin Iskandar.

### **Firming the Coalitions**

The author believes that the hunts for vice presidential candidates are very important to do immediately. Considering that the registration for presidential and vice presidential candidates will be conducted in four more months, each presidential candidate must immediately determine their partner.

As we know, the registration of presidential and vice presidential candidates will be conducted during 4-10 August 2018. Then, this will be followed by the health check during 5-13 August 2018. The next step will be the determination and announcement of the pairs of presidential and vice presidential candidates on September 20, 2018. Then, on 21 September 2018, there will be the determination of sequence numbers.

The author argues that before determining the presidential candidates, political parties need to formally form coalitions. The provision on this coalitions is stated in Article 222 of Law no. 7/ 2017 on General Elections, which states that the candidate pairs in the 2019 General Elections are proposed by a political party or a coalition of political parties participating in the elections that meets the requirement of at least 20 percent of the total number of seats in the DPR or 25 percent of the total number of votes.

According to the author, the consequence of this rule is that the vice-presidential candidates should be chosen through the agreements within the coalitions.

Referring to the opinion of Arend Lijphart (1994), to create an effective and stable government in a multi-party presidential system can be done by developing consensus democracy. The form of consensus democracy is to form a coalition of political parties.

According to Lijphart, there are eight distinctive elements in the Consensus Democracy model, one of which is the division of executive powers built on the basis of a large coalition. In this case, the principle of consensus is to invite all major parties to share executive powers in a broad coalition. Determining the name of the

vice-presidential candidate is an important step to share powers in the big coalition to establish an effective and stable government.

**-Arfianto Purbolaksono-**

*Before determining the pair names, currently the most important thing is to formally form the coalitions of political parties.*

## The Urgency of Redesigning Governance for Implementing Global Maritime Fulcrum

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At the 9th East Asia Summit (EAS) on November 13, 2014, in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, Jokowi declared Indonesia to be a Global Maritime Fulcrum. The declaration was delivered by Jokowi in front of all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN member countries, the Republic of South Korea, PRC, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, India, United States, Russia, the ASEAN Secretary-General, the UN Secretary-General, and the President of ADB (*Kemlu.go .id*, 15/11/2014).

The idea began to be realized by building maritime infrastructures. Currently, Jokowi Government has built 15 marine toll routes (*Beritatrans.com*, 22/12/2017). The presence of the marine toll routes has managed to reduce the price disparities of basic commodities in the eastern part of Indonesia by 20-25 percent (*Detik.com*, 20/12/2017).

Although the presence of the marine toll routes has been in line with the mission to make Indonesia a global maritime fulcrum, the development of the marine toll routes is not enough to make Indonesia a Global Maritime Fulcrum. The development of port infrastructure and the procurement of marine toll route vessels are still far from the point to reach the ideals of Indonesia as a Global Maritime Fulcrum. The participating actors to realize the marine toll routes are still limited to the Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, state enterprises, and the private sector.

By looking at the actors involved and the development of the current marine infrastructure, the author believes that the ambition of Indonesia to become a Global Maritime Fulcrum is just a mere project and has not become a reference of all components of the society to make the sea as the future of the nation. In this case, the author wants to link local governments as the closest government units to the society with the idea of the Global Maritime Fulcrum.

Taking this into account, the author proposes that our regional autonomy design be more asymmetric.

### Geographical Benefits

Geographically, Indonesia has great potential to become a Global Maritime Fulcrum. Indonesia is flanked by two continents, Australia and Asia. In addition, Indonesia's position is also in the middle of the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. With these geographical conditions, Indonesia has an opportunity to become a place to dock ships that travel from the Pacific Ocean to the Indian Ocean or vice versa. Indonesia also has 99,093 km of coastlines. The figure is the second longest coastlines in the world after Canada.

As a vast archipelagic nation of 70 percent of the total area, Indonesia is supposed to be a Global Maritime Fulcrum. Moreover, Indonesia has three Archipelagic Sea Lines of Communications (ALKI). The existence of ALKI is important for the international shipping lane in Indonesia. ALKI I has become the path of international ships sailing from the South China Sea, Natuna Sea, Karimata Strait, Java Sea, and Sunda Strait to the Indian Ocean and vice versa. ALKI 2 is used for shipping from Sulawesi Sea to Makassar Strait, the Flores Sea and Lombok Strait to the Indian Ocean and vice versa. ALKI 3 has become the ship trajectory from the Pacific Ocean through the Maluku Sea, Seram Sea, Banda Sea, Ombai Strait, and the Savu Sea.



Source: [maritim.go.id](http://maritim.go.id)

Along Alki 1, there is the Strait of Malacca, which is one of the busiest straits in the world. The ship traffic in the Malacca Strait, according to the Vessel Traffic System (VTS) monitoring, reaches a level of between 80,000 and 90,000 vessels a year (*Tempo.co*, 22/02/2017).

### **Stumbling to be a Global Maritime Fulcrum**

However, the geographical modalities are not sufficiently supported by the development of infrastructure alone. To realize the idea of Indonesia as a Global Maritime Fulcrum, it is necessary to redesign our governance.

The current regional autonomy has given autonomous space to local governments in the regions. Local governments have more authority to manage their own regions. However, the current design is not enough to encourage the regions, especially those in coastal areas to make Indonesia as a Global Maritime Fulcrum. Some regions that should be able to become national fish granaries, such as Talaud Islands District, Sangihe, and Sitaro, actually fall into the category of the five poorest districts in North Sulawesi (*Tempo.co*, 22/06/2016).

The irony is due to the lack of adequate infrastructure, as well as the lack of governance design, which encourage local governments' performances to optimize local potential. The decentralization is still limited by the central government's centralized authority in determining the types of services.

The President, through PP. 18/2016 on the Regional State Apparatus, has even made it difficult for regions to innovate in accordance with the context of existing localities. Through the PP, the central government, represented by the Ministry of Home Affairs, regulates the nomenclatures of any services that will receive funding from the central government. Therefore, if the names of the agencies formed by the regions, even if they are in accordance with regional needs, are not included in the list of nomenclature known by the Ministry of Home Affairs, they will not get funding from the Central Government.

The management of one area, although having different characteristics, is still conducted in a relatively similar way. For example, in Semarang regency, industrial affairs are handled the Cooperatives Service, the Small- and Middle-Sized Enterprise Service, the Industry Service and the Trade Service. In Talaud, industrial affairs are also administered by the agencies with the same nomenclatures as those found in Semarang regency. Whereas it would be ideal if in Talaud, the industrial sector is directly linked with the affairs of marine resources. Thus, the marine affairs should be managed by the Office of Industry and Marine Resources. The lack of local government's flexibility in managing their own areas is one of the factors that hinder Indonesia as a Global Maritime Fulcrum.

### **Asymmetric Decentralization for Indonesia as a Global Maritime Fulcrum**

To realize that idea, Indonesia is not enough just to build physical infrastructure alone. Indonesia needs to design the governance structure as well. More courage is required to apply asymmetric decentralization. A governance that allows one region to govern itself differently (*Santoso, 2015*).

For example, regions in coastal areas should be able to form government units in accordance with regional characteristics, without having to have a breakdown of central-regional balance funds. Similarly, archipelagic areas such as Bali and Maluku should be able to emphasize their autonomy on tourism. In other words, the implementation of regional autonomy should not be uniformly autonomous, but actually be asymmetrically autonomous in accordance with the context of the existing locality. By applying asymmetric decentralization, the implementation of a World Maritime axis is not only a mere central government project but also be involves local exponents.

By implementing the asymmetric decentralization, Indonesia is expected to be fully prepared to face the 21st Century Sutra Line currently under development by China as well as dealing with the Trans-Pacific Partnership initiated by the United States. Indonesia should not only rely solely on the central government to swing among the two superpowers that are fighting for influence in Southeast Asia. Intending to be the axis of the Global Maritime Fulcrum means that Indonesia should intend themselves to be the world's maritime driving force.

**- Fadel Basrianto -**

*To realize the Global Maritime Fulcrum, it is not enough to build a physical infrastructure, but Indonesia also needs to redesign governance to a more asymmetrical direction.*

## Maintaining the Honor of DPD RI in the 2019 Elections

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The General Elections Commission (KPU) prohibits DPD candidates from using the attributes of the presidential candidates in the 2019 elections during their political campaigns. KPU Commissioner Wahyu Setiawan said that DPD members were individual candidates representing regions, not representing political parties. In reality, there are a number of DPD members who are now members of political parties, which have declared their support for the presidential candidates in the 2019 presidential elections. Therefore, to ensure justice for all candidates, KPU prohibits all DPD member candidates from using any attributes of the presidential candidates (*Kompas.com*, 2/4).

Previously, the KPU has also planned to ban DPD member candidates from receiving political campaign donations from political parties in the upcoming 2019 elections. This is stated in the draft of KPU Regulation (PKPU) on Campaign Funding. In Article 22 Paragraph (1) of PKPU, it is stated that DPD member candidates can only accept donations from individuals. Then, in Article 22 Paragraph (2) it is mentioned that DPD member candidates may receive campaign fund contributions from groups, companies or non-government entities (*cnnindonesia*, 27/3).

However, the regulation does not prohibit active members of political parties to register as DPD candidates. If a DPD member candidate who is a political party cadre receives campaign funding from his or her party, then the funds should be reported to the KPU. The DPD member candidate will not be allowed to use the funds. Later, funds obtained from political parties will be put into the state treasury in accordance with the decision of the KPU. The draft PKPU is still to be discussed with Commission II of DPR and the government. Therefore, the prohibition can still change in accordance with the consensus between the KPU, the Commission II of the House of Representatives, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Election Supervisory Board (*cnnindonesia*, 27/3).

### The Decision of DPD Member Candidates from Political Parties

According to the author, both rules are the efforts of the election organizer to maintain the honour of DPD in the 2019 elections. On the other hand, according to the author, the KPU does not prohibit DPD member candidates coming from political parties.

Even in the Hearing Session (RDP) between the Commission II of the House of Representatives, the General Elections Commission (KPU) and the Ministry of Home Affairs, an agreement was reached that the DPD member candidates could come from political parties. KPU Chairman Arief Budiman said that the reason for allowing the cadres of political parties to register as candidates for DPD members is that there are no rules in Law No. 7/2017 on General Elections that prohibit it (*cnnindonesia*, 14/3).

In Article 182 of Law No. 7 of 2017 on General Election, it is stated that the requirements of DPD member candidates are Indonesian citizens who have aged 21 years or more and believe in Allah Almighty. Some other requirements are residing in the territory of the state of Indonesia and being able to speak, read and write in Indonesian language. The lowest education requirements are high school, vocational school, madrasah aliyah, and madrasah aliyah vocational alumni. They should also be loyal to Pancasila, the 1945 Constitution, Bhinneka Tunggal Ika, and NKRI.

Another requirement is to never be imprisoned on the basis of permanent legal force for committing a criminal offense punishable by 5 years or more in jail. Candidates should inform the public if they are ex-convicts. There are also requirements about healthy conditions of the body and the spirit and about free from the misuse of narcotics. The candidates should be registered as voters and be willing to work full time.

The candidates for DPD members must also resign as heads and deputy heads of regions, heads and village apparatus, civil state apparatus, TNI, Police, state-owned / BUMD employees or other institutions sourced from state finance. In addition, there are also other conditions, but there are no clear explanations about the cadres of political parties.

### **Weaken Bicameralism**

As we know, the DPD was established in accordance with the third amendment of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia



(UUD 1945). According to Chapter VIIA on DPD of the 1946 Constitution (Articles 22C and 22D), the birth of DPD as a state institution has made the institutional structure of the legislature divided into a bicameral system (two rooms). One is the people's representatives and the other is the regional representatives (senate).

*The decision to allow DPD candidates coming from political parties will weaken the bicameral system.*

The aim is to strengthen checks and balances between the executive and legislative branches of the government as well as amongs the legislatures. On the other hand, the bicameral system in Indonesia is still classified as a weak bicameral system due to DPD's limitations in participating in the drafting of the Act.

The author argues that allowing DPD candidates to come from political parties will weaken the existing bicameral system in the legislative. Checks and balances between the two rooms in the bicameral system will be unbalanced, as the memberships of the DPD will be filled by the party's interests.

The interests of DPD members should be aligned with the objectives of the DPD establishment. Firstly, strengthening regional ties within the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia and strengthening national unity of all regions. Second, accommodating regional interests in the formulation of national policies relating to the state and the region. And third, encouraging the acceleration of democracy, development and regional progress so that it will be harmonious and balanced.

Therefore, referring to the above reasons, according to the author, KPU should issue rules to prohibit members of political parties to register as DPD member candidates. In addition, active DPD members should not register for the memberships of political parties during their term of office.

**- Arfianto Purbolaksono -**

## Toward Open Government in the Post-2018 Local Elections

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The 2018 local elections are being welcomed by the public. The public is keen to have new leaders, but it is also worried, as the 2018 local elections have a slightly different trait than those in the previous elections.

The difference is that the 2018 local elections are not merely venues for the elections for regional heads, but they are also closely related to the legislative and presidential elections in 2019. Therefore, the atmosphere in the 2018 elections is tenser than the ones in the previous elections.

On the sidelines of the tight election competition, the issue of corruption still overshadows in the local elections. The Indonesian Corruption Watch (ICW) noted that during 2010 to 2017, there were 215 regional heads who had become suspects of corruption with various cases, such as project budgets, bribes, corruption of procurement of goods and services (*Tempo.co*, 11/01). Not only that, KPK has caught red-handed several candidates for regional heads, who are participants of the elections. Since September 2017, the KPK has arrested at least 10 regional head candidates who will contest the 2018 elections.

Until March 22, 2018, the ten arrested candidates were Bupati Ngada (NTT), the Regent of Subang (Jabar), the Regent of Jombang (East Java), the Regent of Lampung Tengah, the Kutai Kartanegara Regent, the East Halmahera Regent, the Tegal Mayor, a member of the Regional House of Representatives (DPRD) of Malang City who ran for a regional head have been named by KPK as a suspect. This number is likely to continue to grow. This does not only stop there, Chair of KPK Agus Raharjo claimed to have been informed this time. At least there is 95 percent of candidates for regional heads who contest the 2018 elections will be a suspect (*Kompas.com*, 06/03).

The mode also varies, from trading positions, misuse of state funds, to withdrawing fees from local projects. The money from the corruption will be used for capital in the upcoming 2018 elections. The money will be used not only to finance the logistical needs of the campaign, but also to provide the political party with support in the form of dowry money. In addition, their corruption is also intended to return the capital they have spent in the previous elections (*Tempo.co*, 15/02).

With the widespread corruption practices perpetrated by the regional heads, it is necessary to re-discuss ways to prevent them from committing criminal acts of corruption that will harm the public. In addition to this policy, some arrests are currently being conducted by the KPK. It is also necessary to have governance that can prevent regional heads from corruption.

The governance in question is a governance that can guarantee public involvement in governance processes. Through this article, the author wants to encourage Open Government as governance that can guarantee public participation in governance processes.

### **Promoting Open Government**

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is an initiative of several countries to promote transparency, responsiveness to the community, combat corruption, and use technology to strengthen governance. OGP was first launched in 2011 by Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the United States (*opengovpartnership.org*).

Open Government is still not popular in our society as a model of governance. Open Government has been reduced to a mere information disclosure. Whereas the openness of information in the Open Government concept is only a tool to create an open government. In practice, it is not sufficient to only inform the public about the amount of APBD, which has been done by many local governments. Furthermore, Open Government suggests that the public is also involved in formulating the APBD to be spent in any expenditure posts (*Kurniawan, 2017*).

The current practice is that local governments are still at the level of local financial information disclosure. This is due to the Minister of Home Affairs Instruction No.188.52/1797/SJ 2012 on Transparency of Local Budget Management. The regulation states that local governments are required to: have an official local government

website, have budget transparency content on the website, publish budget documents, and update data.

In Indonesia, actually, the Open Government practice in 2016–2017 had been implemented in DKI Jakarta, Banda Aceh City, Semarang City, Bandung City, and Bojonegoro Regency. Great expectations for accountable, participatory, and innovative principles in government can be run by other local governments.

Bojonegoro Regency is one of the successful Open Government pilot projects. By implementing Open Government practice, Bojonegoro regency, during Suyoto's leadership, has succeeded in improving the prosperity of Bojonegoro people. Initially Bojonegoro always occupies the position of the poorest area in East Java, currently, it ranks 11, ahead of Gresik that ranks 12 (*Bojonegorokab.go.id*, 07/07/2017).

However, it is important to note that the implementation of OG must be in accordance with the context of the society. The current trend of Open Government application in many areas is the provision of an online community-based complaint application platform. This is good, but not suitable for areas that have rural characteristics that are not so familiar with the technology of the device.

Information technology is just a tool. The substance of the Open Government is to engage the public more broadly in the process of formulating a policy for example, the local government captures the aspirations of the people through the online application or by way of direct dialogue.

Therefore, parallel to the KPK's efforts in investigating corruption cases in the regions, it is important to challenge candidates during this campaign process to come up with ideas about implementing Open Government in the administration of everyday governance.

**- Fadel Basrianto -**

*Heads of regions who are applying Open Government practices have prepared themselves for the control of the masses and are committed to managing governance well.*

## Land Certification: Implementation and Constraints

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From 2012 to 2017, Komnas HAM received 1,653 agrarian issues including land disputes, environmental pollution, and settlement disputes (*Tenureconference.id*, 27/10/2017). In 2017, the Agrarian Reform Consortium (KPA) recorded the increasing number of land conflicts by 50% compared to 2016, from 450 conflicts in 2016 to 659 conflicts in 2017. The conflicts covered about 520,491 hectares of land (*Tirto.id*, 28/12/2017). The highlight of the agrarian issue is the energy that we have spent to overcome the effects of the conflicts, such as repressive actions and criminalization by law enforcement officials. As a result, horizontal and vertical conflicts are inevitable and involving many stakeholders: people, state, private enterprises, and military.

In urban areas, land tenure conflicts can be seen from forced eviction cases. In general, the cases have involved local governments and communities. The Legal Aid Institute (LBH) Jakarta revealed that throughout 2016, there were 193 evictions in Jakarta (*Bantuanhukum.or.id*, 03/04/2016). Due to Jakarta evictions, there had been 5,726 families and 5,379 business units victimized by the incidents (*Tempo.co*, 13/04/2016). Moreover, most evictions occur because of the lack of land ownership evidence. Therefore, conflicts have involved poor people who mostly live near rivers. In the perspective of human rights, as set forth in Article 11 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, forced evictions shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions and without any violence as well.

In the wider scope, almost all indigenous people in Indonesia have relatively similar problems: the state does not acknowledge their rights to land. Their land is very vulnerable to be taken over by other entities due to the lack of ownership evidence. For the state, customary land ownerships (which are proofed by historical and cultural pieces of evidence) are not sufficient.

On the other hand, the state actually makes use of customary land that does not have proper legal documents by granting the land to corporate businesses. The government gives the businesses operational licenses to conduct operations on the customary land. However, Constitutional Court Decision No. 35/2012 on the Affirmation of Customary Land states that customary land would not belong to the state. It belongs to the indigenous people. So, there should be a big decision to recognize customary land. For indigenous people, land is a 'mother' where their blood and flesh come from. Notably, the absence of the acknowledgment of customary land means a lack of recognition of indigenous people. The challenge after the issuance of the constitutional court decision is the certification processes, in which the government has to make measurements of customary land.

Land disputes that occur in the absence of legal ownership (certification) have become the priority program of the government. The program is in line with the Article 28H and paragraph 4 of the Constitution, and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights specifically on property rights (including land). In detail, land ownership is regulated through the Agrarian Law No. 5 of 1960 on the Regulations of the Agrarian Principles (UUPA) in the articles 20 – 27. This regulation contains general principles of land ownership. Other provisions of land ownership rights are also stated in the Article 50 Paragraph (1) of the UUPA.

As a result, in 2017, 51 million certificates had been issued. In 2018, the President targets to publish 7 million certificates. In 2019, the target will be about 9 million certificates (*Kompas.com, 19/01/2018*). However, there are a number of obstacles. The people will face some difficulties in the processes of certification in the National Land Agency (BPN) /government agency. Time duration in the processes of certification is a problem if the land has to be separated and to given separate certificates. Communal ownerships are of particular concerns for BPN. There should be unusual strategies to overcome the problem of certification in terms of communal land. However, a particular strategy with a strong regulation is required to set up if the customary land of indigenous people needs to be legalized through the certification processes. Importantly, using customary institutions has to be the priority strategy regarding eliminating the horizontal conflicts of indigenous people.

The cost of certification is another issue. For most people, it is really expensive. Affirmative policy on the certification process for marginalized groups is required to reduce the burden of marginalized groups. An easier process would be helpful for marginalized groups as long as they meet the requirements of documents. This program should not be a burden, and it should be in line with the acceleration of land certification in Indonesia

*Land certification is a sort of state recognition in terms of property rights. The ease in the process of certification by the government is part of the fulfillment of human rights.*

The discrimination of certification process is still occurring in some areas of Indonesia, and it has notably become a constraint. The media reported that the D.I Yogyakarta government had a discriminatory policy that prohibited non-natives (non-pribumi) to have own land. One of the policies is the Instruction Letter of Vice Governor of DIY No. 898 / I / A / 1975 on the Prohibition of Land Ownership Rights for Non-Native (Non-Pribumi). Referring to the Law Number 40 /2008 on the Elimination of Racial and Ethnic Discriminations, the Yogyakarta policy is clearly discrimination, which leads to the absence of equal opportunity for all to have land ownerships. Notably, the Yogyakarta regional government, with its particular autonomy, should not misuse its autonomy in formulating and enacting policies that precisely make a limitation for citizens to own land.

Another problem is the insufficient number of officers who have the skills to measure the land in the agrarian institution (BPN). Currently, there are only 2,000 land measuring officer. It is not enough. So, in 2019, 3,000 additional officers are required to measure 120 million plots of land, or 36,000 million m<sup>2</sup> (one measuring officer can measure 7.2 million m<sup>2</sup> for a year) (*Antaraneews.com, 21/10/2016*). Another obstacle is the lack of commitment on the government part to enforce the law and to handle the land mafia. There should be cooperation between the Ministry of Agrarian Spatial Planning / BPN and the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) to crack down the mafia, as it is difficult to eradicate them. Since 2011, both institutions have a particular attention to the land management by encouraging a strong system of transparency and accountability. This commitment should be appreciated, and we hope that land ownership issues will not be a trigger for conflicts in the future. On the contrary, it can be a trigger for the increasing community welfare.

**- Yossa Nainggolan -**

 **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 center 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 by promoting good governance principles and public participation in the policy processes in Indonesia.

**TII's** visions are public policies in Indonesia which highly uphold human rights and rule of law, as well as involve participation of various stakeholders and practice democratic good governance principles.

**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. The economy plays an important role as one of the fundamentals of national development. 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 implementation of regional autonomy that is based on Law No. 32 Year 2004 has demanded bottom-up planning processes, which are participatory in development process. However, fiscal decentralization is still seen crucial particularly for people living in the regions. This can be seen from the high number of gap, poverty, and unemployment. Therefore, there is a need for effective policy formula, which has the right targets.

TII has research focus on fiscal decentralization and sustainable development issues. Fiscal decentralization issues will focus on the discussion on financial matters, corruption, and development of local infrastructure development. With regard to sustainable development, TII focuses on productivity, competitiveness, infrastructure development and development gap. On poverty issues, TII focuses its research on social protection, human resources and employment, and government subsidy policies.

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 an 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 foundations.

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 using sociological, anthropological, and political approaches in order to produce more comprehensive academic papers and bills. It is expected that the laws and regulations will be produced through such participatory processes, which involve the writing of academic papers and also focus group discussions (FGD), which will involve the stakeholders related to the laws and regulations that will be discussed.

## RESEARCH ON THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Since the enactment of Law No. 22 Year 1999, which was then revised through Law No. 32 Year 2004 on the Local Government, powers are no longer centralized in the central government. Based on the Law, the local governments have wider autonomy to manage their own internal affairs. With the wider regional autonomy and obligation to create good governance, the local governments are demanded to be more responsive towards public aspirations. Therefore, public policy research has become more important for local governments to analyze contexts and issues in the regions, as well as the public's aspirations to formulate public policies.

In order to respond those needs, TII research in political affairs offers policy assessments on various policies that have already been applied or will be implemented. TII will look at socio-cultural, economic, legal, and political aspects in assessing public policies. Our research will be useful to assist governments in formulating policies that are in line with contexts, priorities, and people's aspirations. TII also offers various breakthroughs of transformative policies that are in line with the Open Government principles' implementation in order to increase public participation in policy processes.

Political Research Division of TII provides analysis and policy recommendations in order to generate strategic policies in the strengthening of democracy and the establishment of good governance

both at the national and at the local levels. Political research forms that are offered by TII are **(1) Public Policy Analysis, (2) Media Monitoring, (3) Mapping & Positioning Research, (4) Need Assessment Research, (5) Survey Indicator.**

## RESEARCH ON THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Social development needs policy foundations that come from independent and accurate research. Social analysis is needed by 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, children, and elderly.

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.**

## EVALUATION OF A PROJECT OR A PROGRAM

One of the activities that have been performed by TII is the qualitative evaluations of projects or programs of non-governmental organizations or governments. The evaluation activities are offered by TII in stages; that is, mid-term evaluations of the projects/programs and also the final evaluations at the end of the projects/programs.

As we know, the evaluation is an important step in the implementation of a project or program. Mid-Term Evaluations of the projects or programs are intended to look at and analyze the challenges, the overall learning takes place during the projects or programs, and to make recommendations for the continuity of the projects or programs. Meanwhile, the final evaluations allow us to view and analyze the outcomes and the lessons learned to ensure the achievements of all the objectives of the projects or programs at the end of the projects or programs.

## 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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