The Indonesian Update

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



Main Report: Women in Family Politics Circles

The Economics

- The APBD Realization in Two Rich Provinces in Eastern Indonesia
- The Role of the Downstream Industry for the Indonesian Economy

Law

- Unraveling the Problem of Interfaith Marriage in Indonesia
- Reviewing Corruption Eradication Enforcement in Indonesia •

Politics

The Commemoration of Inter-Religious Harmony Week and the Problems with the Establishment of Houses of Worship in Indonesia

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Defining the Demographic Bonus for Indonesia •





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FOREWORD

The February 2023 edition of the Indonesian Update presents a main report regarding the growth of family politics in the political system, which indirectly has an impact on the emergence of female leaders. In the absence of regulations that limit this, the female candidates must be able to demonstrate her capabilities.

In the economic field, the Indonesian Update examines the realization of the APBD of two provinces in eastern Indonesia; namely South Sulawesi and Papua. Regional wealth certainly contributes to national development. Thus, more attention is needed in its development from optimizing the spending and revenue budgets. Furthermore, we discuss the downstreaming of industry that President Joko Widodo has introduced can be felt today; for example, by looking at investment figures in the manufacturing industry and mining industry, such as nickel.

In the field of law, the Indonesian Update examines the practices of different religions in Indonesia. In practice, interfaith marriage (PBA) is not something new and has been going on for a long time for the multicultural Indonesian society. However, from the perspective of regulation and rule of law, this issue has deep complexity. Next, we discuss the enforcement of the eradication of criminal acts of corruption must be carried out by taking into account the reforms of several legal aspects: structure, substance, and culture.

In the political field, the Indonesian Update raises the issue of Inter-Religious Harmony Week, or more popularly known as the World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW), which is celebrated every year in the first week of February. However, considering the conditions in Indonesia, religious harmony is still a problem today, especially with regard to the construction of houses of worship.

In the social field, the Indonesian Update raises the issue of demographic bonus in Indonesia. However, Indonesia's current demographic conditions still have various problems, including a large population, low quality of population and even a lack of population distribution. This is important to discuss because the advancement of a country's human resources based on every human birth should have a significant impact on the development of the country itself.



It is hoped that the monthly publication of the Indonesian Update with current themes will help policy makers in government and business institutions – as well as academics, think tanks and elements of civil society, both domestic and foreign, to obtain actual information and contextual analysis on economic conditions. political, social, and legal in Indonesia, as well as an understanding of public policy in Indonesia.

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Happy Reading.



Women in Family Politics Circles

One of the issues that are interesting and often discussed in Indonesian politics is regarding the growth of family politics in Indonesia. In a simple term, family politics is defined if there are two or more family members holding political positions (Purwaningsih, 2020). In addition, family politics, or familyism, is seen as too much dependence on family ties, which gives rise to the habit of placing family and kinship ties in a higher position than other social obligations (Djati, 2013).

Referring to this definition, President Joko Widodo can be categorized as being involved in family politics at this time. First, Gibran Rakabuming, the first son of Joko Widodo currently serves as Mayor of Solo. Second, Bobby Nasution, who is currently the Mayor of Medan, is the husband of Kahiyang Ayu, the second child of Joko Widodo. As there are two family members in policitics, then it can be said that President Joko Widodo is being involved in family politics. In addition, there is a discourse that the youngest child of Joko Widodo, Kaesang Pangarep, also plans to enter politics (Detik.com, 26/12/2023). Not only that, family politics is also growing when Atalia Praratya, the wife of the Governor of West Java, Ridwan Kamil is indicated to be running in the 2024 Bandung City Mayor Elections (Detik.com, 02/02/2023).

If you draw a common thread from Kaesang Pangareb, Atalia Praratya, Gibran Rakabuming, and Bobby Nasution, these four figures associated with family politics had started their political careers through Pilkada (the direct regional elections). This is in accordance with what was said by Effendi (2018) in his writing entitled "Political Dynasties in Local Governments: the Case Study of the Banten Dynasty", that family politics began when the direct regional elections were implemented for the first time



in Indonesia in 2005, as well as the implementations of regional autonomy in 2001, which was marked by the emergence of local elites (Effendi, 2018). Furthermore, Munjin (2018) said that along with the growth of regional autonomy, governance at the regional level actually resulted in an accumulation of power by the richest people or certain families. Munjin also added the term "democratic trap", in which local oligarchs carried out legal and formal piracy of democracy (Munjin, 2018).

There are several negative impacts with the birth of family politics. First, there is the stagnation of the regeneration of political parties in recruiting candidates for regional heads who only look at social and capital capital, thus creating political pragmatism by encouraging relatives of regional heads to become public officials. Second, there is the creation of a society that maintains a status quo condition in the region that wants the regional head to rule by encouraging family members or people close to the regional head to replace the incumbent (Effendi, 2018).

One of the reasons for the growth of family politics in Indonesia is weak regulation. In the context of Pilkada, Law Number 1.2015 concerning the Election of Governors, Regents and Mayors has provided a breath of fresh air in limiting family politics by using the approach of prohibiting conflicts of interest. This is stated in Article 7 letter q which states that regional head candidates may not have a conflict of interest with an incumbent. In the elucidation of the Pilkada law, it is explained in detail that what is meant by not having a conflict of interest with the incumbent such as not having blood relations, marital ties and or lineage of 1 (one) level straight up, down, sideways with the incumbent, unless it has passed a break of 1 (one) term of office.

In the course of the process, this provision was annulled through the Constitutional Court decision Number 34/PUU-/XIII/2015, on the grounds of "conflict of interest with the incumbent", only using political and assumptive considerations, as if every candidate who has blood or marital relations with the incumbent will certainly build a political dynasty that will undermine the nation's order, without further considering the sides of competence, integrity and capability as well as meeting the acceptability elements of the candidate



concerned objectively (Susanti, 2017). The Constitutional Court's decision has paved way for the growth of family politics, which can lead to dynastic politics.

According to Purwaningsih (2020), there are differences between dynasty politics and family politics. In a webinar organized by Yogyakarta Muhammadiyah University, Purwaningsih explained that what was considered family politics was if there were two or more family members holding political positions. Meanwhile, dynasty politics is if there are at least four family members who occupy political positions and more than two generations. According to these explanations from Purwaningsih (2020), it can be said that the forerunner of dynasty politics is family politics.

Women in Family Politics Circles

The growth of family politics in the political system indirectly has an impact on the emergence of female leaders. It does not only happen in Indonesia, if viewed from a broader perspective, there are several examples of female leaders who were born because of family politics, such as Indira Ghandi in India, Hasina Wazed and Khaleda Zia in Bangladesh, Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan, Hillary Clinton in the United States or Sirimavo Airportnaike in Sri Lanka. According to Kusumaningtyas (2017), this happens because this family relationship allows women to overcome various obstacles to advance in politics, such as a lack of financial capital, experience, network, information and makes it easier to find patrons. (Kusumaningtyas, 2017).

In Indonesia, there are so many female regional heads who are part of family politics. According to the data released by Kusumaningtyas (2017) in his research entitled "Women Regional Heads in Local Oligarchy Networks" it was explained that as many as 45 percent of the women elected in the 2015 regional elections had indications of family politics. Furthermore, in the 2020 Pilkada, there were 124 candidates affiliated with family politics. Of these figures, 57 of them were women and 29 of them were wives of the previous regional heads (Rahmatunnisa, 2021). This figure clearly shows that family politics is still one of the main entry points for women to compete and win direct regional elections.

Not only in the 2020 Pilkada, in the 2019 elections for the House of Representatives (DPR RI) in 2019, a number of women with indications of family politics also managed to pass to the Parliament,



such as Puteri Komarudin, who is the daughter of a Golkar Party politician, Ade Komarudin; Athari Gauthi Ardi, who is the daughter of former two-term DPR member Epyardi Asda; or Dyah Roro Esti Widya Putri, who is the daughter of a former DPR RI member, Satya Widya Yudha.

An interesting thing to observe from the results of the 2019 legislative elections was the elected women legislators from the Democratic National Party (Nasdem). Of the 19 female legislative members elected from the Nasdem Party, 13 of them had indications of family politics, as shown in the table below:

Table 1. Background of Legislative Members Elected by the Nasdem Party in the 2019 Legislative Elections

No	Name	Wife
1	Sri Wahyuni	Regent's wife Ponorogo (Ipong Muchlissoni)
2	Sri Kustina	Regent's wife Pali (Heri Amaliando)
3	Lisda Hendra Joni	Regent's wife Pesisir Selatan (Hendrajoni)
4	Delmeria Sikumbang	Mayor's Wife Sibolga (Syarfi Hutauruk)
5	Hasnah Syam	Regent's wife Barru (Suardi Saleh)
6	Eva Rataba	Deputy regent's wife North Toraja (Yosia Rinto)
7	Tina Nur Alam	Former Governor's Wife North Sulawesi (Nur Alam)
8	Hillary Brigitta Lasut	Talaud regent's daughter (Elly Lasut)
9	Yessie Melanie	The son-in-law of the Regent of Melawi (Panji)
10	Kristiana Mukti	Regent's wife Timor Tengah Utara (Raymundus Fernandes)
11	Ratu Ngadu Bonu	Wife of Former Regent West Sumba Barat (Markus Dairu Talo)
12	Ari Eghani	Regent's wife Kapuas (Ben Ibrahim S Bahat)
13	Percha Leanpuri	Son of the Governor of South Sumatra (Herman Deru)

Source: Zaetun & Mariyah, 2020



The number of female legislators from the Nasdem Party is actually not too surprising. The reason is that, according to research conducted by Hidayah (2019), one of the recruitment models carried out by the Nasdem Party is through talent scouting; namely, the Election Winning Body (Bapilu) of the Nasdem Party. This model tries to recruit people who already have capital resources, social status, as well as popularity to become candidates for the legislature of the Nasdem Party.

Towards Simultaneous Elections in 2024

Exactly one year before the 2024 Simultaneous Elections, this article tries to provide some important things related to family politics. First, until now there are no regulations limiting people with indications of family politics from being able to become candidates in the upcoming 2024 Simultaneous Elections. Furthermore, there is no discourse for the DPR RI to make regulations limiting family politics. This means that everyone, even though they are affiliated with family politics, has the right to become a candidate.

Second, in the absence of regulations limiting candidates who have indications of family politics, what political parties need to do is to ensure that these candidates do have the capacity. The best way that can be done is to create a clear and transparent recruitment model and candidate selection process so that even if the candidate has indications of family politics, it does not necessarily qualify as a candidate. We should not let the essence of democracy in political parties fade because of the emergence of people who indirectly have a "fast track" to get political office. In fact, the public wants a figure who has a clear track record, not just because he is a child of the political elite.

Third, for female candidates who are affiliated with family politics, because there are no regulations limiting this, these female candidates must be able to demonstrate their capabilities, so they can minimize accusations that women can only get strategic positions or win elections just because they have blood relations with people who are already in power.

Fourth, political education for the Indonesian people is also the most important thing ahead of the upcoming 2024 General Elections. The public needs to see the candidates' track record, programs, as well as the visions and missions in choosing candidates for leaders in the upcoming 2024 General Election and Pilkada. We should not let the elected Indonesian leaders only have financial capital, popularity and lineage alone.

- Ahmad Hidayah -

The growth of family politics in the political system has an indirect impact on the emergence of female leaders. In the absence of regulations that limit this, the female candidates must be able to demonstrate their capabilities, so that they can minimize accusations that women can only get strategic positions or win elections just because they have blood relations with people who are already in power



The APBD Realization in Two Rich Provinces in Eastern Indonesia

The Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) reported that of a total of 34 provinces in Indonesia, there were 10 provinces that had the largest Regional Budgets (APBD) in 2021. DKI Jakarta province was in the first place (tempo.co, 01/20/2023), followed by other richest provinces; namely, West Java, East Java, Central Java, Papua, Aceh, North Sumatra, Banten, South Sulawesi and South Sumatra.

Among the richest provinces, there were only two provinces representing the eastern Indonesia region; namely, South Sulawesi and Papua. In fact, those two regions in Eastern Indonesia contribute significantly for Indonesia's trade balance.

In this article, the author shall discuss the wealth of the two richest provinces in eastern Indonesia in accordance with their budget realization and policy recommendations for sustainability. This is important considering that the eastern Indonesian region often misses infrastructure development and human resource development due to its geographical location, which is far from the national capital. If viewed from the Human Development Index, the provinces of South Sulawesi and Papua are still on the average HDI line for Indonesia. The BPS release states that Indonesia's HDI in 2022 had increased by 0.86 percent to a level of 72.91 in 2022 from the previous year, which was 72.29 (BPS, 2022).

Despite the increase, only 10 provinces had HDI above the average level. It can be interpreted that the existing gap is still very high between provinces in Indonesia. The HDI of South Sulawesi Province was in the 11th place; namely, 72.82. These conditions were very much different from those in Papua Province, which had the lowest ranking of HDI; namely, 61.39. It can be said that this figure still needs more attention by paying attention to the realization of the budget on regional finances in both provinces.

The high realization of a region's budget will have a positive effect on human development. The proof was in the research conducted



by Paramita (2020) entitled "The Analysis of the Impact of Realization of the APBD on the Human Development Index in Makassar City". In this study, it was found that the variables Capital Expenditure and Operational Costs of Maintenance in the education sector had a positive and significant influence on the Human Development Index in Makassar City. This means that every increase in the Capital Expenditure budget and Operational Maintenance Costs in the education sector will increase the Human Development Index with the ceteris paribus assumption .

The Regional Finance of South Sulawesi Province

The report by the South Sulawesi Representative Office of Bank Indonesia (BI) states that in terms of the realization of APBD and APBN, expenditures in South Sulawesi Province have decreased. The realization of APBD spending in the second quarter of 2022 was recorded at IDR 2.11 trillion (28.47 percent of the 2022 ceiling), lower than the realization for the same period in 2021, which amounted to IDR 3.10 trillion.

This figure was allocated for personnel spending, goods spending, capital spending, and social assistance spending. Meanwhile, employee spending was focused on paying salaries and benefits attached to salaries, where the realization until June 30 2022 reached IDR 4,047.88 billion, a decrease of 3.54% (yoy).

Goods Expenditure showed a positive trend in the context of service to the community. As of June 30 2022, the actual spending on goods reached IDR 2,768.28 billion. Capital Expenditures were focused on completing priority infrastructure projects, such as the construction of dams, development of the Baliase & Gilireng Irrigation Area, construction of railway lines, roads and bridges. Capital expenditure was realized in the amount of IDR 911.88 billion until 30 June 2022. The largest expenditure was realized by PUPR of IDR 474.16 billion.

The realization of the Social Assistance Expenditure Budget until June 2022 amounted to Rp. 27.66 billion, which was mainly influenced by the realization of social assistance spending for social protection in the form of money for students who received Bidik Misi and KIP Lectures at work units within the Ministry of Religion. This realization increased by 3.73% compared to 2021 (yoy).

Meanwhile, actual state budget spending amounted to IDR 7.82 trillion or 38.46 percent of the total budget ceiling, a decrease com-



pared to that in the same quarter in 2021 of IDR 8.59 trillion. This was in line with the contraction in GRDP for government consumption in the second quarter of 2022 of 17.18 percent (yoy).

If viewed from revenue realization, the APBD of South Sulawesi Province experienced an increase in the second quarter of 2022 compared to the same quarter the previous year. The realization of APBD revenue for South Sulawesi Province in the second quarter of 2022 was recorded at IDR 4.48 trillion, with the largest contribution coming from regional original revenue (PAD). Meanwhile, the realization of APBD revenues in 24 Regencies/Cities of South Sulawesi Province reached IDR 10.88 trillion, a decrease compared to that in the same period in 2021. On the other hand, fiscal independence throughout South Sulawesi has increased, which was mainly contributed by tax revenues.

Only two provinces in the eastern part of Indonesia are amongst the richest provinces. These richest provinces contribute significantly to national development. The Ministry of Finance needs to maximize the expenditure and revenue realization by working with regional government units.

The Papua Province Regional Finance

The BI report from the Papua Province Representative Office stated that the realization of APBD revenues in the second quarter of 2022 experienced growth, but absorption experienced a contraction. There was a growth of 43.59 percent, which was driven by international trade tax as a positive impact from export-import.

Nonetheless, on the APBD expenditure side, it decreased by -15.98 percent due to decreased spending on goods, capital spending and other spending. This had resulted in the performance of the APBD slowing down compared to that in 2021.

Seeing the differences in regional finances in the two rich provinces in eastern Indonesia, this can be a reflection for the government to pay more attention to policies that need to be directed at reducing regional inequality. This is important because two rich provinces can become a reference for other provinces in developing their regions even though they are geographically far from the capital.

The Ministry of Finance, in this case through its representative offices in both regions, needs to maximize the expenditure and revenue realization by working with regional government units. Thus, between the budget and the policy mix, the regions, especially Papua Province, can improve their human development, starting with optimizing the regional budget.

- Nuri Resti Chayyani -



The Role of the Downstream Industry for the Indonesian Economy

President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) in the annual meeting with the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), the House of Representatives (DPR), and the Regional Representatives Council (DPD), on the occasion of the 77th anniversary of the Proclamation of Indonesia's Independence, mentioned the necessity to develop the downstream industry and the industrialization of natural resources (SDA) in Indonesia (16/08/2022), as this will have an impact on Indonesian economy.

The reason is that the downstream industry and the industrialization have been perceived as effective to improve the economy in times of crisis due to Covid-19. The world economy has not fully recovered. It has been exacerbated by the food crisis, energy crisis and financial crisis, which were triggered by the war in Ukraine. A total of 107 countries have been affected by the crises. Some of which are estimated to have gone bankrupt.

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources stated that downstreaming was an effort to turn Indonesia into an industrialized country that did not only rely on natural resources as development capital. The downstreaming will also change Indonesia from an allconsumptive country to a productive country.

Referring to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), Indonesia again recorded a trade balance surplus in April 2022, which was at a level of USD 7.56 billion. If compared to the previous month, the trade balance surplus in April rose by 66.9 percent.

Of course, the increase in the trade balance surplus was not without a reason. The trade balance surplus was obtained from the export value, which was higher than the import value in that period. BPS noted that the export value in April 2022 was at a level of USD 27.32 billion, while the import value reached a level of USD 19.76 billion.



Meanwhile, the April 2022 surplus was the highest on record, surpassing that of October 2021 with a value of USD 5.74 billion. In fact, the fourth month's export value was also the highest achievement of all time, which was previously reached in March 2022 of USD 26.5 billion.

One of the downstream industries is manufacturing, whose performance in 2022 was recorded as brilliant. According to information from the Minister of Industry, Agus Gumiwang, the downstream manufacturing industry has so far proven to be a prime mover for the national economy. Agus also mentioned that there was a multiplier effect that occurred due to the downstreaming carried out (Ministry of Industry, 23/12/2022).

According to the data from the Ministry of Industry, the processing industry still made a dominant contribution to the national export value, with an achievement of 74.46 percent during January-April 2022. During the first four months of 2022, the shipment performance of the manufacturing sector's products penetrated to more than USD 69.59 billion, or up 29.19 percent compared to the same period last year.

Agus Gumiwang also said that the contribution to the value of exports showed that the efforts and policies in national economic recovery carried out by the government were going well in the midst of facing various challenges from uncertain global economic conditions. Of course this is good news as a result of the government's efforts to revive the economy from an industrial perspective.

Furthermore, investment in manufacturing at the end of 2022 was quite tempting. This was reflected in the realization of investment in the manufacturing industry sector, reaching IDR 365.2 trillion during January-September 2022.

The Minister of Industry also stated that this achievement had increased by 54 percent compared to the same period last year of IDR 236.8 trillion. The confidence of investors in this industrial sector must be maintained, which is supported by various strategic policies.

According to the data from the Ministry of Investment / Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) for January-September 2022, the contribution of the manufacturing industry sector to total investment reached 40.9 percent or IDR 892.4 trillion. This value grew by 35.3 percent compared to the previous year's period. In



addition, the figure for Domestic Investment (PMDN) in the manufacturing sector was IDR 104.9 trillion. Likewise, Foreign Investment (PMA) had increased.

The achievement of increasing investment in this sector is correlated with the government's efforts to spur industrial downstreaming, especially the mining industry and not only in the agricultural and food and beverage industries. However, if you look further, the downstream mining sector also faces international trade challenges, for example in the nickel commodity, which has bright market prospects until 2050.

One of the studies from Bessie (2022), entitled "Indonesia's Strategy to International Trade Challenges: the Case Study of Nickel Trade Disputes between Indonesia and the European Union," found the fact that Indonesia's focus on downstream industry, especially in building an electric vehicle ecosystem, was evident from the consistency and direct role of the government in implementing policy directions and accelerating development. On the one hand, the challenges faced by Indonesia in free trade, especially in facing lawsuits from the European Union, cannot be separated from trade competition.

A release from the International Energy Agency (IEA) states that Indonesia has great potential to grow rapidly until 2050, as nickel is an important raw material for the electric vehicle battery industry and geothermal energy generators. The increase in demand for nickel in the global market was triggered by the strengthening trend of renewable energy (EBT) (IEA, 2022).

This release is in line with data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), which reported that the value of nickel exports in the third quarter of 2022 reached a level of US\$4.13 billion. This figure had increased by 405.4 percent compared to that in the third quarter of 2021.

Seeing the great potential for downstreaming the natural resource industry in the economy, in this case PMDN and FDI, the government should choose the right policies to remain competitive in the global market. Several policy recommendations can be made by the government. The Ministry of Industry can wisely impose a ban on the export of natural resources.



The imposition of a nickel ore export ban in early 2020 had caused the export value to jump by 58.89 percent to US\$ 1.28 billion in 2021. The right export ban policy will provide maximum benefits for Indonesia. However, if it is careless, strict export bans will exacerbate Indonesia's trade in global eyes, as the research conducted by Bessie shows (2022).

What is equally important, the Ministry of Investment/BKPM needs to optimize state revenue in terms of PMDN and FDI by taking into account environmental impact analysis documents. Thus, the downstream natural resource industry will continue without neglecting the actual function of nature.

Both the Ministry of Investment/BKPM and the Ministry of Trade also need to organize various challenges related to international trade in the context of downstreaming the industry by means of holding hearings with trading partners. A real example that is often encountered is criticism from other countries over the nickel ore export ban policy that was imposed. It is important to value natural resources fairly and sustainably.

- Nuri Resti Chayyani -

The downstreaming of industry introduced by President Joko Widodo has been implemented and can be felt today; for example, by looking at the investment figures for the manufacturing industry and the mining industry, such as nickel



Unraveling the Problem of Interfaith Marriage in Indonesia

Interfaith marriage has been going on for a long time for the multicultural Indonesian society. However, from the perspective of regulation and rule of law, this issue has deep complexity.

This complexity refers to the conditions of Indonesia, which is a plural country that consists of diverse ethnicities, cultures, races and religions on the one hand and policy regulations related to these conditions still show contradictory conditions related to interfaith marriages on the other hand.

This is increasingly significant and has a wider impact, especially if you look at data compiled by the Indonesian Conference On Religion and Peace (ICRP) from 2005 to early March 2022, which showed that there had been 1,425 married couples of different religions in Indonesia.

Legal Conflicts of Interfaith Marriages

In fact, Indonesia does not yet have a legal umbrella that explicitly regulates the very complex issue of it. Therefore, so far couples have had to fight more, both through legal and illegal efforts so that their marriages can get legality in Indonesia.

Positive law in Indonesia has provided a legal umbrella regarding marriage, which is embodied in the existence of Law Number 1/1974 concerning Marriage in relation to Government Regulation No. 9/1975. Article 2 Paragraph (I) of Law Number 1/974 concerning Marriage clearly stipulates that the concept of "marriage is legal, if it is carried out according to the laws of each religion and its beliefs."

The meaning of this context is that a marriage can be categorized as a valid marriage if it is carried out according to the laws of the respective religions and beliefs of the spouses who get married. Thus, the determination of whether or not marriage is permissible



depends on religious provisions, because the basis of religious law in carrying out marriage is very important in Law Number 1/1974.

However, these conditions have increasingly found a complex and contradictory situation since the enactment of Law Number 23/2006 concerning Population Administration. This can be seen in the illustration of the existence of Article 35 letter a of the Population Administration Law, which has opened up the opportunity to determine marriage interfaith that clearly contradicts Article 2 of the Marriage Law, which implicitly stipulates that am interfaith marriage is illegal.

Legally, the logical consequence of this juridical conflict is the emergence of opportunities for disparities in the application of law in the field. An example is the possibility of submitting application in the court. However, regarding this phenomenon, in practice judges have different views. Some refuse to grant interfaith marriage requests.

On the other hand, there are also those who grant the application for the determination of interfaith marriage. Therefore, the problem of multiple interpretations is an issue that contributes to legal uncertainty in sthe ociety (badilag.mahkamahagung.go.id, 15/7/2022)

Constitutional Court Decisions and the Dilemma of Constitutional Guarantees

As is known, the fate of interfaith marriage is now increasingly experiencing clear conditions after the Constitutional Court rejected the applicant's request to legalize it. The argument for case application Number 24/PUU-XX/2022 related to Article 2 Paragraph 1 and Paragraph 2 and Article 8 letter F of Law No 1 of 1974 is considered groundless according to the law. This is not a surprising thing related to this decision considering that this is not the first time the Court has done this, as in case Number 68/PUU-XII/2014 (mkri.id, 23/1/2023).

The Constitutional Court is very central in its authority because it has a role as an interpreter in matters of law and must ensure that the state guarantees the constitutional rights of every citizen to obtain constitutional guarantees, both from the aspect of strengthening norms in the Marriage Law, as well as beyond that. Given that there are still many sociological problems that arise in society due to the difficulty of accessing administrative records related to marriage interfaith, the negative excesses of that which should be protected by the state.



In the true policy context, this is very possible to do in the form of discretion. It is undeniable that strengthening the Marriage Law is something that also has a constitutional guarantee value. But, under certain conditions that are outside the main concept, the Marriage Law must be accommodated in norms that are exceptions for community protection and the resulting social impact through changes to the Marriage Law.

Legislative and the Government are the right institutions to regulate this because they have more tools and resources than judicial institutions, such as the Constitutional Court, especially tools and resources in absorbing various aspirations from the people as well as the ability to conduct in-depth research involving various scientific disciplines in prepare academic papers.

The Constitutionality of marriage guaranteed through the strengthening of Marriage Law is something that is not inevitable. However, this must be accompanied by accommodation that is non-discriminatory to the problems and realities on the ground regarding the guarantee of the constitutionality of interfaith marriages

- Galang Taufani -



Reviewing Corruption Eradication Enforcement in Indonesia

Fighting criminal acts of corruption, which is considered to have become problems in almost the whole world, cannot be denied. This must be carried out continuously, as it is an urgent agenda. We should also remember the role and function of anti-corruption in aspects of state administration, including in Indonesia

Indonesia itself has made the issue of anti-corruption an important part of state administration. In Indonesia Vision 2045, anti-corruption is one of the important pillars of increasing national security and governance. This provides important notes in the legal development aspect of preventing and eradicating corruption as an agenda that must be carried out (Bappenas.go.id, 2019).

These records show that the supremacy of law and law enforcement is a prerequisite for achieving Indonesia Vision 2045. Even though the Reform era has gained an important place in the life of the nation, law and its enforcement have not been able to function as expected. Corruption must be reduced as much as possible. Indonesia continues to build an effective mechanism to punish perpetrators of corruption and provide a deterrent effect to anyone who wants to commit corruption. The focus is given to prevention efforts, which are strengthened in terms of regulations, human resources, and system strengthening on various fronts.

The Reality of Corruption Eradication Enforcement in Indonesia

According to Transparency International, Indonesia's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) in 2022 had decreased. That year, Indonesia's CPI score decreased to a score of 34 from 2021, which reached a score of 38. It explained that there were a number of reasons for Indonesia's CPI dropping by four points in 2022. This figure was calculated from eight indicators used by Transparency International Indonesia (antaranews, 31/1/2023).



From eight indicators, there were three in decline. One of the drastic declines occurred in the Political Risk indicator of the International Country Risk Guide, which decreased by 13 points from 48 to 35. In addition, even though state policies relaxed investment facilitation, political corruption was still rampant, and law enforcement on corruption had not yet been implemented effectively.

Indonesia's 2021 Anti-Corruption Behavior Index (IPAK) was 3.88 on a scale of 0 to 5. This figure was higher than the 2020 achievement of 3.84. It should be appreciated that the index value was getting closer to 5, which showed that the society was behaving more anti-corruption. Conversely, an index value that is closer to 0 indicates that the society is behaving more permissively towards corruption. However, this request is actually still below the target, which is a scale of 4 (bps.go.id, 15/6/2022).

This is because there are still many public criticisms regarding the problem of corruption in Indonesia. The Kompas survey; for example, shows that 43.2 percent of respondents stated that corruption was the main factor hindering the bottleneck of democracy in the country (kompas.com, 19/9/2022).

The Challenges of Corruption Enforcement in Indonesia

Corruption is an extraordinary crime, so it requires a resolution mechanism and extra efforts to handle it. According to Lawrence M. Friedman, the operation of a law can be determined by three things: legal structure, legal substance, legal culture.

Seeing what Friedman said, at least some of the things that are still challenges in upholding corruption eradication in Indonesia are: First, in terms of the legal structure, there are still many challenges from problems, such as weak law enforcement and a lack of effectiveness, which still need to be done. This does not seem surprising, considering that there have been many controversies. It is assumed that the sentences for convicted corruptors are still light, and the granting of remissions for many corruptors and the special privileges are often obtained by the perpetrators of corruption (ICW, 2021). In addition, the changes to the Indonesian Corruption Eradication Commission Law, which have received the spotlight because of the loss of authority that is large enough to result in weakening the process of enforcing corruption crimes.



Second, another aspect that has resulted in the emergence of negative opinions related to the weak enforcement of corruption issues is the substance of the law, which still provides a lot of space for weakening corruption enforcement. This can be seen from several laws and regulations that have had an impact, such as the revision of the Corruption Eradication Commission Law. In addition, the Correctional Law, for example, still requires strict requirements so that conditional grants can be reviewed.

Third, in the aspect of legal culture, we are faced with how the problem of strengthening ethical aspects in organizational life must be used as an example of enforcing corruption. Problems that hit several law enforcement agencies related to attitudes and actions that are often far from examples of corruption enforcement are still often seen. Therefore, it is necessary to build a strong ecosystem that reflects the values of upholding and fighting corruption.

Corruption Eradication Enforcement Reform

With the existing reality, it is only natural that the drive to eradicate corruption is something that is unavoidable and must be encouraged with all efforts. The President must encourage and develop further the vision of eradicating corruption, as well as building institutional efforts that are more simultaneous in various ways, such as transparency, oversight, and building justice reforms.

Apart from that, in the context of regulations, the Government should strengthen several aspects, such as encouraging the birth of provisions in laws and drafting National Legislation Programs related to enforcement of criminal acts of corruptiona and also encouraging derivative regulations that open up more stringent operationalization related to enforcement of criminal acts of corruption.

- Galang Taufani -

The decreasing of law enforcement must be followed up with extraordinary efforts to improve it. The enforcement of the eradication of criminal acts of corruption must be carried out by taking into account all reforms from several legal aspects: structure, substance, and culture.



The Commemoration of Inter-Religious Harmony Week and the Problems with the Establishment of Houses of Worship in Indonesia

The Interfaith Harmony Week, or more popularly known as the World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW), is commemorated every year in the first week of February. The Commemoration of Inter-Religious Harmony Week, was stipulated by United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/65/PV.34, which was proposed at the UN General Assembly on 23 September 2010 by H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan. The purpose of this commemoration is to encourage dialogue between different faiths and religions in order to increase mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation in society (worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com, 14/2). However, seeing the conditions in Indonesia, religious harmony is still a problem today.

One of the problems that often become a conflict between religious communities is the conflict over the construction of places of worship. In fact, President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) in his speech at the National Coordination Meeting of Regional Heads and the Indonesia-wide Regional Leadership Communication Forum for 2023 at the Sentul International Convention Center (SICC), Sentul, West Java, January 17 2023, reminded regional heads of the importance of the 1945 Constitution in the instructions of the regents and mayors regarding the constructions of houses of worship. In fact, according to President Jokowi, Article 29 Paragraph 2 of the 1945 Constitution expressly provides guarantees for adherents of religions to carry out the worship of their respective religions and beliefs (antaranews.com, 17/1).

According to the data from the 2022 Freedom of Religion/Belief Report (KBB) in Indonesia, the trend of violations in 2022 showed that the cases of disturbances to places of worship had continued to experience a significant increase in the last six years. Through-



out 2022, there were 50 places of worship that experienced disturbances. This finding was a fairly large number if compared to those in the last five years.

Table 1. The Trend in the Number of Cases of Disturbances in the Houses of Worship 2017-2022



Source: Freedom of Religion/Belief Report 2022, Setara Institute, (askara.co, 1/2)

Furthermore, in 2022, of 50 houses of worship that experienced disturbances in 2022, 21 were churches (18 Protestant churches and 3 Catholic churches), 16 were mosques, 6 were monasteries, 4 were prayer rooms, 2 were temples, and 1 was a place of worship for the adherents of local beliefs (askara.co, 1/2).

According to the data above, it can be seen that freedom of religion and belief is still a problem in Indonesia, especially in the matter of places of worship. In fact, the freedom of religion and belief has long been guaranteed in the Constitution. However, in the context of the freedom to build houses of worship, the enforcement of the Constitution is often hampered by implementing regulations; namely, the Joint Regulations of the Minister of Religion and the Minister of Home Affairs Numbers 8 and 9 of 2006 (PBM 2006), which contain the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Duties of Regional Heads/Deputy Regional Heads in Maintaining Harmony Religious Community, Empowerment of Religious Harmony Forum (FKUB) and Establishment of Houses of Worship.



A research report by the Indonesian Institute, Center for Public Policy Research (TII) on the Evaluation of the 2006 PBM Implementation (TII, 2015), found that policies regarding the construction of houses of worship were still laden with discriminatory practices. As it should be a form of public service guaranteed by the constitution, the policy on building houses of worship must be non-discriminatory.

This discriminatory practice is contained in the administrative requirements for the construction of houses of worship. As written in the PBM 2006, Article 14 paragraph 2 (a) A list of names and KTPs for worship house users of at least 90 people is legalized by local officials according to the level of regional boundaries and (b) Local community support of at least 60 people legalized by the Lurah/Village head. These administrative requirements then lead to conflict if they are not fulfilled. In addition, if the administrative requirements are met, there is often intimidation to the local governments to cancel the decisions.

The existence of the discriminatory practices mentioned above is compounded by the low understanding of diversity both in the implementing apparatus and in the community. As a result, our society suspects each other. This is what poses a threat to the diversity of this nation. Therefore, the message in commemorating the Week of Inter-Religious Harmony must be encouraged to be implemented.

The Recommendations

Religious harmony is not just rhetoric. The state must be able to provide guarantees of protection for the freedom of all religions and beliefs to worship, including the construction and use of places of worship. The protection of this freedom is carried out to strengthen religious harmony. Therefore, the efforts that must be made are first, the Ministry of Religion and the Ministry of Home Affairs should abolish discriminatory regulations, one of which is the 2006 PBM, which is often the basis of problems in the construction of places of worship.

Second, to encourage the Ministry of Home Affairs to implement the Constitutional Court (MK) Decision Number 97/PUU-XIV/2016 to create public services that are non-discriminatory for followers of minority religions and beliefs. Third, the Ministry of Home Affairs must be able to massively disseminate information on



the Constitutional Court's decision to local governments in order to eliminate discriminatory public service practices.

Fourth, to encourage the Indonesian National Police to provide a sense of security for all adherents of religions and beliefs in carrying out their worship and places of worship in accordance with their respective religions and beliefs. This also applies to minority groups such as Baha'i, Judaism, Zarasustrian, Shinto, Taoism, Ahmadiyya, Shia and the adherents of local beliefs in Indonesia.

Fifth, to encourage the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology to strengthen the educational curriculum that teaches the values of respect and tolerance for cultural, ethnic, tribal and religious diversity. Sixth, to encourage the Indonesian National Police to enforce the law against groups and individuals who commit acts of intolerance, including disturbing and destroying houses of worship for religions and beliefs in Indonesia.

- Arfianto Purbolaksono -

The Week of Interfaith Harmony, or more popularly known as World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW), is commemorated every year in the first week of February. However, seeing the conditions in Indonesia, religious harmony is still a problem today, especially regarding the construction of houses of worship



Defining the Demographic Bonus for Indonesia

Demographic bonus is a term used to indicate an increase in the number of productive age population that ranges from 16 to 65 years of age. According to Eny Rochaida, population growth is a dynamic balance between two forces that increase or decrease the number of inhabitants.

The development of the population will be influenced by the number of babies born but simultaneously will also be reduced by the number of deaths that can occur in all age groups. In the spatial context of population, mobility also affects changes in population, where immigration will increase the number of residents, and emigration will reduce the number of residents in a region (Rochaida, 2016).

In addition, the demographic bonus describes a country experiencing a flood of labor availability in the job market that is not directly proportional to the skills possessed. Demographic bonus simply indicates that a country is experiencing an abundance of human labor but otherwise not with the sources of production owned by humans.

Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture (Coordinating Minister for PMK) Muhadjir Effendy explained that the government was designing various programs to realize the Vision Of Indonesia Emas 2045 (https://www.kemenkopmk.go.id, 27/6/2020). The government does not seem to really understand what this demographic bonus phenomenon really means. Sarmita (2017) explained that the current demographic condition of Indonesia still had various problems including a large population, low quality of the population and even lack of population distribution.

On the contrary, what happens in Indonesia is inversely proportional to those in developed Asian countries, such as Singapore and



South Korea, which actually experience a decline in the birth rates. The governments of the countries actually pour large funds so that their citizens have a passion for family life even with a larger number of family members. Giant economic countries, such as China, now also have the same problem; namely, the declining number of births.

The National Population and Family Planning Agency (BKKBN), as part of a government agency, is a vital institution that has a strategic role in controlling population explosions. Therefore, to achieve the goal of a just and prosperous state and the achievement of public welfare, the government must establish welfare standards that must be achieved with the number of people it has.

The government has the authority to establish the type of population it has while protecting their reproductive rights. The advancement of a country's human resources based on every human birth should have a significant impact on the development of the country itself.

Impact Analysis

Population growth basically has a significant impact on economic growth. This is in accordance with the results of research conducted by Aura Ulfha (2022) on the analysis of the impact of demographics and employment on economic growth in Indonesia. This quantitative mini-study estimates and analyzes the relationship between variables that have been determined using the variables of economic growth, fertility and mortality, and labor.

The results of the study explain that fertility variables have a negative and significant effect on economic growth in Indonesia. This can be seen from the results of multiple linear regression analysis obtained from the value of the probability of the independent variable F (fertility) of 0.0000 probability value $< \alpha$ of = 5%, so H0 is accepted and Ha is rejected. These show that the higher the birth rate (fertility), then economic growth in Indonesia will decline. This is due to the increase in population and increased unemployment.

Still from the same research results, we can see that the increase in population can have a positive or negative effect on economic growth. The positive impact of population growth is the increase in regional income and high tax potential. But, what should be noted is that population growth can have economic potential if there is government support capacity in improving quality human resources in all aspects of life (education, health, other sources of economic potential).



In addition, massive population growth that is not balanced by mortality and population displacement has serious impacts on the government, such as the burden of health budgets that continue to swell, the reduction of production land due to exploitation for settlement, and the increasing number of dependents owned in one family (sandwich generation).

The advancement of a country's Human Resources based on every human birth should have a significant impact on the development of the country itself.

Sandwich generation is a term used to describe the situation of individuals who have the responsibility to meet the needs of other family members. In the sandwich generation, economic potential is imposed on one or two people by considering the benefits that can be obtained such as a young age, strong energy and the highest level of education among one family. Women with a large number of family members and in a situation of poverty are vulnerable to become victims of structural poverty. In this context, it is not uncommon for women to break the chain of poverty by performing forced marriages or becoming victims of human trafficking.

A large increase in population also has the potential for serious problems for the availability of world food supplies. The greater the number of people in an area that is not balanced by the number of food sources, it will provide potential for people in one community or community with other groups of people to fight or expand to seize and obtain these food sources. Therefore, population growth requires a portion of the number of alternative food sources for the survival of humans and ecosystems.

Recommendations

The government needs to re-examine the importance of population control and growth efforts. The government has the authority to regulate the number of births of the population with family planning programs that was implemented during the New Order era. The family planning Program at that time was considered able to answer the responsibility of the government in the welfare of its people.

- Dewi Rahmawati Nur Aulia -





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, political, and legal affairs. The main activities which have been conducted by **TII** in order to achieve our vision and mission, are: research, surveys, facilitation and advocacy through training and working groups, public discussions, public education, weekly editorial articles ("Wacana" or Discourses), Instagram Live Series and Space Twitter (Policy Talks and Initiative!), monthly analysis ("Update Indonesia" in Indonesian and "The



Indonesian Update" in English), mid-year policy analysis ("Policy Assessment"), annual policy analysis ("Indonesian Report"), and monthly discussion forum on policy issues ("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. 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.

TII focus on economic issues, such as monetary policy and fiscal policy, as well as issues on sustainable development by using analysis which refer to economic freedom principles. Monetary issues will focus on the Indonesian Central Bank to maintain economic stability, both regarding inflation and exchange rate. Meanwhile, fiscal policy will focus on the discussions over the National Budget and infrastructure development both in the regions and in the cities. In relation to sustainable development, TII research is focusing on productivity, competitiveness, infrastructure development, and development gap. In addition, TII also upholds economic freedom principles in highlighting the importance of individual freedom and involvement of private sectors in increasing development and improving welfare in Indonesia.

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. This stipulation is also confirmed in Law No. 15 Year 2019 on the Amendment of Law No. 12 Year 2011 regarding the Formulation of Laws and Regulations.

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 both from academic and content aspects. Furthermore, academic paper also functions as an early tracking over possibilities of overlapping laws and regulations, so that revocation of local regulations or other related issues which can be caused by legal, economic, or political aspects in the future, can be minimized as soon as possible.

TII offers normative and legal research related to harmonization and synchronization of laws and regulations, especially in making academic papers, legal opinion on harmonization and synchronization of laws and regulations, and legislative drafting for the formulation of local regulations bill drafts or other laws and regulations. In addition, TII also offers openly research on other legal issues related to Constitutional Law and Public Administration, Human Rights, and Political Corruption.

RESEARCH ON THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS

The enactment of Law No. 23 Year 2014 on the latest regulation on the Local Government, has created different relations between the Central Government and the Local Government. Entering the era of Bureaucracy Reform, specification of division of affairs of the Central Government and the Local Government has increasingly demanded the implementation of good governance principles. The government is demanded to be adaptive and responsive towards public aspiration and services. Therefore, public policy research become more important for both the Central Government and the Local Government to analyse context and current issues in the regions. The government must also consider various actors whether political actors or bureaucrats, as well as public's aspiration and other non-state actor in policy processes.

Research Programs, Survey and Evaluation



In order to respond those needs, TII research in political affairs offer policy assessment on various policies which were already applied or will be implemented. TII will look at socio-cultural, economy, legal, and political aspects in assessing public policies. Our research will be useful to assist government in formulating policies which are in line with context, priorities, and people's aspiration. TII also offers various breakthrough of transformative policies according to existing contexts in particular and Open Government principles' implementation in general, in order to increase public participation in policy processes, particularly in the era of the openness of public information.

Political Research Division of TII provide analysis and policy recommendations in order to generate strategic policy in the strengthening of democracy and the establishment of good governance both at the national and local levels. Political research forms are offered by TII (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 a need for the government, the businesspeople, academia, professionals, NGOs, and civil society to improve social development. Social analysis is important to identify strategic issues which are developing and to make the right stakeholders' mapping to promote significant change in the context of development, public policy, and democracy in Indonesia.

The Social Research Division is present to offer strong and valid recommendations to produce strategic, relevant, efficient and effective, and impactful policies, in addressing to existing various issues. For example, issues related to 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.



PRE-ELECTION AND REGIONAL HEAD ELECTION

One of the activities carried out and offered by TII is a pre-election survey as well as a pre-election and regional head election. The reasons underlying the implementation of pre-election and regional head election surveys, namely: (I) A good election is a democratic process that can be arranged, calculated, and predicted in the resulting process; (2) Survey is one of the important and common discussions to measure, calculate, and predict how the process and results of the General Election and the Regional Head Election will take place, in accordance to the expectations of the candidates; (3) It is very important to win in the General Election and the Regional Head Election based on empirical, scientific, measurable and supportable data.

As one of the important aspects of a strategic candidate's election, the survey is useful for monitoring political power. In this case, the success team needs to conduct a survey for: (1) mapping the candidate's position in public perception; (2) mapping voters' desires; (3) publishing the most effective political machinery used as voters; and (4) Looking for the most effective medium for the campaign.

EVALUATION OF A PROJECT OR A PROGRAM

One of the activities that have been performed and experienced offered by TII is a qualitative evaluation of the projects and programs of non-governmental organizations and government. Evaluation activities are offered TII stages of mid-term evaluation of the project/program (mid-term evaluation) and also the final evaluation at the end of the project/program (final evaluation).

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



THE INDONESIAN FORUM

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

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

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

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

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



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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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