

The Indonesian Update

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



Main Report:
Highlighting The Rise of Black Campaign
in the 2014 Presidential Election

Law

- The Expectation for the Constitutional Court ■
- Looking at House of Representatives Budget Function ■

Politics

- Time Bomb of Election Disputes ■
- Optimizing Work ahead of 2014 Presidential Election ■

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	1
MAIN REPORT	
Highlighting The Rise of Black Campaign in the 2014 Presidential Election	2
LAW	
The Expectation for the Constitutional Court	5
Looking at House of Representatives Budget Function.....	9
POLITICS	
Time Bomb of Election Disputes	12
Optimizing Work ahead of 2014 Presidential Election.....	16
INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE.....	23
RESEARCH PROGRAMS.....	24
EVALUATION	26
PUBLIC DISCUSSION.....	27
TRAINING & WORKING GROUP FACILITATION.....	28

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FOREWORD

Approaching the Presidential Election (Election) in 2014, the competition between the Prabowo - Hatta and Joko Widodo (Jokowi) - Jusuf Kalla (JK) pairs is heating. The heated competition can be seen through the rise of black campaign tattacking both pairs of candidates. Black campaign is circulating in the community, weakening both pairs of candidates.

Therefore, the assertiveness of KPU and Bawaslu, and the sportsmanship of both teams of supporters are needed to make the presidential election a democratic education for the community.

The June 2014's edition of the Indonesian Update raises a main theme on "Highlighting the rise of black campaign in the 2014 Presidential Election". On Law, it talks about "The Expectation for the Constitutional Court". On politics, it reviews "Optimizing the Work ahead of 2014 Presidential Election".

In addition, on law, this edition of the Indonesian Update also discusses " Looking at House of Representatives Budget Function" On politics, it touches on "Time Bomb in Election Disputes".

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.

Highlighting The Rise of Black Campaign in the 2014 Presidential Election

Approaching the Presidential Election (Election) in 2014, the competition between the Prabowo - Hatta and Joko Widodo (Jokowi) - Jusuf Kalla (JK) pairs is heating.

The heated competition can be seen through the rise of black campaign attacking both pairs of candidates. Black campaign is circulating in the community, weakening both pairs of candidates.

The Rise of Black Campaign

The presidential election has been tainted by the emergence of black campaign attacking both pairs of presidential candidates, the Prabowo- Hatta and Jokowi-JK pairs.

One example was the 'rest in peace' ad about Jokowi. In the ad, Jokowi was mentioned to have passed away on May 4, 2014 at 15:30 pm. The advertiser also wrote Jokowi's name as Ir. Hambertus Joko Widodo and Oey Hong Liong. Jokowi himself has admitted that he was reluctant to deal with the problem. According to him, there are many other things that should be taken care of ahead of the presidential election rather than discussing the black campaign (Liputan6.com, 20/5).

The Prabowo-Hatta pair through their advocacy team has also claimed that they have been victims of black campaign. One example is Prabowo's involvement in a kidnapping case and the 1998 riots. Secondly, Prabowo's request for a Jordan citizenship in 1999 tweeted by @partaisocmed on Twitter. Third, the rumour of beating Prabowo at KPU lawn when registering as a participant in the 2014 presidential election.

The Prabowo-Hatta Advocacy Team has asked the Election

Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) to prosecute the black campaign against Prabowo. The Prabowo-Hatta advocacy Team spokesperson Prabowo-Hatta, Habiburokhman, said that even though Bawaslu prosecutes black campaign, it should not disqualify presidential candidates and vice president as the definitive 2014 election participants (kompas.com, 26/5).

In a political contest such as a presidential election, a campaign that aims to lower the opponent's image is often the case. This is done by black and negative campaign.

The black campaign is not based on data and facts but on slanders and false news. Meanwhile, negative campaigning is negative information about a candidate (could be corruption, character, past history, or family), which is based on facts (Indonesian Survey Circle, 2008).

The phenomenon in the field often develops. Black campaign and negative campaign often continue to be used to invite the appeal of media publications. They are often done by combining the techniques of networking and lobbying groups to carry out political attacks against the opponent (Indonesian Survey Circle, 2008).

Black campaign, in the election arena, is conducted in three ways: first, via the pattern of public relations by a series of techniques and methods of public relations through the capacity of the industry in print and electronic media. Second, via personal contact through a number of personal contacts. This example can be done through a variety of direct meetings with voters. Third, via advertisements, using a number of political advertisements in the print media and electronic media as well as advertising space (Gunter Schweiger and Michaela Adami, 1999).

Actually in Law No. 42/2008 on the Election of the President and Vice-President, black campaign has been prohibited. Article 41, Paragraph 1 (c) states that the campaign should not be done by way of insulting someone, race, ethnicity, religion, or class of a candidate. Then, Paragraph 1 (d) prohibits the instigation of individuals or communities (Republika, 27/5).

Responding to the rise of black campaign, Commissioner of the Election Supervisory Body (Bawaslu) Simajuntak Nelson said that the current, negative campaigning and black campaign have become unmanageable. This is because the candidates and their campaign teams have not been able to control their supporters. According to him, the black campaign has been circulated by the supporters of

the candidate pairs (republika.co.id, 27/5).

Furthermore, Bawaslu will cooperate with the Ministry of Communication and Information and the police to conduct thorough investigations into black campaigners. Commissioner Nasrullah from Election Supervisory Body, said that Bawaslu had teamed up with the Ministry of Communication and Information to block social networking accounts to spread black campaigns against candidates. Then, Bawaslu should coordinate with the police to immediately take action against perpetrators of black campaign and the destruction of the property of any one candidate in accordance with applicable law (Metrotvnews.com, 30/5).

Conclusion

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

In addition to influencing people to choose candidates, the campaign is also one of the means in the political education for the public. According to the author, *first*, it is very important for both teams to create educational campaigns. Educational campaigns should emphasize on the idea of discussions by both pairs of candidates in the public arena.

The debates on ideas in the public domain aims to generate public awareness in democracy. Therefore, the campaign is supposed to be done in an effort to make public political education more democratic.

Second, Bawaslu, in cooperation with the police should be able to impose sanctions against a campaign team or a team of volunteers who supports black campaigns. Bawaslu is also expected to publish a list of campaign teams / support volunteers that are most often involved in black campaign, so the public can assess them.

- Arfianto Purbolaksono-

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The Expectation for the Constitutional Court

Many parties felt relieved when on 9 May 2014 the General Election Commission (KPU) was finally able to complete the urecapitulation of ballots. Through KPU Decree No. 412/Kpts/KPU/2014, it was set that ten political parties participating in the legislative elections met the 3.5% parliamentary threshold. In addition, there were two political parties that were not able to meet the threshold.

According to the decision of the KPU, there were 124,972,491 valid votes. The next step is the conversion and distribution of parliamentary seats to parties that have passed the parliamentary threshold. The votes and the seats are important to build coalition of political parties to face the presidential election on 9 July. The bargaining power of a political party would be more higher if it has a significant number of votes or seats.

The completion of the vote recapitulation and seat distribution is not only important for building coalitions but also for legislative disputes at the Constitutional Court (MK). This stage is an integral part of the five yearly democratic undertaking.

According to Article 272 Paragraph (2) of Law Number 8/2012 on the Election of Members of the DPR, DPD and DPRD, no later than three days after the recapitulation of votes the parties who are dissatisfied with the KPU Decree may file a review to the MK. No later than thirty days after the issuance of the decision, MK shall respond to the review submitted by a political party or a candidate of the DPD.

In the 2009 elections, there were 655 legislative election disputes. 627 reviewa were filed in relation to the election results of legislative elections at the national and regional levels. 28 reviews

were submitted by individuals who participated in the DPD member elections. There were a large number of cases that must be decided upon by MK within 30 days. On average, then MK must settle 21 cases every day. This means that within one day of a case must be examined and decided upon within approximately one hour.

The Flooding of Cases

The number of cases about legislative election results submitted to MK is strongly associated with the quality of the elections. The number of electoral frauds and poor oversight will have an impact on the disappointment of many, especially legislative candidates. To file a review with MK is one effort to file a complaint and seek justice.

Quantitatively, the number of political parties participating in the 2014 election was much less than that in the 2009 general elections. Currently, the number of political parties competing in the elections was only a quarter of the number of parties participating in the 2009 elections. However, it does not mean that the number of lawsuits filed with MK will be reduced.

On average, every political party in the 2009 elections filed at least 17 lawsuits to MK. In the 2014 elections, the number of lawsuits filed by every political party is certainly different. According to data from MK, in the 2014 elections, every political party filed an average of 48 cases. Currently, the number of cases filed with the Court was as much as 702 cases. 672 cases had been filed by political parties, and 30 cases filed by DPD candidates.

We have to look at the cases filed to MK from the two points of views, quantitative and qualitative. Quantitatively, the number of cases handled by the constitutional judges will affect the length of time required to examine, hear and decide on a case. There will be more time required to complete it. However, MK is given no later than 30 working days to settle it.

The quality of disputes is related to the substance of the reviews submitted to MK. The quality is also related to evidence, witnesses, and the arguments used by the applicant to prove his or her claims and to convince judges to accept the review.

Rampant frauds committed by both the participants and the organizers of the elections must be proved before the Courts. Without strong evidence and arguments, it would be possible that the application would be accepted by a panel of judges.

Reflecting on the data results of the legislative election disputes in MK, of the 627 reviews filed by the related parties, only 68 cases were accepted. The remaining 398 cases were rejected cases, 107 cases were not accepted (niet onvankelijke verklaard), 6 cases were partially accepted, and 27 cases were withdrawn by the applicants.

The numbers above show that of the hundreds of cases submitted to the Court in the 2009 elections, only 11% were accepted. This means that the applicants were able to present strong and relevant evidence and have convincing arguments.

The majority of decisions were rejections, meaning that the majority of applicants were not able to present strong witnesses, evidence and arguments. Substantially, a rejection means that the applicant cannot convince the judges to accept the review.

Waiting for MK decisions

After waiting thirty days for the recapitulation of legislative election ballots, now a lot of people still have to await another thirty days to get the resolutions to the legislative disputes in the Constitutional Court. Witnessing the chaos in the April 9 legislative elections, it seems that in every electoral district, reviews will appear.

Many people are anxious about the proceedings in MK, as the decisions of the agency may change the KPU Decision of May 9. After MK decisions, it would be possible to change the seats.

Political party leaders and legislative candidates seem to be trying to be patient, as with the issuance of MK decisions, the number of votes and seats could still change.

The MK will issue a decision within 30 working days since the case is registered. The MK task is not light. All the resources in MK will be used full-time for a period of filing, examination, trial, and verdict.

Every political party is obliged to keep the votes of the people who have given him mandates. Therefore, every political party shall oversee the counting of votes from KPPS to Central KPU. If there are diverted votes, then a review with MK becomes imperative.

All parties are waiting for the decisions that are final and binding from the institution consisting of nine constitutional judges, as the last step in the process of establishing the results of the 2014 legislative elections. The decreased quality of legislative elections can be seen and proven in the proceedings in MK.

We all hope that MK can be truly impartial and be able to uncover all frauds and violations in legislative elections. The legitimacy of election results is also highly dependent on the quality of decisions that will be generated by the Court. Many people who feel cheated in the election processes hope that MK is able to open the curtain so that the true is revealed.

If many parties conclude that these elections were very bad, then MK will be one the best place to approve it. If a lot of people think that the elections organiser were not professional, then revealing all the evidence in the Court would be the right choice. All the waiting and expectation for the Court should be answered with justice, fairness, objectivity in deciding on the cases.

-Asrul Ibrahim Nur-

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Looking at House of Representatives Budget Function

During the last sessions of the Parliament for the 2009-2014 period, there were a lot of discussions on bills (RUU) set forth in the National Legislation Program considered urgent.

One of the agenda highlighted is a Revision to Law Number 27/2009 on the MPR, DPR, DPD and DPRD (MD3). In the context of the Parliament, the discussions on the MD3 Bill are important because of the institutional arrangements for the House of Representatives in the current MD3 Law are weak. These conditions have made the functions attached to the DPR (legislation, supervision and budgetary) not effective.

In this paper, the author will focus on discussing the budgetary function of the House of Representatives.

Some Notes on the Related Budgetary Function of the House of Representatives

Article 20 of the 1945 Constitution states that the Parliament has budgetary function. This function is further clarified in Parliament Regulation 1/2009 (Article 5 Paragraph (2)), which states that “the function of the budget referred to in Article 4 Paragraph (1) Letter b is to discuss, approve or not to approve the draft law on the state budget proposed by the President”.

According to some basic laws mentioned above, we can draw some conclusions; namely, the Parliament does not have the right to submit a draft law on the state budget, but the House of Representatives shall discuss it with the government and has the right to give or not give approval for the draft law on the state budget proposed by the government.

The dynamics of the implementation of the budget function are often highlighted in the state budget bill under discussion in the

House of Representatives. Here are some notes in this regard.

An important note in the discussions on the budget processes in the House is a low or virtually no public participation in the budget deliberation processes. The research results by the Indonesian Institute on the Process of the Discussions on Draft Budget in the House (2012) found that technical discussions only involved the House budget and Government ministries and agencies (K/L).

The Parliament is also supposed to get comparative information from the public. Budget deliberations in the House do not provide a forum to listen to public voice. The forum could also be used to discuss other bills. This is because the House should not accept the results of Musrenbang at face value.

Public Hearing sessions (RDPU), which are normal in the Parliament's discussions on bills, have not been found in the discussions on the Budget Bill. Public hearing on the draft law on the state budget could be used as a means of control of the House over the government's submitted draft, as it will get information and comparative data from the public. The Parliament has given a reason why there was no public hearing. It was due to time constraints in the discussions on the draft on the state budget. Public participation is assumed to have been accommodated in government planning forums.

Budget deliberations, which tend to be closed at the level of the Budget Body (Banggar) of the DPR and the lack of public participation, have made people question the accountability of the discussion processes.

Conclusions and Recommendations

To address some important issues related to the budget deliberations in the House of Representatives, we need a revision to the Law 27/2009 on MD3. *First*, the mechanisms or systems for the House budget information are available and can be accessed directly by the public. The information includes the data on the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN), the documents on the results of national planning forums complete with attachments, the Government Work Plan (RKP), Work Plan and Budget of Ministries/Governmental Bodies (RKA - KL), the budget bill, RAPBNP, Law on the State Budget, Audited and Accountability Act Budget with attachments.

Second, the answer is still not compatible with budget allocation, based on the needs of the community. The

readiness of the House will depend on the comprehensive data on community needs and a budgeting overview.

For this, the House needs to be equipped with a special budget-related functional entity, such as the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO). PBO is tasked with conducting a study on people's needs and preparing budget projections. The House will use the data as arguments when discussing the state budget bill with the government.

Second, in order to realize performance-based budgeting as well as mechanisms for the Parliament to conduct budget oversight, there should be budget-related policy documents in each state budget work flow. In summary, budgeting programs in a given year should be consistent with budgeting processes since Musrenbang to the approval in the House. It is also intended to see the accountability of budgeting in the House.

-Lola Amelia-

The budget function of the House of Representatives should not target the state budget as the end result but should also allocate the budget according to the mandate received and according to the needs of the society.

Time Bomb of Election Disputes

The news on supports for presidential and vice presidential candidates by political parties and many public figures has distracted people from one of the key events. On 19 May 2014, Decision No. 97/PUU-XI/2013 of the Constitutional Court (MK) ruled that the disputed local elections are no longer handled by MK.

This is a consequence of the cancellation of Article 236C of Law Number 12/2008 on Local Government and Article 29 Paragraph (1) of Law No. 48/2009 on Judicial Power by MK. Thus, the two clauses no longer have binding legal force.

The substance of this decision is not trivial. Word by word, the arguments on which the constitutional judges considered this case greatly affect the future of democracy in Indonesia. MK has decided that local elections are not part of the electoral regime; therefore, solutions should not be taken by MK, but by the Supreme Court.

Technically, the decision will return the authority to settle local election disputes from MK to Supreme Court. It is still fresh in memories that when election disputes were settled in the Supreme Court, the processes created a lot of controversies because there were problems in the implementations.

There was a destruction in the handling of local election disputes when the authority was transferred from MA to MK. Previously, Law Number 22/2007 on the Election Management, Parliament and Government agreed to enter local elections into the election regime. Then, in the following year through Law No. 12 /2008 on Regional Government the authority to settle local election disputes was transferred from MA to MK.

The image of MK that was clean and more open had made a lot of people hope that the settlements of local election disputes would avoid controversies, as when they were first addressed by MA. The high expectation has faded away when former MK Chief Justice Akil Mochtar was arrested for a bribery case related to the settlements of local election disputes in some regions.

Some Notes

The verdict mentions that the authority to settle local election disputes by MK is unconstitutional. In addition, the flood of local election disputes submitted to MK was a result of an MK decision to expand the reasons for filing local election disputes.

Initially, MK only had the authority to determine the correct vote counts. Then, through Decision No. 41/PHPU.D-VI/2008 on the elections in East Java, MK added massive, systematic and structured violations as reasons that could be used to file local election disputes.

In 2010 the number of filed local election petition disputes jumped to 224 cases. It was only 12 cases in the previous year. The flooding of the cases was a result of the widening of the reasons to file local election disputes to MK.

Between 2008 and 2014, the number of local election dispute cases handled by MK reached 689. Of these, only 68 cases won, while the remaining 450 lost, 148 cases were not accepted (*niet ontvankelijke verklaard*), 20 cases were withdrawn, and three cases were dropped. This means that only 10% of cases won at MK, the remaining of the cases could be considered failures.

After hundreds of cases tried, examined, and decided by MK, now the institution has decided that the authority is opposed to the 1945 Constitution. The verdict, which in essence was not agreed upon by all the MK judges, will bring at least three consequences that must be solved together. If not, then the local elections disputes would be a time bomb that is able to undermine democracy in Indonesia.

First, the transfer of authority to settle local election dispute to the MA will distribute the areas of conflict as well. The Court of Appeal should be able to reach more locations in the regions compared to MK in Jakarta.

In addition, the Court of Appeal judges must be able to understand local election law. These judges originally deal more with civil and

criminal cases, so they will need to be able to understand electoral cases properly.

In addition, the judges in the regions should be well-informed about the conditions of the regions concerned. A good understanding of the regions would make judges more capable of taking wise decisions. Lack of understanding of the law on local elections, lack of understanding of the conditions of the area, and the magnitude of the potential conflicts would affect the outbreak of horizontal election-related conflicts.

Second, the processes at the Supreme Court will take more time to complete. The legal procedures in the Supreme Court recognize the appeal mechanism and Review (PK) mechanism, so they will provide opportunity to continue the legal processes. Moreover, the Constitutional Court Decision 34/PUU-XI/2013 regulates that PK can be submitted more than once.

Meanwhile, the caseload in MA is high. MA also deals with many types of cases: criminal, civil, religious, administrative, and military. MA is the culmination of the court matters. So adding more burden to MA is not a wise idea.

The discourse about forming a new agency specifically dealing with local election disputes is also not a popular thing. The establishment of a new institution will drain more funds, time and energy. Also, the legitimacy will be questioned by the parties to the dispute.

Third, if MK decides that local elections are not part of the election then the consequence is that the organizers of local elections should not be Regional Election Commissions (KPUD). According to Article 22E Paragraph (5) of the 1945 Constitution, only KPU that can held elections.

Actually, MK Decision has made the electoral system and elections in Indonesia more complicated. If not KPU, then which institution should organize local elections, and which institution is entitled to hold them? Is it necessary to set up another agency to organize the democratic parties in the regions?.

There are other problems as a result of MK decision. Local elections are a means to select the regional heads and deputies. The 1945 Constitution stipulates that the elections of members of Parliament are part of the elections. In the system of local governance in Indonesia, Parliament and local leaders are inseparable.

The two institutions are in the administration areas that have different selection mechanisms. Even the mandates received are different. Politically, the majority of members of parliament and local leaders can come from different political forces. So, the day-to-day difference in the government will often appear.

Recommendations

The local election dispute resolution must be carried out by an agency that has a powerful capacity and legitimacy. The momentum of inauguration of the new Government of the period of 2014-2019 can be the entry point for the formation of legislation in this regard. The new President and Parliament need to immediately establish laws governing it.

Any institution that will be given the authority to resolve local election disputes must have the capacity and capability to complete the task. It should also be emphasized to always be consistent with MK for its decisions. Do not let the passing of constitutional justice also change decisions that have become jurisprudence.

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-Asrul Ibrahim Nur-

Optimizing Work ahead of 2014 Presidential Election

The presidential election (Election) in 2014 will be held soon. The administration of presidential election is expected to be held smoothly. Money politics and some other fraud problems arising in the Pileg are not expected to appear again in the presidential election.

Therefore, there should be a study on the organization of legislative elections (Pileg). The General Elections Commission (KPU) and the Election Oversight Body (Bawasl) then should be able to optimize their performances.

The Preparations ahead of the 2014 Presidential Election

In preparation for the presidential election, then the election organizers should immediately improve their performances prior to July 9, 2014. The General Elections Commission's performance should come first, as the issue of voter registration remains in the presidential election.

The General Elections Commission has predicted that the number of voters in the 2014 Presidential Election is around 190 million people. The number rose by 3.1 million compared to that of the final voter list in the previous legislative elections. Currently, the Commission is conducting the preparation and updating of the voter list for the upcoming presidential election. The Commission has gone through three stages; namely, the determination of the provisional voter list (DPS), the DPS updates, and determination of the improved list of voters (DPSHP) (Kompas.com, 20/5).

The preparation of voter list must be conducted carefully. This is because the list of voters is an issue that always haunts every election. We still remember how bad the setting process of the voter list (DPT) for the recent Pileg.

Secondly, the issue of the performances of the organizers. Until now, there has been a total of 229 members of the Commission

who have been suspended internally by the Provincial Elections Commission. The organisers who have been suspended by the Provincial Elections Commission include 22 members of Regency / City, PPK members, 75 members of the PPS, and 88 members of KPPS. While the warning given that 15 members of the Commission at the district / city, 84 members of PPK, 26 members of PPS, and 28 members KPPS (detik.com, 22/5).

This is a follow-up letter to the Commission on the evaluation of the performance of the Commission /KIP district/city. The Commission should not protect officials who violate the code of conduct indicated by the election organizers.

Chairman of DKPP Jimly Asshiddiqie said that the total evaluation needs to be done to alert the organizers ahead of presidential elections on July 9. He explained that the main reason why the Commission was asked to evaluate the total of its personnel is because the presidential election is considered more sensitive than Pileg. Thus, the needs and interests of the Commission are to minimize the possibility of electoral violations committed by its personnel (detik.com, 23/5).

As we all know, the 2014 presidential election will be participated by two pair of participants: Prabowo-Hatta and Joko Widodo (Jokowi) - Jusuf Kalla (JK).

Approaching the election, the competition will be increasingly fierce between the two pairs of candidates. Both teams of supporters will use all strategies to win their candidates. There is a possibility of such violations and, the use of black political campaign and money politics. As the fierce competition will appear later, it will be a challenge for the KPU and Bawaslu to guard every stage in the the presidential election.

Recommendations

Therefore, the KPU and Bawaslu need to optimize the preparations for July 9, 2014.

First, the preparation of the improved list of voters (DPSHP) for the 2014 presidential election must be closely monitored. There are concerns that voters who have moved or died are still on the DPT. This can be exploited by unscrupulous parties to inflate the number of votes.

Second, the KPU and Bawaslu should improve the performance of the apparatus throughout Indonesia. The improved performance

of KPU includes logistic distribution and the recapitulation of votes from the PPS to the central level. As for Bawaslu, it should improve its personnel capability to monitor black campaign, money politics and other actions that have an element of fraud. Bawaslu is also expected to cooperate with the police to crack down the perpetrators of black campaign, money politics, as well as other acts of fraud, which can degrade the quality of the Presidential Election.

A quality election requires organizers that have professionalism in carrying out their duties according to the rules and regulations, as well as maintaining their neutrality.

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- Arfianto Purbolaksono-

 THE **INDONESIAN INSTITUTE**
CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

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

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

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

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

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POLITICAL RESEARCH

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

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

RESEARCH ON THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS

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

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RESEARCH ON LEGAL AFFAIRS

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

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

RESEARCH ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

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

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

Project or Program Evaluation

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

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

THE INDONESIAN FORUM

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

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

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

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

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

LOCAL COUNCIL TRAINING

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

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

WORKING GROUP

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

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

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