**APPENDICES**

1. **President Jokowi backs amnesty for professor jailed for WhatsApp message**

Stanley Widianto (Reuters)

Jakarta   ●   Wed, October 6, 2021

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has agreed to pardon an academic jailed last month for defamation under a controversial internet law, a minister said, following an outcry from human rights groups who say the law risks curtailing free speech.

Saiful Mahdi, a lecturer from Aceh province, was imprisoned for three months over comments made in a WhatsApp messenger group chat among fellow academics, which criticised a hiring process for lecturers.

Saiful's case prompted complaints over the ease at which people can be prosecuted in Indonesia for comments made on messaging platforms, including remarks about people not even identified.

Amnesty International has called the law was "deeply flawed".

Coordinating Political, Legal and Security Affairs Minister Mahfud MD on Tuesday said Jokowi had approved amnesty for Saiful and would await feedback from parliament before granting a pardon.

Asked why Jokowi favoured amnesty in Saiful's case, a presidential spokesman referred Reuters to the security minister.

A presidential amnesty was given in 2019 to a woman jailed under the same law for recording lewd phone calls from her boss.

The 2008 electronic information and transactions (ITE) law was designed to regulate online activity, including defamation and hate speech.

Between 2016 and 2020, there were 786 cases involving the law, with 88% of the those charged ending up behind bars, according to Damar Juniarto of digital advocacy group, the Southeast Asia Freedom of Expression Network (SAFEnet).

Jokowi has said he wants to revise the law this year.

The government has formed a task force to oversee that and provide guidelines https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-internet-idUSKBN2AN0UQ for law enforcers to apply the law more judiciously.

Syahrul, Saiful's lawyer, told Reuters his client appreciated the amnesty, without which his experiences could "adversely impact academic and speech freedom."

He said 38 scholars in Australia wrote to the president, requesting Saiful's pardon.

Saiful's wife, Dian Rubianty, was in tears during an online seminar and said his case "has stolen sleep away from me and my children".

[*https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2021/10/06/president-jokowi-backs-amnesty-for-professor-jailed-for-whatsapp-message.html*](https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2021/10/06/president-jokowi-backs-amnesty-for-professor-jailed-for-whatsapp-message.html)*.*

1. **Data security concerns after President Jokowi vaccine certificate leak**

AFP

Jakarta ●   Sun, September 5, 2021

Indonesians expressed concerns over the security of their personal medical data Saturday after the president's coronavirus vaccine certificate was leaked and a large test app also appeared compromised.

Indonesia has a weak cyber security record, with poor online literacy and frequent leaks previously.

Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's vaccine certificate -- which circulated online, showing his censored ID number and vaccination times -- was leaked by users who found his data on official vaccine-monitoring app PeduliLindungi, the government said.

"Certain people have accessed the vaccine certificate of Mr. Joko Widodo by using a vaccine check feature available in Pedulilindungi," an official statement said Friday.

Jakarta-based Ageng Wibowo, 39, said the leak made him nervous and called for tougher cyber security laws.

"If a president can have his data leaked what about me who is just a regular person?"

However, Communication and Information Ministry officials deflected blame and said Widodo's data was accessed via the General Commission of Elections website.

Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin said authorities have blocked access to public officials' data following the breach.

Officials added they were working to improve PeduliLindungi users' data security.

The leak comes only days after researchers of encryption provider vpnMentor revealed the data of 1.3 million users of a government test-and-trace app had been compromised.

The researchers said among the information leaked were passengers' data and Covid-19 test results.

"Data breaches happen more frequently in Indonesia because of the very high digital penetration in Indonesia which unfortunately is not followed by proper digital awareness from those who are managing the data," said cyber-security analyst Alfons Tanujaya in Jakarta.

People also expressed their anger online, with one user tweeting: "How many more big cases do we need to show that the IT and data management in our country is a failure?"

In May, the data of more than 200 million participants of the National Health Care and Social Security Agency (BPJS Kesehatan) was allegedly leaked by hackers.

[*https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2021/09/05/data-security-concerns-after-president-jokowi-vaccine-certificate-leak-.html*](https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2021/09/05/data-security-concerns-after-president-jokowi-vaccine-certificate-leak-.html)

1. **Jokowi reassures firms after court rules against job creation law**

Reuters

Jakarta ● Mon, November 29, 2021

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo on Monday said his government would ensure legal certainty for investors, offering continuity guarantees amid jitters and confusion over last week's court ruling against a controversial job creation law.

The Constitutional Court, ruling on Thursday a case brought by labour unions, said there were procedural flaws in the formation of the legislation passed last year, which the government had touted as potential a game-changer in luring foreign investment to Southeast Asia's biggest economy.

The court told the government to make necessary amendments within two years. The "omnibus" law saw the revision of more than 70 existing laws, in an effort to reduce red tape and streamline new business permitting.

Jokowi stressed that the court had ruled the law would remain in effect pending the changes, which his cabinet would address as quickly as possible.

"I assure businesses and investors, both domestic and international, that the investments that have been made and investments that are being and will be processed, will remain safe and secure," he said in a video statement.

"I will make sure that the government guarantees the security and certainty of investment in Indonesia."

The assurance by Jokowi comes as economists warn the ruling could dim Indonesia's investment outlook and as business groups seek clarity and guarantees.

Coordinating Economic Minister Airlangga Hartarto on Monday said operations of the Indonesia Investment Authority (INA), its sovereign wealth fund, would remain unchanged, despite the ruling.

The fund was established based on the omnibus law and foreign investors have pledged billions of investment, including $10 billion from the United Arab Emirates. He told a conference that the government would ask parliament to make the revision of the law priority legislation.

[*https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2021/11/29/jokowi-reassures-firms-after-court-rules-against-investment-law.html*](https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2021/11/29/jokowi-reassures-firms-after-court-rules-against-investment-law.html)*.*

1. **Jokowi installs TNI officer as BNPB head, upholds agency 'tradition'**

Yerica Lai (The Jakarta Post)

Jakarta   ●   Wed, May 26, 2021

President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo has appointed Lt. Gen. Ganip Warsito, the chief of general staff of the Indonesian Military (Kasum TNI), as the successor to National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) head Doni Monardo, who is to retire from the position on June 1.

Ganip was inaugurated as the BNPB head on Tuesday, in a ceremony at the presidential palace attended by Vice President Ma’ruf Amin, Coordinating Political, Legal and Security Affairs Minister Mahfud M.D. and Cabinet Secretary Pramono Anung.

“In carrying out my duties, I will uphold the ethics of my position, work to the best of my abilities and fulfill my task with full responsibility,” Ganip said during Tuesday’s swearing-in ceremony, which was also aired live on YouTube.

The incoming BNPB head is expected to lead the nation’s emergency and disaster response, including the national COVID-19 task force that reports directly to the President.

The 58-year-old Army lieutenant general is the fourth head of the BNPB after Doni, Willem Rampangilei and inaugural BNPB head Syamsul Maarif, all appointed from the TNI.

“The President will keep with the tradition of selecting active high-ranking [military] officers to fill the spot [to ensure] a quick disaster response,” State Secretary Pratikno said on Tuesday as quoted by *Kompas.com.*

Ganip is a 1986 graduate from the National Military Academy in his hometown of Magelang, Central Java, according to a *Kompas.com profile*.

He has previously served as commander of the Joint Regional Defense Command (Kogabwilhan) III and received the Bintang Dharma military award for distinguished service from the President in November 2020. Ganip’s latest appointment comes only months after TNI commander Air Chief Marshal Hadi Tjahjanto named him the TNI chief of general staff on Feb. 1, 2021.

As the latest active military officer to be entrusted with the nation’s coronavirus response, his BNPB appointment supports expert views highlighting Jokowi's reliance on influential military figures in overcoming the public health emergency.

Experts have said the President has no other choice than to rely on a security approach to back his economic priorities, which had resulted in the country’s bungled early response to the pandemic, aided by his appointing national defense actors to address a public health crisis.

[*https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/05/26/jokowi-installs-tni-officer-as-bnpb-head-upholds-agency-tradition.html*](https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/05/26/jokowi-installs-tni-officer-as-bnpb-head-upholds-agency-tradition.html)*.*

1. **BREAKING: Constitutional Court orders government to amend job creation law**

Reuters

Jakarta   ●   Thu, November 25, 2021

The Constitutional Court on Thursday ordered the government to amend parts of a controversial job creation law within two years, describing it as conditionally unconstitutional.

The legislation, which was passed last year, sparked widespread protest across Indonesia over claims it undermined worker rights and weakened environmental protections.

Chief judge Anwar Usman said that if the changes were not made in two years, the legislation would be deemed "permanently unconstitutional".

The court was ruling followed the pursuit last year of judicial review by Indonesia's two largest trade unions, which contested what they said were procedural flaws in its formation.

The government had no immediate comment on the court's decision on Thursday.

Revising more than 70 existing laws as part of the legislative overhaul, the government had said the law was designed to streamline red tape, spur investment and boost labor competitiveness.

Unions, environmentalists, academics and students, however, had argued it was rushed through without sufficient consultation, and would undermine worker rights and weaken environmental protections.

[*https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2021/11/25/breaking-constitutional-court-orders-government-to-amend-job-creation-law.html*](https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2021/11/25/breaking-constitutional-court-orders-government-to-amend-job-creation-law.html)*.*

1. **Prabowo, Megawati cozy up ahead of election, but political obstacles remain**

Yerica Lai (The Jakarta Post)

Jakarta   ●   Thu, November 25, 2021

A recent encounter between the leaders of the Gerindra Party and the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) has once again set off a social media buzz, with pundits suggesting that an alliance between the parties is in the cards as they seek to improve their chances of winning in the 2024 elections.

In a photo published last week on House of Representatives Speaker Puan Maharani’s Twitter account, she, Gerindra chairman Prabowo Subianto and PDI-P matriarch Megawati Soekarnoputri sit together in a waiting room at the Presidential Palace, smiling behind their face masks.

While the two party heads have met on several occasions in recent years, the presence of Megawati’s daughter Puan, a presumptive presidential candidate who is widely considered an electoral underdog, was unique.

The meeting prompted speculation that Megawati was seeking to play kingmaker by bringing Puan and Prabowo together to test the waters.

The photo was taken at the inauguration of the newly appointed Indonesian Military (TNI) commander, Gen. Andika Perkasa, on Nov. 17.

Prabowo attended in his capacity as defense minister, while Puan came as House speaker and Megawati as steering committee chairwoman for the Agency for Pancasila Ideology Education (BPIP).

PDI-P secretary general Hasto Kristiyanto later said Megawati and Prabowo had bumped into each other at the event and had had a “warm” exchange.

“Mbak Puan, the House speaker, joined a few moments later. And that's when the warm discussion took place. Of course, it was related to the various dynamics of national politics," Hasto said in a statement last Thursday.

**On again, off again**

The image placed the two top figures in a familiar scene, one that echoed their relationship before it soured during the 2014 presidential race.

During the race, Megawati snubbed Prabowo as a presidential candidate, instead backing then-Jakarta governor Joko “Jokowi” Widodo, a move the retired army general saw as a betrayal of the 2009 pact they had signed promising PDI-P support for his campaign.

But their relationship appeared to improve after Megawati facilitated a post-election reconciliation between Jokowi and Prabowo.

The two parties, which were among the top three biggest winners of House seats in the election, have since maintained close ties, which observers take as a signal that they could form a new alliance for the next election.

Gerindra has long displayed an openness to the idea of entering into a coalition with the PDI-P.

“That possibility for 2024 is very much on the table. The PDI-P and Gerindra have a long history of friendship,” said Gerindra deputy chairman Habiburokhman on Sunday, as quoted by kompas.com.

However, some analysts say the public political flirtation must still be backed by hard work, given the current doubts over whether Prabowo and Puan would make for a compelling 2024 ticket.

**Popularity contest**

Arya Fernandes, a political researcher at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), noted that Gerindra and the PDI-P were still very much competitors and that such an electoral alliance would benefit the former more than the latter.

“Prabowo’s electability [polling] has not shown any signs of improvement,” Arya told The Jakarta Post on Tuesday.

“Prabowo has seen eroding support among his voter base in several places, such as West Java and Sumatra, which have shifted toward [Jakarta Governor] Anies Baswedan. The prospect of victory for a Prabowo and Puan pairing is relatively small,” he added.

For the past few years, Megawati has been grooming Puan to take over the leadership of the PDI-P, having endorsed her stint in government as coordinating minister for human development and culture and in the legislature as House speaker. However, pundits note that Puan’s lack  of popular appeal has limited her opportunities for political advancement.

Arya said that Ganjar Pranowo, the governor of Central Java and a popular PDI-P politician who is being pushed aside in his own party, had shown greater potential to win than Puan. He believed it was possible Megawati would nominate him in her daughter’s stead.

A survey by Saiful Mujani Research and Consulting (SMRC) carried out from Sept. 15 to 21 found that while Prabowo continued to top the list of potential presidential candidates, his electability score had actually declined from 34.1 percent in May to 30.8 percent in September.

Over the same period, both Ganjar and Anies saw increases in their electability scores, with 29.3 percent of polled voters favoring the former and 25 percent the latter. The survey involved 1,220 respondents and had a 3.19 percent margin of error.

Puan, on the other hand, was at the bottom of the list in September, with just 1.4 percent support.

**Ideological considerations**

Besides the problem of electability, observers say the pairings need to bridge ideological divides.

Ujang Komarudin, the executive director of the Indonesia Political Review, said that both Prabowo and Puan represented the nationalist front, a homogeneity increasingly considered a problem in the world’s largest Muslim-majority country.

“Religious nationalism remains popular in today’s ideological battles,” Ujang told the Post on Tuesday. “The Muslim vote would not be accommodated in a composition involving Prabowo and Puan.

“While Gerindra has previously courted Indonesia’s right wing, which includes parties with a more conservative religious bent and civil society groups known for stirring controversy, analysts have noted that it has grown more moderate after joining the ruling coalition.

Even so, Ujang said all options were on the table, as no candidate had pushed past 60 percent in electability ratings.

“They’ll continue to count straws until the end of the registration period,” he said.

[*https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2021/11/24/prabowo-megawati-cozy-up-ahead-of-election-but-political-obstacles-remain.html*](https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2021/11/24/prabowo-megawati-cozy-up-ahead-of-election-but-political-obstacles-remain.html)*.*

1. **‘Respect human dignity’: Rights groups welcome end to TNI virginity tests**

Dio Suhenda (The Jakarta Post)

Jakarta   ●   Fri, August 13, 2021

Rights groups have welcomed the abolishment of the controversial “two-finger test”, a virginity test that had long been a requirement for female recruits to join the Indonesian Army.

Gen. Andika Perkasa, the Army chief of staff, announced on Wednesday that the army was finally scrapping the virginity test, among other revisions it was introducing after internal evaluations of the process in May.

He said the tests administered during the recruitment process were designed only to ensure that applicants were physically fit enough to complete the military training and to prevent any transmission of disease.

“[The virginity test] was an assessment [to find out if] the hymen was intact, partially ruptured, or completely ruptured. Now, that assessment is no longer [necessary]," said Andika, as quoted by kompas.com.

Numerous rights groups, many of whom have long campaigned against the virginity test, have commended the Army’s decision to stop the practice, including National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) commissioner Beka Ulung Hapsara.

“Komnas HAM would like to express its appreciation for the military’s decision, which is in line with human rights standards and norms that respect human dignity while also respecting their personal space,” Beka told the Post on Thursday.

“There was never any need for the test," said Andy Yentriyani, head of the National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan).

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch (HRW) activist Andreas Harsono said it was "the right thing to do", adding that the practice was "degrading, discriminatory and traumatic".

He said HRW had spoken to more than 100 female military recruits who underwent the test, one of whom said she was subjected to it in 1965.

Virginity tests, which have long been deemed a violation of human rights, are explicitly used in the Army’s recruitment policy; they are not a specific requirement for either the Navy or the Air Force.

Air Cdre. Indan Gilang, an Air Force spokesperson, said that while female reproduction tests were undertaken to check for cysts or other health complications that might impair a cadet’s ability to serve, “virginity tests” as it is understood do not exist in the Air Force's terminology.

A Navy spokesperson has said it conducts pregnancy tests on applicants, but no specific virginity tests.

Andika first signaled a change in the Army’s recruitment process last month, as he called for the process to be made equal for both male and female cadets.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the examination method has no scientific merit or clinical indication. The systematic review states that there is no known examination that can prove a person’s history of vaginal intercourse.

[*https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/08/13/respect-human-dignity-rights-groups-welcome-end-to-tni-virginity-tests.html*](https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/08/13/respect-human-dignity-rights-groups-welcome-end-to-tni-virginity-tests.html)*.*

1. **Indonesian government takes over land controlled by Tommy Soeharto**

Reuters

Jakarta   ●   Fri, November 5, 2021

The government on Friday took over land assets linked to an automaker company owned by the son of late president Soeharto, in its latest attempt to recover money from the once-powerful family.

The move was part of wider efforts to recoup $7.7 billion of unpaid loans given as bank bailouts during the 1997-1998 financial crisis.

Carmaker PT Timor Putra Nasional, controlled by Soeharto's youngest son Hutomo "Tommy" Mandala Putra, has an outstanding debt to the state amounting to 2.6 trillion rupiah ($180.87 million) after defaulting on loans to state banks during the crisis, according to a statement.

The government had issued letters to seize the assets used as collateral, but had not physically taken them over due to "obstacles on the ground", it said.

On Friday, authorities sealed the assets - four plots of lands in the Karawang area of West Java with a total size of 1.2 million sqm (120 hectares), it said.

Hundreds of police and military personnel oversaw the process, local media reported.

Tommy Soeharto could not be reached and his assistants and lawyer did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

His lawyer had recently attended meetings with authorities to discuss Timor's debt, according to media reports.

The government has made several attempts to recover funds from the company, including taking it to court in 2008.

Timor was assigned to build Indonesia's national car during the Soeharto era.

Critics said the elder Soeharto, who died in January 2008, had amassed as much as $45 billion in kickbacks or deals during his presidency, which he and his family always denied.

Once jailed for paying a hitman to kill a judge, Tommy is now chairman of the Berkarya political party, which failed to win a seat in the House of Representatives in the 2019 elections. He also controls shipping company PT Humpuss Intermoda Transportasi and other businesses.

[*https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2021/11/05/indonesian-government-takes-over-land-controlled-by-tommy-soeharto-.html*](https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2021/11/05/indonesian-government-takes-over-land-controlled-by-tommy-soeharto-.html)*.*

1. **Indonesia, Japan foreign, defense ministers to hold security talks**

News Desk (Kyodo News)

Tokyo, Japan   ●   Fri, March 26, 2021

Japanese and Indonesian foreign and defense ministers will hold talks next week in Tokyo, the Japanese government said Friday, as Tokyo hopes to forge closer ties with Southeast Asian nations to counter China's clout in the region.

The focus of the meeting on Tuesday will be on whether the two countries can make progress toward an agreement on a pact enabling Japan to export domestically-produced defense equipment to the Southeast Asian nation, officials said.

The so-called two-plus-two talks involving Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi as well as Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi and Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto will be the second of its kind since December 2015.

Issues to be discussed by the four ministers will likely include cooperation in maritime security, according to the officials, as Japan seeks to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific region where China has escalated its assertive behavior in maritime and territorial disputes.

In the wake of North Korea's launch Thursday of ballistic missiles in apparent violation of UN Security Council resolutions, Tokyo and Jakarta are likely to share the importance of implementing the UN decisions banning Pyongyang from testing such missiles, considered threatening weapons, the officials said.

[*https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/03/26/indonesia-japan-foreign-defense-ministers-to-hold-security-talks.html*](https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/03/26/indonesia-japan-foreign-defense-ministers-to-hold-security-talks.html)*.*

1. **Prabowo, Ganjar lead again in 2024 electability polls**

News Desk (The Jakarta Post)

Jakarta   ●   Thu, January 7, 2021

Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto and Central Java Governor Ganjar Pranowo have topped the list of potential candidates for the 2024 presidential race, according to two recent electability surveys.

In a survey published by Vox Populi Research Center on Tuesday, Prabowo ranked first with an electability rating of 18.9 percent.

Ganjar came in second place and only by a small margin, securing 18.5 percent of the vote from 1,200 respondents

The survey was conducted from Dec. 26-31, 2020, with a margin of error of 2.9 percent.

Prabowo, who stood against President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo in the 2019 presidential race, saw his electability rise by 1.8 percent from a similar survey conducted by Vox Populi in October.

Meanwhile, Ganjar's electability also rose by 0.9 percent compared with the October survey.

Other public officials with high electability ratings include West Java Governor Ridwan Kamil (12.8 percent), Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan (7.7 percent) and Tourism and Creative Economy Minister Sandiaga Uno (6.5 percent).

Meanwhile, a recent poll published by Saiful Mujani Research and Consulting (SMRC) gave Ganjar the highest electability rating as a potential candidate for the 2024 presidential election, scoring 15.7 percent.

Prabowo slightly lagged behind in the SMRC survey with 14.9 percent, of 1,202 respondents, saying they would vote for him if the election were held right now.

The survey, conducted on Dec. 23-26, 2020, placed Anies and Sandiaga in the third and fourth places with electability ratings of 11 percent and 7.9 percent, respectively.

West Java’s Ridwan ranked fifth with 7.1 percent while Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono, the chairman of the Democratic Party and the eldest son of former president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, followed with 3.2 percent.

SMRC executive director Sirojudin Abbas said the survey was conducted through phone interviews.

"The margin of error is around 2.9 percent," Sirojudin said on Tuesday, as reported by Kompas.com.

He explained that based on the poll result no political figure had major support for the 2024 presidential race, with the highest rating only reaching around 15 percent.

Ganjar has seen his popularity rise in the past year, with experts believing this is largely due to his handling of the COVID-19 health crisis in Central Java.

A July survey by pollster Indikator Politik found that the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) politician had seen his electability increase sharply from a similar poll in February.

Ganjar topped the list of potential candidates for the 2024 race by scoring 16.5 percent, an increase of 7.8 percent from February.

On the other hand, Jakarta’s Anies continued to see his electability decline despite his perceived strong leadership in the capital’s pandemic response.

According to the Vox Populi survey, as per January this year, Anies’ electability dropped by 1.7 percent compared with October and by 3.6 percent compared with its June survey.

While the next presidential election is still a few years away, the current crop of regional leaders has been scrutinized for their ability to lead an effective pandemic response, while figures like Prabowo and Agus Yudhoyono have tried to bolster their overall popularity in public office or through their political networks.

With the COVID-19 outbreak in Indonesia showing no signs of slowing, observers are eager to spot potential candidates to lead the country in a post-pandemic world.

On Thursday, Indonesia logged a record-breaking 9,321 new confirmed COVID-19 cases, bringing the total tally close to 800,000. Analysts believe the scope of the crisis might actually be much greater, given the nation’s poor testing capacity and high positivity rate. (nal)

[*https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/01/07/prabowo-ganjar-lead-again-in-2024-electability-polls.html*](https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/01/07/prabowo-ganjar-lead-again-in-2024-electability-polls.html)*.*