

Swing voters may tip balance

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With only days left until the polls open on April 17, 27-year-old Sakinah Ummu Haniy is still completely undecided about who she will vote for in the presidential election.

"I am completely 50/50 at the moment," she told *The Jakarta Post* recently. "If the election were held today, I probably wouldn't vote at all."

Aubrey Fanani, 29, on the other hand, said she was leaning toward voting for a particular ticket, but was still doubtful.

"I started off without a preference and I have followed the campaign and the debates and I already have a choice, but I'm not entirely sure," she told the *Post*.

As we enter the last few days of the campaign season, the competition for undecided and swing voters is getting even hotter.

Most major polls put Jokowi in a formidable double-digit lead over rival Prabowo Subianto, but if the Gerindra chairman is able to snatch the ever-dwindling pool of undecided voters and win most of the President's less convinced supporters to his side, he may still be able to pull off an upset.

While Jokowi's poll numbers have ranged between 49 and 58 percent in recent March surveys, the number of strong voters he has is somewhat lower, at around 43 to 47 percent.

A survey conducted by Jakarta-based pollster Indikator Survei Indonesia between March 22 and 29 found that Jokowi's swing voters made up around 8.8 percent of total respondents while Prabowo's swing voters made up around 8.2 percent.

Coupled with the 7.2 percent of respondents who said they were undecided, theoretically 24.2 percent of the vote is still up for grabs.

With Jokowi's strong voter base at only 46.6 percent, Prabowo could still technically achieve victory if he were able to sway around 86 percent of what Indikator executive director Burhanuddin Muhtadi called "the floating mass".

While most pollsters have distributed the undecided voter pool proportionally to both tickets to make a projection on who will win come election day, Indikator used more detailed statistical analysis to determine which side swing and undecided voters will fall on.

Indikator researcher Adam Kamil analyzed the characteristics of undecided and swing voters based on factors such religion, age, ethnicity, occupation and income and compared them to see whether they were more similar

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Competition to woo undecideds gets fiercer

Last debate could sway swing voters: Analyst

to strong Jokowi supporters or strong Prabowo supporters.

In some characteristics, such as income and age, swing and undecided voters were closer to strong Jokowi supporters, but in others, such as religion and rural/urban spread, they were closer to strong Prabowo supporters.

"We predict that swing and undecided voters will be distributed relatively evenly between both presidential tickets," Adam said at the poll's release event recently.

Based on the model they constructed, Indikator found that undecided voters would likely be split 50/50 between both camps, while Prabowo could grab 54.5 percent of swing voters compared to Jokowi's 45.5 percent.

But even though Prabowo had a slight edge among those yet to completely make up their mind, it would still not be enough to win, with the final model projecting Jokowi-Ma'ruf to get 57.9 percent of the vote and Prabowo-Sandiaga to get 42.1 percent.

Burhanuddin said there were several variables that might influence swing and undecided voters in the days leading up to the election.

"Some might just be waiting until the last moment to make their final choice, while others might be looking to see what programs are on offer, for example in the last debate," he said. "Some might also be swayed by vote buying."

He also said most swing voters were surrounded by supporters of the opposite camp, adding to their hesitance.

Sakinah said that based on what she had seen so far, there was no significant difference between the two candidates' policy platforms.

"I think I will have to find a personal reason to vote for one or the other, because I honestly don't see what separates them," she said. "Whoever wins, I don't think Indonesia will change much."

She added that the upcoming final presidential debate — set to focus on the topics of economics, prosperity, finance and trade — might help her make her decision, but she doubted it.

Aubrey, who described her family as "hardline Prabowo supporters", said that whoever is able to convince her about their commitment on issues that would affect Indonesia's future, such as the environment or health care, would likely get her vote.

"But, to be honest, I'm waiting for a candidate other than Jokowi or Prabowo," she said, laughing. "I'm bored with them."

ECONOMIC AGENDA

Manufacturing should be top priority for debate: Analyst

Marchio Irfan Gorbiano

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

The winner of April's presidential election will have a tough job on his hands reviving the country's manufacturing sector, which is expected to play a dominant role in fueling the economy in the coming years.

Center of Reform on Economics (CORE) Indonesia executive director Mohammad Faisal said that stimulating higher gross domestic product (GDP) growth through the revitalization of the manufacturing sector should be a key agenda of the government going forward.

"The key to achieving higher growth is the revitalization of manufacturing. The next presidential debate should address this issue as one of the key agendas for the next five years, as we need to transform our economy to make it more competitive," he said at a seminar on Tuesday.

The fifth and final presidential debate will be held in Jakarta on Saturday, April 13. During the debate, incumbent Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and his running mate Ma'ruf Amin and challenger Prabowo Subianto and his vice-presidential pick Sandiaga Uno will discuss topics related to the economy, social welfare, finance, investment and industry.

Faisal said the manufacturing sector had been in decline for the last few years, with the rate of growth in the sector dropping below GDP growth, an alarming sign for policymakers. If this sluggishness continued, he added, it could spell dire problems for the country.

With the continued increase in commodity prices, the gov-

ernment has little choice but to expand processing industries to increase exports of processed goods, which can bring greater added value to the economy.

The manufacturing sector grew by 4.25 percent last year, according to data from Statistics Indonesia (BPS), slower than the GDP growth of 5.17 percent over the same period. The contribution of manufacturing to GDP has also declined from 26 percent before the 1998 financial crisis to 20 percent last year.

It is also important that the government continue to develop the import-substitution industry, so the country no longer relies on imported raw materials or intermediary goods. Imports of raw materials and intermediary goods totaled US\$9.01 billion in February, or 73.81 percent of the total imports of goods, BPS data shows.

University of Indonesia (UI) economist Ari Kuncoro agreed with Faisal, saying that reviving the manufacturing sector should be the top priority of whoever was elected in the upcoming election.

"Firstly, [Indonesia] needs to build industries that produce raw materials or auxiliary goods for the downstream industries," said Ari. He also called on the government to facilitate a more conducive investment climate and improve the ease of doing businesses to bring more capital into the mid-stream manufacturing sector.

CORE Indonesia researcher Yusuf Rendi Manilet said that while the government had issued several fiscal incentives, including the tax holiday scheme, to attract more investment to the manufacturing

sector, the incentives had yet to deliver the much-needed boost to manufacturing, as investments in the sector, from both local and foreign investors, were on the decline.

The manufacturing sector's share of realized local investment was only 25.4 percent, equal to Rp 83.6 trillion (\$5.9 billion), last year, down from a 37.8 percent share, or Rp 99.2 trillion, of realized local investment in 2017, data from the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) revealed.

Realized foreign direct investment in the manufacturing sector was also down from \$13.1 billion in 2017 to \$10.4 billion in 2018, according to BKPM data.

Yusuf said the government's fiscal incentives alone would not attract investment, as investors also assessed other aspects such as legal certainty and ease of doing businesses, among others factors.

A recently released joint report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) estimated that the country could achieve a growth rate of 6.31 percent on average between 2020 and 2024 under the "good scenario", which projects the share of employment in manufacturing to gradually increase to 20 percent of the workforce by 2024.

National Development Planning Minister Bambang Brodjonegoro previously gave an assurance that development of the manufacturing sector would be a key agenda of the next iteration of the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN), which will run from 2020 to 2024.

Islamist parties struggle for relevance in Muslim-majority Indonesia

As a predominantly Muslim country, Islamist representation has been visible in politics since Independence Day, marked by the rise and fall of Islam-based political parties.

In the country's first general election in 1955, Masyumi and the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) were among winners, placing in second and third behind first president Sukarno's Indonesian National Party (PNI).

Masyumi was later disbanded for its alleged involvement with Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Indonesia (PRRI) rebel movement in West Sumatra, leaving the NU and three other political parties — the Indonesian Muslims Party (Parmusi), the Indonesian Islamic Union Party (PSII) and the Islamic Education Union (Perti) — to participate in 1971 election.

Former president Soeharto later restructured the multi-party system and merged all of the Islamist parties into a party called the United Development Party (PPP) in 1973.

Now the oldest surviving Islamist political party, the PPP has to compete with newer Islamist parties to maintain its relevance with Indonesian voters, whom, despite their religiosity and conservative outlook, had never brought religion-based political parties to the mainstream political force in the post-Soeharto period, also known as the Reform Era.

In fact, Islam-based political parties are struggling to meet the 4 percent electoral threshold required to send their members to the House of Representative in the upcoming simultaneous presidential and legislative elections.

A recent survey by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) predicted that the electability of the PPP, along with the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS) and the Crescent Star Party (PBB) — two political parties established in the wake of Soeharto's fall in 1998 — stood at 3 percent, 4.6 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively. With less than a week until the elections, they are on the verge of not securing any seats at the House.

PPP secretary-general Arsul Sani said the party, which is part of the President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo administration, has been relying on support from traditional Muslims who have a huge attachment to religion-related issues but it needs to reach a greater segment of society.

"I think we need managerial reform. The younger generation sees us as an old-fashioned party," said Arsul, who joined the party in 2011. "In the future, we have to expand our base to reach moderate and dynamic Muslims."

The party was recently hit by a graft scandal involving its chairman, Muhammad Romahurmuziy, after the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) arrested him for his alleged involvement in a bribery case on promotions at the Religious Affairs Ministry.

"It felt like an earthquake. But the spirit of our members were restored in the following days. We discover a new spirit to rise to prevent our party from sinking. We try to convince the public that the case was personal and has nothing to do with PPP's policy as a party," he said.

The PKS, which is seen as the most ideological and religiously conservative party in the country, has also become less popular over the years.

After solid achievement in the 2004 elections, including securing victory in prominent electorates, including Jakarta, the party has struggled to expand its voter base while clinging to conservatism. It has also been hit by internal political struggles and corruption, which has resulted in the emergence of Indonesia's New Direction Movement (Garbi).

The PKS has attempted to link itself to the 212 rally movement, a string of conservative Muslim rallies that aimed to sway the 2017 Jakarta gubernatorial election and crush the reelection attempt of then-governor Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama.

Harboring its support to opposition ticket Prabowo Subianto-Sandiaga Uno,

the party executives initiated the #2019GantiPresiden (#2019ChangePresident) movement, which has gained traction on social media.

Its influence to bring the Prabowo coalition toward Islamic conservatism, however, has been challenged in the Prabowo camp by the Democratic Party, a nationalist party founded by former president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

CSIS political analyst Arya Fernandes said based on past experience, Islamist parties could earn big support from the public when they put aside religious issues and offered ideas that pertained to people's daily activities.

When bringing up political identity, the support tends to

decline.

"The PKS managed to become a mid-tier party in 2004 because they offered fresh ideas about clean governance and the introduction of professional Cabinet ministers," Arya said. "That has proven successful in garnering public acceptance."


PKS legislative candidate Pipin Sopian denied the party had inclined to use Islamic conservatism to lure voters. "We do not want to use identity politics. We want to employ the politics of ideas," he said.

The PBB, which failed to secure seats at the House in 2014, relies on the maneuver of its chairman Yusril Ihza Mahendra to survive. While also inclined to support the 212 movement, Yusril recently opted to support incumbent President Jokowi. A law expert and former law minister in the Abdurrahman "Gus Dur" Wahid and Megawati Soekarnoputri administrations, Yusril was appointed as a lawyer for Jokowi.

In an interview with *The Jakarta Post* in February, Yusril said surveys did not always reflect reality, adding that the party, which was established in 1998, was going all out to achieve its target of entering the House.

"If we're not confident, then why bother fighting?" he said.

— JP/FACHRUL SIDIQ



United Development Party (PPP)


Established on Jan. 5, 1973

Central board

Chairman (acting): Suharso Monoarfa
Secretary-general: Arsul Sani
Treasurer: Tommy Soelomo

Number of votes

2009	5.5 million (5.3 percent)
2014	8.1 million (6.5 percent)



PARTAI KEADILAN SEJAHTERA

Prosperous Justice Party (PKS)


Established on July 20, 1998
Reregistered on July 2, 2003

Central board

Chairman: Sohibuslman
Secretary-general: Mustofa Kamal
Treasurer: Mahfudz Abdurrahman

Number of votes

2009	8.2 million (7.9 percent)
2014	8.5 million (6.8 percent)



PARTAI BUKHAR DINASTIS

Crescent Star Party (PBB)

Established on July 17, 1998

Central board

Chairman: Yusril Ihza Mahendra
Secretary-general: Afriansyah Ferry Noer
Treasurer: Aris Muhammad

Number of votes

2009	1.8 million (1.8 percent)
2014	1.8 million (1.5 percent)

Despite rise in conservatism,

Islamists will be losers in 2019 poll

In an op-ed published in *The New York Times* (Feb. 14, 2019), renowned author Eka Kurniawan commented on the April 17 elections: "No matter who ends up being president, conservative Islamic groups, backed by radical groups, will win — have already won — the election."

His piece echoed the narrative that foreign media outlets — and this paper — have been peddling since the highly divisive Jakarta gubernatorial election in 2017: that Islam is gaining ground in Indonesia's electoral politics.

There is some truth to this argument. Sectarianism is on the rise, and Islamist groups, once considered fringe, have become mainstream and normalized. These factors played a crucial role in determining the outcome of the Jakarta election, which pitted the Christian incumbent (Basuki Tjahaja Purnama), against his Muslim challenger (Anies Baswedan).

The Jakarta election was a game-changer in many ways. Today, the man behind the religious fatwa against the defeated Christian candidate is the running mate

of President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo. The Islamist groups that staged mass rallies to defend that fatwa are now ardent supporters of Jokowi's sole challenger and long-time rival, Prabowo Subianto.

One need only glance at the videos and photos of the largest rally that Prabowo and Sandiaga Uno held on Sunday at the Gelora Bung Karno (GBK) Stadium to conclude that religion has indeed come to dominate Indonesian politics.

Eka's claim seems irrefutable from this perspective, but that's the long and short of it: political Islam is perceived to be on the rise because Islamic identity has become more pronounced in the public sphere in recent years, and because religious sentiment seems to have become a potent political weapon.

The reality is much more complex than that. In fact, political Islam — in its many forms — could be facing its biggest setback in decades this year.

This is because the Islamic parties failed to form a coalition to field their own candidate in the presidential race. They instead chose to pick between Jokowi and

COMMENTARY



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Prabowo, neither of whom could be considered an Islamic figure, or even associated with a particular Islamic group. They are card-carrying members of nationalist parties who have used religious sentiment solely as part of their campaign strategies.

This has had serious political consequences. According to a March survey by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the Islamic parties are actually losing voters to their nationalist allies as a result of the coattail, or down-ballot, effect, which is the tendency for a popular political leader to draw votes

for his or her party.

So what's happening now is that the Gerindra Party, which is led by Prabowo, has taken votes from the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS) and the National Mandate Party (PAN), while the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), of which Jokowi is a member, has taken votes from the United Development Party (PPP) and the National Awakening Party (PKB).

Some surveys predict that the PDI-P will gain about 25 percent of the vote, while Gerindra will gain about 14 percent. The PKB, meanwhile, could be the only Islamic party left standing after the April 17 elections, with all other Islamic parties expected not to pass the 4 percent legislative threshold.

This is consistent with the findings of political scientists Saiful Mujani and Thomas Pepinsky: Indonesian Muslims are becoming more pious, but this increasing religiosity does not necessarily translate into electoral support for political Islam.

The future does not look rosy for Islamist groups, either.

The Prabowo camp may have

courted members of the Islam Defenders Front (FPI) and Hizbut Tahrir Indonesia (HTI) for the elections, but there is no guarantee their political alliance will go beyond April 17, when the two electoral contenders will no longer see the need to pander to any group for votes.

Prabowo and FPI leader Rizieq Shihab are strange bedfellows, united by a common enemy. During Sunday's event at the GBK, Prabowo bailed when Rizieq addressed the rally via video call.

It is unlikely that the FPI or HTI would ever evolve into political parties to replace the Islamic parties. The FPI is a paramilitary group with no interests in governance, while the HTI is antidemocratic.

Nor will the 212 Movement save the day. It is a loose coalition of various Islamist groups that fractured soon after Rizieq fled to Saudi Arabia, according to the April 2018 report of the Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC). With respected 212 figure Ma'ruf Amin running alongside Jokowi, the movement has lost its histori-

cal rationale for existing at all.

To summarize, Islamic parties are losing votes, and Islamist groups, which work outside formal political structures, may soon become politically irrelevant once the dust settles on April 17 — when ideological Muslim voters will be forced to choose between two nationalist leaders who appear to care more about their electability than their constituents' ideological aspirations.

From this perspective, how can it be said that the Islamists are pulling ahead? It may be contrary to conventional wisdom, but a nationalist leader and his nationalist party will most certainly end up winning the presidency on April 17 — whoever that may turn out to be — and the proponents of political Islam will have some soul-searching to do.

The biggest question now is whether these nationalists will lead Indonesia forward by doing away with faith-based politics and restoring our badly wounded democracy, or if they will turn back the clock even further by constantly stoking divisive and sectarian politics for short-term political gains.

Unclear policy undermines Rokan Block production

Stefanno Reinard Sulaiman
THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

The government has yet to issue a new contract to transfer the operation of the Rokan Block from Chevron Pacific Indonesia (Chevron Indonesia) to state-owned energy holding company Pertamina, which it had promised to issue in January.

The government appointed Pertamina last year to take over the Rokan Block's operation when Chevron Indonesia's contract terminates in 2021, but the delay in the new contract has caused uncertainty as to which company is responsible for providing investment during the transitional period.

Chevron Indonesia, a subsidiary of the American energy company Chevron Corporation and the block's current operator, is unlikely to inject large funds in the block two years before its operating contract terminates. Chevron has been operating the Rokan Block for more than 50 years.

Meanwhile, Pertamina is likely unable to make any investment until it formally secures the block's operating contract.

Oil and Gas Regulatory Task Force (SKK Migas) chairman Dwi Soetjipto recently said that he intended to resolve the issue no later than this year.

"Yes, the talks between Pertamina and Chevron are deadlocked. It must be decided soon, because Pertamina is expected to

Delay in new contract has caused uncertainty over investment responsibility

Chevron has operated block for more than 50 years

start drilling [the Rokan Block] in August," he said.

A similar case occurred with the gas-rich Mahakam Block in East Kalimantan. Pertamina was appointed in April 2015 to take over the block from its operating partners, French subsidiary Total E&P Indonesia (TEPI) and Japan's Inpex Corporation. However, production in the block fell significantly during the transition period, due to the lack of a clear regulation on which company or companies were responsible for investing in the block until its operation was formally transferred.

The impact continues to be felt today, with Mahakam operator Pertamina Hulu Mahakam, a Pertamina subsidiary, recording production of 832 million metric standard cubic feet of gas per day (mmscfd) in 2018 — 64.6 percent of the 1,286 mmscfd production it recorded in 2017.

According to the latest data from SKK Migas, production output of the Rokan Block had dropped to 197,000 barrels of oil per day (BOPD) by March 31.

Separately, global energy think tank Wood Mackenzie published a

lower forecast of 180,000 BOPD for Rokan's oil production this year.

Once the most productive block in the country, the Rokan Block has now been overtaken by the Cepu block in East Java, which has a production output of 220,000 BOPD and is managed by United States subsidiary ExxonMobil Indonesia, which signed the Cepu Cooperation Contract in September 2005.

When asked about the reason for the decline in Rokan's production, SKK Migas' Dwi said that the Cepu block was younger than Rokan, so its reserves were more easily extracted.

"In Cepu, you could just drill and the oil will gush out immediately. However, extra effort is now needed for Rokan, as it has entered the declining phase," he said.

According to *kontan.co.id*, the Cepu block's Banyu Urip field holds 823 million barrels of oil (mmbo), while its gas-rich Jambaran Tiung Biru (JTB) field was estimated to hold 1.04 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas and 9.54 mmbo in 2017.

Moody's estimated previously that the Rokan Block held 900 mmbo in recoverable reserves, assuming an average annual production of 120,000 barrels per day over the 20-year contractual period.

Pri Agung Rakhmanto of the ReforMiner Institute, a research consultancy based in Jakarta, believes that Rokan's lower production this year was because the de-

cision on its investment during the transition was moving at a snail's pace.

"There is a tendency not to pour investment in the block because [Chevron's] contract was not extended. Even the current contractor will reduce its [investment], because [it] cannot be recouped in one or two years, but would take longer," he said.

Pri Agung explained that Pertamina could shoulder the investment during the transitional period, as long as Chevron Indonesia was open to jointly operating the block. This could then be followed with a business-to-business scheme.

He urged the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry to immediately settle the issue through a legal endorsement, which was used to resolve the transitional period of the Mahakam block.

"Earlier, Mahakam's transition was pushed by issuing a regulation that allowed [Pertamina] to open data [on the block] and inject investment [before the previous contract ended]," said Pri Agung, referring to a ministerial decree issued in 2016.

On Friday, Chevron Indonesia spokeswoman Danya Dewanti and Pertamina vice president for corporate communication Fajriyah Usman responded separately to *The Jakarta Post's* request for a comment on the transition investment issue, but said only that they were still developing their statements.

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Pertamina finds new oil, gas reserves

JAKARTA: State-owned oil and gas holding company Pertamina announced that it had found new oil and gas reserves in intensive explorations conducted in the first quarter of 2019.

According to Pertamina upstream director Dharmawan H. Samsu, one new oil reserve was found in Benewangi Well #J-01 in Riau province, with a projection rate of 540 barrels of oil per day (bopd).

The new oil reserve was found in a joint operation by PT Pertamina Hulu Energy, a Pertamina subsidiary, and PT Bumi Siak Pusako-Pertamina Hulu, Darmawan said in a statement received on Wednesday.

"Pertamina Hulu Energy has identified a number of basement plays in the area surrounding Benewangi, with projected resources of 500 million barrels of oil [mmbo]" he said.

Meanwhile, in February, PT Pertamina EP, another Pertamina subsidiary, also found oil and gas reserves in Randuwangi well in Subang, West Java, with projected prospective resources of 15 million barrels of oil equivalent (mmboe).

"In the [first] quarter, Pertamina EP also found gas and condensate reserves at Pertamina EP Asset 4 areas in Toili subdistrict, Banggai regency, Central Sulawesi," Darmawan added.

This year, Pertamina is strengthening its upstream business by drilling 346 wells, 27 of which are exploration wells, double from last year, he said. —JP

Two years on, Novel still seeks justice

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Kharishar Kahfi

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Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) senior investigator Novel Baswedan is still seeking justice two years after he was attacked on April 11, 2017, with the authorities making no significant progress in their investigation into the case.

Despite his injuries, Novel has continued to carry out his duty as an investigator in the antigraft body. He came back to work in July last year, after taking an almost 16-month hiatus to receive medical treatment for his eyes.

"He is still on active duty in the KPK investigation division, assuming his old post despite some limitations because of his injuries," KPK spokesperson Febri Diansyah told *The Jakarta Post* recently.

Two years ago, two unidentified men attacked the senior investigator by throwing acid on his face, causing serious injuries to his eyes. At the time of the attack, Novel was leading KPK investigations in several major cases, including the e-ID graft case that implicates a number of House of Representatives lawmakers and high-ranking government officials.

While Novel has returned to his normal life as a KPK investigator, he has still not seen a clear resolution to his assault case, as the investigation into the acid attack has yet to produce any significant leads.

The investigation into the acid attack was initially led by the Jakarta Police, under supervision and assistance from the National Police.

The general public, however, has not seen any significant progress in the investigation during its first years. The police have only been able to produce two face sketches of the attackers, but there are no further leads on the perpetrators, let alone the mastermind.

This has caused Novel, the KPK and their supporters to grow impatient with the police.

The KPK workers' union, which has supported Novel since the day he was attacked, was among the first to urge the authorities to work harder to solve

Novel's acid attack case still unresolved two years after fact

KPK workers call for creation of independent fact-finding team

Novel's case. It argued that corrupt officials would continue to fight the government and the KPK's effort to eradicate corruption should this case be left unsolved.

"Our demand is still the same as it was two years ago: that President [Joko "Jokowi" Widodo] form an independent fact-finding team under his command. This will be seen as a commitment to fighting rampant corruption in the country, as well as a solution to stop terror against the KPK once and for all," the union head Yudi Purnomo said on Wednesday in a statement.

Their demand was echoed by activists and Novel, who even challenged President Jokowi to strip the current National Police chief Gen. Tito Karnavian of his position should he fail to solve the acid attack case.

In January, the National Police formed a fact-finding team comprising personnel from the force and the KPK as well as officials from other institutions, including the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) and the National Police Commission (Kopolnas).

Kopolnas commissioner Poengky Indarti, who was part of the fact-finding team formed by the police, said the team was going at full throttle to find missing puzzle pieces in the case.

On Wednesday, several members of the team went to Ambon, Maluku to check the alibis of several witnesses who had previously been questioned by investigators. Ambon was the fourth location to be visited by the team after Malang in East Java as well as Bekasi and Sukabumi in West Java.

"We will announce the result of our work before our duty ends on July 7 this year. We will also reveal our work periodically as part of our accountability," Poengky told the *Post*.