

Presidential candidates square off on economy

**Marchio Irfan Gorbiano,
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THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

The four candidates for president and vice president, incumbent Joko "Jokowi" Widodo with his running mate Ma'ruf Amin and challenger Prabowo Subianto with his running mate Sandiaga Uno, put forward their different economic visions during the last debate on Saturday evening in a final push to woo voters.

The debate, held at the Sultan Hotel in Jakarta, marked the end of a seven-month-long campaign by the two camps as the General Elections Commission (KPU) subsequently enacted a three-day silent period before polling day on Wednesday.

Presidential hopeful Prabowo opened the debate with strong criticism of Jokowi's handling of the country's manufacturing sector. Instead of growing, Prabowo said, the country's economy had shown signs of deindustrialization caused by the implementation of wrong development policies.

"There has been deindustrialization," said Prabowo. "Currently, Indonesia does not produce anything; we only receive produced materials from other nations. We should correct this."

He said the slowing growth of the industrial sector occurred because Jokowi's administration put too much emphasis on infrastructure development.

Jokowi responded by saying that Prabowo had made a wrong judgement, claiming that

Two presidential candidates were at odds over manufacturing, SOEs and taxation

Prabowo: SOEs have been wrongly managed for long time

Jokowi: Many SOEs have performed well, some have expanded overseas

the infrastructure development should come first because only with infrastructure facilities could the country's overall economic activities, including in the manufacturing sector, grow sustainably. He argued that infrastructure development would bring new sources of growth to areas outside of Java, which remains the primary driver of Indonesia's GDP at present.

"With infrastructure development, we want new sources of economic growth outside Java, be it industrial zones or special economic zones," said Jokowi.

The two presidential candidates and their running mates were also at odds over the management of the country's state-owned companies, taxation and halal industry.

Prabowo said state-owned enterprises (SOEs) had been wrongly managed for a long time and the current government had failed to revive their business to bring them back to their roles as buffers for the country's economy. He said the money-losing airline, national flag carrier Garuda, was one of the SOEs that had suffered mismanagement.

"I don't blame you [Jokowi]. This was a big mistake of presidents before you. That's my opinion."

According to Jokowi, it was not a secret that mismanagement had taken place in SOEs for a long time, but he said he would not blame any previous presidents for the mistakes. Jokowi said he had instead taken a number of measures to revive their businesses. Many SOEs are now performing well and many state-owned construction companies have undertaken many infrastructure projects overseas, such as in the Middle East, Jokowi added.

On tax policies, Prabowo said his camp would improve information technology (IT) systems to increase the number of taxpayers so that the country's tax-to-GDP ratio, among the lowest in Asia, could be improved. If he was elected, he said, his administration would separate the Directorate General of Taxation from the Finance Ministry and turn it into a state revenue agency. This idea, however, has also been on the agenda of Jokowi's administration in its current term. Legislation for the establishment of such an agency has been proposed to the House of Representatives.

Jokowi, meanwhile, criticized the opposition's plan to raise the tax-to-GDP ratio drastically in the short term, saying it would bring harm to the economy. He said he preferred to increase the ratio gradually while also expanding the country's tax base. He also pledged to continue pursuing tax reform.

Jokowi's running mate,

Ma'ruf, used the debate to outline his vision for making Indonesia a global leader in sharia economics. "In line with our vision and mission, we want to develop our halal industry not only to cater to the domestic market, but also to foreign markets," said Ma'ruf.

The two camps also presented their slightly different views for social welfare policies. Jokowi promised to issue three new cards, namely the Indonesia Smart Card (KIP) for university education, a pre-work card and an affordable staple foods card, as part of his program. He also brought up his administration's village funds program as one of many policy tools that help to foster more equitable growth in the archipelago.

Meanwhile, Sandiaga said issuing many cards was unnecessary as his camp would convert the current electronic identification card (e-KTP) into a single digital card that could be used for many purposes, such as subsidies and educational assistance for the poor.

Sandiaga made the bold commitment that he and Prabowo would not accept any wages if the pair was elected and would opt instead to donate it to the poor. He also reaffirmed the pair's commitment to bring more prosperity to the people.

Prabowo, as a last jab during his closing statement, claimed to have been one of the initiators of Law No. 6/2014 on villages and said that the law had been signed before Jokowi took office. Prabowo also took time to thank various coalition parties, ulama and the pair's supporters.

Campaigns end with rallies in Jakarta, Tangerang

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Marguerite Afra Sapiie and
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THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

Hundreds of thousands of people flocked to Gelora Bung Karno Stadium in Senayan, Central Jakarta, on Saturday. A number of musicians, including Slank, a legendary Indonesian band, joined in on the euphoria of a political campaign event held for incumbent President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and running mate Ma'ruf Amin.

Challengers Prabowo Subianto and Sandiaga Uno on Saturday preferred to visit popular Islamic preacher Abdullah Gymnastiar together after Sandiaga attended a campaign event at the Ahmad Yani city hall in Tangerang, Banten.

Both camps wrapped up their campaigns on Saturday, as that marked the end of the open campaign period that started on March 24, as well as their eight-month political campaigns traveling across the country.

The presidential and legislative elections, which are to be held at the same time on April 17, are now in a three-day cooling-off period.

During the campaigning, Sandiaga almost always held forums to which he invited young voters, among them the so-called millennials, in a bid to learn their aspi-

Candidate teams reflect on presidential campaign period that lasts for about eight months

Experts doubt open campaign rallies reflect candidates' electability

rations, especially those related to job opportunities. He also often gathered women together, whom he referred to as "*emak-emak*" (mothers), to get their input about the prices of stall foods in the markets.

Prabowo, meanwhile, was sometimes spotted visiting clerics and ulema at a number of Islamic boarding schools, mostly on Java.

During the campaign rally, Prabowo and Sandiaga spent more time visiting regions in eastern Indonesia, including Sorong and Merauke in Papua, the country's easternmost province. Regions in eastern Indonesia are said to be Jokowi's strongest support bases.

Prabowo-Sandiaga campaign team official Ahmad Muzani, who is also secretary-general of Prabowo's Gerindra Party, said he was sure that the three-week open campaign contributed to an increase of the former general's electability.

"If God is willing, the rallies will

boost [Prabowo and Sandiaga's] electability because they were the times when the people directly met with them and listened to their promises," Muzani said.

Political experts, however, were not too optimistic that the three-week open campaign would do a lot for the electability of any candidate.

"The campaign rallies, most of the time, would only strengthen the solidity of the supporters and voters who have already made their decisions. They can strengthen the grassroots, but won't really effect [the swing and undecided voters]," a political observer from the Alvira Research Center pollster said.

Political expert Adi Prayitno from Syarif Hidayatullah Islamic State University (UIN) Jakarta said that although thousands of people attended the campaign rallies, that did not reflect the electability of the candidates because those attending them had already decided how to vote.

"It's impossible that they go when they are not sure of voting for those candidates," Adi said. Moreover, he added that political campaign events would always be crowded, but political maps could still change even at the very last minute.

The Jokowi-Ma'ruf campaign

officially thanked all of its supporters who participated in the open rally campaign period over the past three weeks.

"The campaign team would like to thank all of the supporters, both from political parties and volunteers, who have attended and contributed to the success of our campaign events in various provinces, regencies and cities," Jokowi campaign director Benny Ramdhani said at a press conference on Sunday. "*Alhamdulillah*, all the campaign events went smoothly, safely and peacefully."

Benny also apologized for the traffic that Jokowi's final open rally at the Gelora Bung Karno Stadium caused on Saturday.

"The traffic was very bad because of the enthusiasm of the supporters who attended, which was outside of the organizers' expectations," he said.

Benny added that while the campaign period had gone relatively smoothly, there were a couple of points that the coalition parties wanted to evaluate before the next elections.

"As the presidential election was conducted simultaneously with the legislative elections, we spent more of our energy and concentrated on the presidential campaign and a lot of party issues were neglected," he said.

NU's support split in East Java

Marguerite Afra Sapiie

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Despite incumbent President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's decision to pick Ma'ruf Amin, a Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) leader, as his running mate, the support of the country's largest Muslim organization remains divided ahead of the presidential election.

In East Java, the province where the group was founded and has its the largest base, a number of clerics and members, known as *nahdliyin*, have openly endorsed the incumbent, while others have expressed support for the Prabowo-Subianto-Sandiaga Uno ticket.

Jokowi has expressed confidence he will receive the backing of the Muslim organization since picking Ma'ruf, who has since toured *pesantren* (Islamic boarding schools) across the country to secure support.

Ma'ruf and other NU-affiliated figures in the incumbent's camp were especially upbeat about receiving the NU's support, with the chairman of the National Awakening Party (PKB) — the NU's unofficial political vehicle — Muhaimin Iskandar claiming that the party's internal survey found that 98 percent of *nahdliyin* intended to vote for the pair.

However, a handful of descendents of NU founders from major *pesantren* in Jombang, East Java, have thrown their support behind Prabowo and Sandiaga instead, in a move that experts say could split the votes of the NU community in the province.

Those who have declared support for Prabowo include Irfan Yusuf Hasyim, also known as Gus Irfan, the grandson of NU founder Hasyim Asy'ari, from Tebuireng

Some descendents of NU founders support Prabowo

Split follows after-effect of NU chairmanship election in 2015: Researcher

Pesantren and the son of late NU cleric Wahab Hasbullah, Hasib Wahab, from Tambakberas *Pesantren*.

Gus Irfan, who has been appointed as the Prabowo-Sandiaga campaign team spokesperson, said that he did not like that the contest between Jokowi and Prabowo in East Java had been represented as a competition between "NU" and "non-NU".

Acknowledging that the support of the *nahdliyin* in the province was divided, he said, "There are maybe more NU members in Pak Jokowi's camp, but there are also many NU members who support Prabowo."

In the 2014 election, Jokowi won 53.17 percent of the vote in East Java, the country's second most-populous province, to Prabowo's 46.83 percent. Analysts at the time said that NU's support was also split between the two, with prominent NU figures backing different candidates.

An estimated 79.04 million people were affiliated with the NU across the country, with 63.05 million residing in Java, according to a 2017 survey by Alvara Research Center.

However, the split in East Java ahead of April's election was likely an after-effect of the 2015 NU congress in Jombang, which caused an internal rift with some clerics declaring their "separation" from the congress after the victory of Said Aqil Siradj as chairman, Alvara Research Center CEO Hasanuddin Ali said.

Among the protesting clerics was former president Gus Dur's youngest brother and leader of Tebuireng, Salahuddin "Gus Sholah" Wahid, who claimed there was strong evidence the internal election had been rigged. He also declared that he and the school did not recognize the new NU central board lead by Siradj.

"Some clerics who lost to Said Aqil's camp have expressed support for Prabowo, including some clerics from Tebuireng," Hasanuddin said, referring to Gus Irfan and his colleagues.

Jokowi's camp has relied on Ma'ruf's credentials as a former NU supreme leader to attract votes from *nahdliyin*. However, Hasanuddin argued that in East Java in particular the support of major and old *pesantren* was key to winning over the *nahdliyin*.

Although the chances that Prabowo would overtake Jokowi in East Java were very slim, he said that support for Prabowo was particularly strong among NU communities on Madura Island and some areas known as "Tapal Kuda", which includes Pasuruan, Probolinggo, Situbondo and Banyuwangi.

"The clerics have their own followers at the grassroots level, so their support will have a positive impact for Prabowo around the *pesantren* in the area," he said.

Saiful Mujani Research and Consulting (SMRC) executive director Djayadi Hanan said that in the remaining days until the election, Jokowi needed to consolidate support from the NU as well as political parties with strong grassroots support in East Java, including the PKB and the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P).

"Jokowi must ensure that he gains more support from the NU, more than in 2014," Djayadi said.

Vote buying still rampant, but constituents smarter

Karina M. Tehusijarana

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

Despite the many political and electoral reforms enacted after the New Order era, Indonesia's elections are still marred by a seemingly intractable problem: vote buying.

The recent arrest of Golkar Party lawmaker Bowo Sidik Pangarso for suspected graft is a stark example of this. The Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) confiscated dozens of cardboard boxes containing thousands of cash-filled envelopes that were reportedly to be used in buying votes on election day.

Burhanuddin Muhtadi, a political observer and executive director of Jakarta-based pollster Indikator Politik Indonesia, wrote in his 2018 doctoral thesis that 33 percent of all voters received money or other goods in exchange for their votes in the 2014 legislative election.

The figure ranks Indonesia third among Asian, African, and Latin American countries with the highest prevalence of vote buying, behind only Benin and Uganda.

In their recent book *Democracy For Sale*, political scientists Edward Aspinall and Ward Berenschot concluded that one of the main causes of rampant vote buying was the relative weakness of political parties.

Aspinall said that while exchanging favors for votes was also widespread in other developing

Studies reveal vote buying influenced 2014 legislative elections, 2018 regional elections.

Only 23 percent of recipients in Central Java actually cast ballots for paying candidates

countries such as India and Argentina, the practice of directly buying votes was much more prevalent in Indonesia because its political parties were less established in the grassroots and were thus less influential in voters' daily lives.

"Because candidates are not able to rely on party influence for votes, they often use a more 'vulgar' form of money and transactional politics, through handing out cash directly to voters, providing gifts to community groups, giving out sembako [staple goods] and so forth," Aspinall said at a discussion in South Jakarta on Tuesday.

To illustrate, Aspinall presented a list he obtained from a 2014 legislative candidate in Central Kalimantan. The list itemized the gifts and donations the candidate had handed out to various neighborhood and community groups, and the estimated number of votes the candidate expected to receive in return.

A television would generate estimated 50 votes, while a lawnmower was worth 40 votes.

But vote buying might not be

as effective as predicted, as some people could accept these gifts and donations without any intention to vote for the "sponsor".

For example, the residents of a housing complex in Batam, Riau Islands province, recently erected a banner that reads: "Accept serangan fajar, but don't let it decide your vote". *Serangan fajar* (attack at dawn) refers to vote buying, as the gifts and donations used to buy votes are typically handed out on the morning of election day.

Aspinall and Berenschot gathered data from candidates in 19 Central Java electoral districts who distributed cash payments in the 2014 Regional Legislative Council (DPRD) election. The data showed that, on average, only 23 percent of the recipients actually cast their ballots for the candidate who paid for their votes.

"[Vote buying] is very costly and very risky for a candidate," said Aspinall.

Why is it still so common, then?

Aspinall attributed this to a "collective action problem" that prevented candidates from unilaterally giving up the practice for fear of losing out.

"Only around 10 to 12 percent of voters change their vote due to transactional politics, so the number is actually quite small. But it is still enough to turn an election," he said. "Most of the candidates actually dislike vote buying and would rather not do it, but they are worried that they won't

be able to win if they don't do it. For many, it's like an insurance policy."

The open list system was also believed to contribute to the problem, with legislative candidates saying that their fiercest competition came from members of their own parties.

Aspinall and Berenschot said that the while some short-term solutions like strengthening the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) might help, the problem was unlikely to be solved in the near future and would likely require reforms to the current electoral system.

"Ironically, reforms that were put in place because of distrust in political parties may have further weakened parties and resulted in vote buying," said Aspinall.

However, Association for Elections and Democracy (Perludem) executive director Titi Anggraini said that any electoral system would be ineffective so long as parties did not change the way they recruited new members.

"Without reforms in party regulations and public funding, and strict law enforcement, vote buying will still be rampant, no matter what electoral system [is used]," said Titi, adding that such reforms would likely take years, if not decades.

"But if we look at the 2014 legislative elections, less than 50 percent of incumbents were re-elected, which shows that voters are eager for change," she said.

KPU, Bawaslu investigate alleged rigging in Selangor

Nurul Fitri Ramadhani,
Marguerite Afra Sapiie
and Dian Septiari



2019

Election organizers sent on Friday a joint team to Selangor, Malaysia, to investigate reports of thousands of marked overseas ballots.

The team flew to Kuala Lumpur only hours after Yaza Azzahra Ulyana, the head of the Kuala Lumpur Elections Supervisory Agency (Panwaslu Kuala Lumpur), lodged a formal report about the finding of the alleged marked ballots in favor of incumbent ticket President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and two candidates from the NasDem Party.

The committee made the report after verifying a video of people raiding an empty store and unpacking several bags containing the marked ballots.

The team, consisting of members of the General Elections Commission (KPU) and the Elections Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu), directly visited the locations where the precast ballots were allegedly found — an empty

store in Taman Universiti Sungai Tangkas Bangi and a house in Bandar Baru Bangi, which have been sealed off by Malaysian police.

"We, from the KPU and Bawaslu, have come to Kuala Lumpur to clarify [the report]," said KPU commissioner Hasyim Asy'ari in a press conference in Kuala Lumpur as quoted by Antara.

He said the team had yet to confirm whether the marked ballots were genuine.

Hasyim also questioned the video as many people could have easily entered the store where the ballots were found. A location used to store ballots should have been secured tightly, he said.

"How could they easily enter the place and open the bags? And where is the CCTV?" Hasyim said.

Bawaslu commissioner Afifudin also raised the same question, but he preferred to wait for the investigation result and final explanation from the KPU.

"Such a situation [storing ballots in an empty store] is unusual. We're investigating it," Afifudin said.

While the investigation will not affect the voting schedule in



Antara/Agus Setiawan

Inspection: General Elections Commission (KPU) official Hasyim Asy'ari (*right*), Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) official Ratna Dewi Pettalolo (*center*) and Overseas Election Committee (PPLN) official Yusron B Ambarly (*left*) inspect a warehouse filled with ballots for next week's elections at the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

Malaysia, Hasyim said a full report on the team's investigation would be published in Jakarta on Saturday.

As of Friday evening the voting process through postal ballots and dropboxes was still in progress and polling stations are set to open on Sunday.

Malaysia hosts the largest number of overseas Indonesian voters with almost 1 million registered voters, out of 2 million overseas voters in 130 countries. There are 255 polling stations spread across Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, Selangor, Perak, Kuala Trengganu and Kelantan.

Bawaslu received the report and verified the validity of the video on Thursday, but did not reveal the identities of the people in the video.

"About 40,000 to 50,000 marked ballots were found," Yaza said.

Responding to the case, President Jokowi called on the election organizers to conduct a thorough investigation of the case and impose firm sanctions against perpetrators.

Jokowi said the National Police should join if there was criminal involvement.

"The election must be free and fair and there should be no [allegations] that could cause public unrest," Jokowi told reporters.

Separately, NasDem claimed that it was still seeking confirmation about its two legislative candidates, but said that it was ready to disqualify them if they were found to have engaged in vote-rigging.

"If our candidates are found to have committed such a violation, we'll withdraw their candidacies, because NasDem always obeys the rules and the legal process," NasDem executive Irma Suryani Chaniago said.

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ELECTION

'Business as usual' during six-month transition

Winnie Tang

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Business players are confident that the six-month transition period between the current administration and the next will not act as a hindrance in their efforts to expand their businesses, as they believe that the upcoming elections will run safely and smoothly.

The general election will be held on April 17 this year, while the inauguration of the president and vice president is scheduled for Oct. 20. The six-month transition period is much longer than the three-month gap in the previous presidential election on July 9, 2014. That year, the inauguration was held on Oct. 20.

Shinta Kamdani, the Indonesian Employers Association (Apindo) deputy chairwoman, said businesses would keep running as usual even though there might be a period of uncertainty.

"Businesses have to run as usual, whether there is a presidential election or not, even though as business players we need certainty," she said recently in Jakarta.

Agustinus Prasetyantoko, an economist with Atma Jaya Catholic University, said the longer transition period would create uncertainty because whoever won the elections would not be able to create new policies before the inauguration.

"Although Apindo has finished creating an economic road map, for example, the newly elected president and vice president can't implement anything because they have to wait until October," he said.

Yet, Shinta said business players were optimistic that the elections would run smoothly.

Their optimism is reflected in the APEC Business Advisory

Council (ABAC) meetings scheduled from April 23 to 26 in Jakarta.

The important meetings, which will discuss financial inclusion in the Asia-Pacific, will be attended by 150 CEOs from the region.

Apindo chairman Hariyadi Sukamdani said if the winner of the presidential election was the incumbent President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, there would not be any problems with the long period between the election and the inauguration.

"If the winner is the incumbent, then there won't be any problems. However, if the winner is his opponent [Prabowo Subianto], then businesses might take time to adjust," he said.

Whoever the winner is, Apindo said it hoped the next administration would be able to create a better investment climate and reduce the complex procedures that can hamper business growth.

Hariyadi said, thus far, President Jokowi had done a lot to improve business growth, such as expanding industrial areas in many regions and implementing a free visa policy for citizens of 169 countries in 2015 to welcome tourists.

However, he said there were many things that could be improved, especially regarding certain "ridiculous" regulations issued by the government.

In order to support the administration for the 2019-2024 period, Apindo is currently drafting an economic road map that reflects businesspeople's aspirations, hopes and recommendations.

Apindo said it hoped the road map could help to benefit economic growth, which remained stagnant at about 5 percent over the past few years, help to develop better human resources to boost competitiveness and strengthen national economic resilience.

Democratic Party: Post-Soeharto behemoth awaiting big break

Ghina Ghaliya Quddus

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

After a remarkable win in 2009, the Democratic Party, a political party founded by retired Army general Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, has spiraled downward amid a string of scandals.

As the only party established in the post-Soeharto era that has ever won a general and presidential election, a storm has engulfed the party since Yudhoyono was still serving his second term as the country's president. Corruption cases have swept the party's top brass — including chairman Anas Urbaningrum, treasurer Muhammad Nazaruddin, lawmaker Angelina Sondakh and former youth and sports minister Andi Mallarangeng.

In 2014, the party could only maintain half of what it had achieved five years earlier, marking a grim closure to Yudhoyono's decade in office. The Democrats ranked fourth in the legislative election, below the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), Golkar Party and Gerindra Party.

Yudhoyono has since taken over the party's leadership and tried to put it back in the game. The party nominated his son, Agus Harimurti, who resigned from his post in the Army, in the 2017 Jakarta gubernatorial election, running with long-time Jakarta bureaucrat Sylviana Murni.


Although failing to win the election, Agus, who was an infantry major at the time of his retirement, has succeeded in building his popularity as a new icon of the party.

The Yudhoyono family has also successfully maintained their public presence in the past five years, despite not being involved in the government. Former first lady Ani Yudhoyono has become a social media darling with her penchant for photography and Instagram updates on her family's activities, which are warmly received by her followers.

After a political safari across the country in early 2018, Yudhoyono offered Agus to major political parties like the PDI-P and Gerindra to become a vice-presidential candidate during the nomination process for the 2019 presidential election. But the effort was fruitless as none of the parties, as well as President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and Prabowo, were willing to take him.

The party has since lost its appetite in supporting the presidential candidates, instead focusing on the legislative elections. Yudhoyono even withdrew himself from the April legislative and presidential elections after Ani was diagnosed with leukemia.

He handed over the party's command for the election campaigns to Agus, who then said



Democratic Party

PARTAI DEMOKRAT

Established on Sept. 9, 2001

Central board

Chairman: Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
Secretary-general: Hincia Panjaitan
Treasurer: Indrawati Sukadis

Number of votes

2009	21.7 million (20.9 percent)
2014	12.7 million (10.2 percent)

Source: KPU

the party would be more focused on the legislative campaign.

"I am ready to lead the party to win the legislative election," Agus said on his first consolidation meeting with the party's central board executives and representatives from all provincial chapters on March 2.

Agus said this year's presidential race had disadvantaged medium-sized parties like the Democrats, which did not have any of its members as presidential or vice-presidential candidates. He said the medium-sized parties had to fight fiercely in the legislative election because they would not have any coattail effect from the candidates running in the presidential election.

Observers say the Democrats only supported Prabowo-Sandiaga because the party had no other option as regulations stipulate that a party should join a coalition and endorse a presidential candidate to be allowed to join the presidential race in 2024, while Yudhoyono still has plenty of plans for his son.

Another scandal hit the party once again as deputy secretary-general Andi Arief was nabbed for allegedly consuming *sabu-sabu* (crystal methamphetamine) in a hotel in Slipi, West Jakarta, only a day after the consolidation meeting.

Andi, who has been an outspoken critic of the government on Twitter, was later released and ordered to go to a rehab center.

Senior researcher at the Indonesian Survey Circle Ardian Sopa said Andi's drug case would affect the Democrats' electability.

"We know that the party was a winner in the 2009 election, but then there were a number of corruption cases involving its top figures and it has eroded their electability. The Democrats should have a new source of energy to be reborn," he said as quoted by *tempo.co*.

A political expert from the State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, Adi Prayitno, also said Andi's case was a disaster for the party amid its efforts to achieve a top three position.