

Jokowi says reforms successful with growth above 5%

Karlis Salna and
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BLOOMBERG/JAKARTA

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has said government reforms to boost the economy are starting to pay off, enabling it to embark on the biggest infrastructure plan in the nation's history.

Conditions are much better now than when he took office three years ago, with economic growth back at above 5 percent and the currency rebounding, Jokowi said in his speech at Bloomberg's Year Ahead Asia Conference in Jakarta on Wednesday.

"These positive developments are thanks to one thing and one thing only: Reform," he said.

The economy grew more than 5 percent every quarter this year and is forecast by the government to expand 5.4 percent in 2018. While that is still below the 7 percent target set by Jokowi when he came to power three years ago, a recovery in exports and rising investment are underscoring the strength in Indonesia's economy, he said.

Jokowi has been rewarded for his economic reforms with an investment-grade credit rating from S&P Global Ratings this year and a flood of foreign investment in the nation's bonds. After dropping to its weakest level since

1998 in September 2015, the rupiah has gained nearly 9 percent against the US dollar.

Indonesia, which is rated by Moody's Investors Service at Baa3 with a positive outlook, should continue pursuing economic re-

forms, Michael Taylor, managing director and chief credit officer for Asia Pacific at Moody's, said at the conference. The measures have started to bear fruit in the form of higher foreign direct investment, he said.

Still, the nation is heavily reliant on external borrowing and a shift toward more domestic sources of financing would be a positive development, he said.

The government has worked hard on reforms, including removing fuel subsidies to free up funds to finance building roads, railways and ports, the President said.

"We are on track to complete the most amount of infrastructure ever built during a five-year period in Indonesia," he said.

Jokowi, who is yet to commit to running for re-election in 2019, still faces plenty of economic challenges. Indonesia has a poor record of tax compliance and he needs to raise revenue to help keep the budget deficit under control.

While Indonesia has jumped 19 places to be ranked 72 out of 190

countries in the World Bank's latest ease-of-doing-business index, the nation still needs to reduce regulatory uncertainty to spur foreign investment.

That's a sentiment echoed by Thomas Lembong, chairman of the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM).

"We definitely admit that the top complaint of investors is regulatory uncertainty," he said in an interview on Bloomberg TV. Having joined the public sector from the business world, "I'm quite startled by how under-developed our policy-making processes are. The way we formulate policy has fallen far behind the cutting edge."

The President is aware of the challenges and is making an effort to reform the bureaucracy, Thomas said.

"Government needs to be a public servant, and supportive, rather than talking a lot," he said. "We need to be a great listener, and that's what President Jokowi is."

The dramatic growth of the digital economy will continue to boost Indonesia's growth, Jokowi said.

NATIONAL DAY

Finland turns centenarian 'together' with Indonesia

Tama Salim

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

The Finnish mission in Jakarta celebrated on Wednesday a special event commemorating its 100 years of independence, with both Finland and Indonesia seeking to leverage the best of both countries' strengths moving forward.

Speaking at the National Day reception, Finnish Ambassador Paivi Hiltunen-Toivio took the theme of the Finnish centenary, "Together," to highlight Finland's embrace of global partnership beyond its Nordic backyard.

"The story of Finland is unique and deserves special attention. Today we are celebrating 'together' with all Finns and friends of Finland, [with] festivities taking place in Finland and in more than 100 countries

around the world," the envoy said in her speech.

Between the 12th and 19th centuries, the area that is now Finland was governed by Sweden. From 1809, Finland was an autonomous grand duchy in the Russian Empire until it declared independence on Dec. 6, 1917.

As a country of 187,888 lakes, Hiltunen-Toivio asserted how "clean nature" formed the basis for the Finnish way of life and looked forward to more sustainable cooperation with Indonesia.

"I believe our countries have broad cooperation prospects especially in energy, forestry, pulp and paper, ICT and machinery," she said.

The guest of honor representing the Indonesian government was Energy and Mineral Resources Deputy Minister Arcandra Tahar who conveyed Indonesia's

warm congratulations to Finland and underscored the cordial ties the two countries share.

Arcandra also noted intensified cooperation in the fields of investment, climate change, forestry, renewable energy, education and research and technology.

"There is still ample room for collaboration between Indonesia and Finland; we shall also encourage more people-to-people contact to increase mutual understanding, which eventually solidifies our cooperation," he said.

Other dignitaries attending the event included Jakarta Deputy Governor Sandyaga Uno.

Finland is no stranger to Indonesia for its role in reaching a peace agreement between the Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement in 2005, effectively ending a 30-year con-

flict with the Helsinki Accord.

Former Finnish president Martti Ahtisaari was the mediator for the peace talks, which partly helped him to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2008.

This year marks the 12th anniversary of the Helsinki Peace Agreement, Hiltunen-Toivio noted in her speech.

As well, Finnish President Sauli Vainamo Niinisto visited Indonesia in 2015 to meet with President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, and Vice President Jusuf Kalla.

Guests and hosts were treated to a fine selection of Finnish cuisine, from smoked salmon to an iteration of the bilberry pie, *mustikkapiirakka*. Top Finnish chef Jouni Rahikainen was flown to Jakarta to prepare the elaborate morsels in along with resident Swedish chef Mathias Ollson.

Indictment looms for Setya

Kharishar Kahfi

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

The Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) may indict House of Representatives Speaker Setya Novanto days before a Jakarta district court issues a ruling on his second pre-trial motion challenging the antigraft body's decision to rename him a suspect in the e-ID graft case.

The KPK said it had completed the case dossier on the Golkar Party chairman and had submitted it to the Jakarta Corruption Court for trial.

"Yes, we will take the dossier to the Central Jakarta District Court today as it has been completed," KPK deputy chairman Laode Muhammad Syarif told reporters on Wednesday, referring to the location of the Jakarta Corruption Court.

Submitting Setya's case to the court is a step forward in the KPK's attempt to prosecute the senior politician, who has built a reputation as a "teflon" politician for his ability to escape prosecution despite being implicated in a

KPK submits Setya's case to court

Formal charges in court will invalidate Setya's pre-trial motion attempt

number of graft cases.

According to Criminal Code Procedures, a formal accusation against a suspect in court, or an indictment, would invalidate any legal attempt to overturn the suspect's status.

The dossier was submitted only hours after the antigraft body confirmed on Tuesday evening that investigators had completed the case file on the graft suspect in the e-ID case, which caused Rp 2.3 trillion (US\$170 million) in state losses.

The antigraft body did not have to wait long as investigators handed over the suspect and evidence to KPK prosecutors after submitting the dossier.

"The dossier had been completed as of last night, but we are giving the opportunity for the suspect to be accompanied by his lawyers," KPK spokesman Febri

Diansyah told *The Jakarta Post*.

Setya's lawyers, Fredrich Yunadi and Otto Hasibuan, arrived at the KPK in Jakarta on Wednesday morning to accompany their client at the handover. They were accompanied by two other lawyers, namely Firman Wijaya and Maqdir Ismail, who have joined the team of lawyers representing Setya.

"I joined the team around two weeks ago because of a request from Pak Setya Novanto," Maqdir said upon leaving the KPK.

The KPK eventually submitted the case to the Corruption Court after weeks of mounting pressure from the public and activists, who called for the antigraft body to submit the case against Setya to the Corruption Court.

Setya won his first pre-trial motion in late September on the KPK's decision to name him a suspect. The KPK renamed Setya a suspect on Nov. 10.

Last Thursday, the sole judge at the South Jakarta District Court adjourned the first hearing of the pre-trial motion until Dec. 7, because of the absence of KPK representatives at the hearing.

The KPK, however, stated that they would not back down from the pre-trial courtroom as Laode said the antigraft body would be ready to face anything decided by the court.

KPK's readiness to face hearings both at the pre-trial and Corruption Court was echoed by Febri, who asserted that "the antigraft body's legal team will come tomorrow [Thursday]."

Should the KPK be present at the first hearing on Thursday, the pre-trial will proceed accordingly until sole presiding judge Kusno issues a ruling whether to accept or reject the motion next week.

Supreme Court spokesperson Abdullah explained, however, that the first hearing of the case at the Central Jakarta District Court should be held soon after the court received the case.

"Upon receiving the case, the head of the court will immediately appoint the judges who will handle the case and give them the dossier. He or she will also schedule the first hearing that should be between three to seven days after receiving the case," Abdullah told the *Post*.

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J. Post

TRANSPORTATION

Soekarno-Hatta to see massive expansion

Farida Susanty

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

State airport operator PT Angkasa Pura (AP) II has major expansion plans for the next five years, including an upgrade for Indonesia's main gateway, Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Tangerang, Banten.

AP II revealed that the investment would amount to a staggering Rp 94.9 trillion (US\$6.6 billion) until 2023 to anticipate soaring aviation business across the archipelago. The majority of the investment will go to Soekarno-Hatta with the remainder for airports in Sumatra.

The investment in Soekarno-Hatta will mostly be in the construction of a fourth terminal and third runway, the revitalization of Terminals 1 and 2, infrastructure to increase flight traffic and expansion of the taxiway.

The construction of the fourth terminal is expected to be completed by 2022 while the revitalization of Terminals 1 and 2 is slated to be finished in 2020. The company will start construction of the third runway by the third quarter of 2018, and it is expected to be completed in 18 months.

"We will plan for the expansion in 2018 and then we'll report it to the Transportation Ministry for approval," AP II president director Muhammad Awaluddin said recently. "Soekarno-Hatta will get the biggest investment."

For the runway, the company is still procuring the required 216 hectares of land. "So if by the end of the third quarter of 2018 we already have procured 50 to 60 percent of the land, we will start construction," Awaluddin added.

The expansion is expected to cater to booming passenger traffic over the next five years, allowing Soekarno-Hatta to handle 114 aircraft movements per hour, up from just around 80 aircraft movements per hour today.

Awaluddin added that the development was urgent in order to eliminate passenger backlogs caused by the airport's limited capacity.

The airport this year is expected to handle 60 million passengers, and 100 million by 2021. Meanwhile, the airport's capacity will be only 43 million passengers until next year.

AP II has projected that the revitalization of the existing terminals, the construction of the fourth terminal and the new runway can expand the airport's capacity to 100 million passengers in 2022.

Indonesia has seen double-digit growth in airline passenger numbers in the past decade, as more people have been able to afford to fly amid a boom in budget airlines. From January to September, the number of domestic air passengers grew by 11.36 percent to 66 million compared to the same period last year, according to the Central Statistics Agency (BPS). International passengers also increased by 14.47 percent to 12.5 million.

Tourism development is cited as one of the main drivers of the growth, with the government aiming to welcome 20 million foreign visitors by 2019.

Aside from Soekarno-Hatta, AP II is also committed to expanding its other major airport, Kualanamu International Airport in North Sumatra, which will serve as an alternative to Soekarno-Hatta.

AP II will spend Rp 12 trillion next year on airport expansion.

"We will use a combination of internal cash reserves and bank loans to finance the expansion," said AP II finance director Andra Y. Agussalam.

State-Owned Enterprises Minister Rini Soemarno said air connectivity needed to be improved. "Cargo can be transported by sea, but the majority of our people with sufficient income need to travel by air. We need to think about how to immediately develop our airports," she said.

Japan-backed project at crossroads

Farida Susanty

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

The government continues to struggle to decide on a design and cost for the revitalization for the railway connecting Jakarta and Surabaya, East Java, due to a mismatch between budget expectations and estimations in studies.

The mismatch will delay the project past the initial target to determine a design by November.

Transportation Minister Budi Karya Sumadi said the proposed project cost was based on studies by two agencies — one done by the Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT) and the other by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) — were still deemed too costly.

The government previously stated that it expected the project's cost to reach around Rp 60 trillion (US\$4.4 billion). However, a study done by the BPPT showed that costs might hit the Rp 80 trillion mark.

JICA has also proposed the revitalization cost to reach Rp 99 trillion.

"If there is a price of Rp 100 trillion, should I just agree to it? Of course not — I want the cost to be as low as possible with the right kind of technology," Budi said on Wednesday.

He added that the high costs proposed by both parties was due to a proposal to construct a new track beside the existing one, as well as a slab track structure, where the railway track would be mounted on rigid concrete.

Such a structure is typically used for modern high-speed rail and light rail systems.

The government will have another discussion on the issue in Yogyakarta on Thursday, and will invite experts from South Korea and Germany to weigh in on the project's design and cost.

Even so, Budi said the government would not insist on using the existing track, especially if it would disrupt the existing railway operations.

The deadline to determine the project's design has been pushed back to January at the latest. Consequently, the start of construction might also be delayed. The

BPPT and JICA proposals more than govt estimation of Rp 60 trillion

Deadline to determine design and cost of Jakarta-Surabaya railway pushed to January

train was previously estimated to start operating in 2020.

"We can also take care of the level-grade crossings in the meantime," Budi said.

The government previously stated that the revitalization of the existing track would have a lot of consequences, including the eradication of almost 1,000 level-grade railway crossings. Moreover, it would not be able to reach maximum speed due to more than 100 turns in the existing tracks.

Three possible designs have been put on the table for the revitalization of the Jakarta-Surabaya railway: a fully conventional track with hundreds of level crossings, a partially elevated track to avoid level crossings or a high-speed, fully elevated track. The high-speed design was included as an option due to the long distance between the two cities at more than 700 kilometers.

The trains will run at around 150 km per hour, cutting the duration of the trip between Jakarta and Surabaya to five and a half hours from the current 12 hours.

The BPPT has predicted that 12.43 percent of airline passengers between the two cities, standing at around 8.04 million last year, will shift to the trains.

BPPT transportation technology system and facilities center director Rizqon Fajar said there remains a lot of factors that still need to be agreed on, including the cost to sterilize the level-grade railway crossings, track technology, as well as structure and land procurement.

Meanwhile, the Japanese Embassy's deputy chief of mission, Kozo Honsei, confirmed that JICA and the BPPT were still discussing the issue.

"We have explained our calculations but we were ordered to scrutinize our proposal. We will try our best," he said.

FUEL DISTRIBUTION

Pertamina to grow downstream sector

Viriya P. Singgih

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

State-owned energy giant Pertamina has allocated US\$700 million to strengthen its downstream business next year, including to develop refrigerated liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) storage tanks, fuel terminals and jetties to support fuel distribution nationwide.

Within the first nine months of 2017, Pertamina saw its fuel sales climb by 4.5 percent year-on-year (yoy) to 49.79 million kiloliters from its 6,300 gas stations across the country. Its gas sales have also increased by 10.57 percent yoy to 585.95 trillion British thermal units (Tbtu).

The government has also ordered Pertamina to strengthen its presence in remote regions to support President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's flagship one fuel-price program, which aims to ensure that fuel prices are uniform in all corners of the archipelago.

Under the program, Pertamina

plans to establish fuel distribution agents in 150 remote locations by 2019 with a total investment of around Rp 3.8 trillion, 34 of which have been developed as of today.

The \$700 million investment is expected to help Pertamina expand the capacity of its existing downstream facilities to cope with growing fuel demand in years to come.

"Our sales are growing from one day to the next, but our facilities are not. For instance, we need to use bigger vessels to transport our fuel more efficiently. In order to do so, we have to expand the capacity of our jetties and fuel terminals as well," Pertamina's senior vice president for fuel marketing and distribution Gigih Wahyu Hari Irianto said recently.

At present, Gigih said Pertamina had often been forced to pay demurrage because of failures to discharge its vessels from some ports within the agreed time. The company was unable to load the

vessels at its own jetties because of the limited capacity, he added.

"That's why we have allocated \$700 million next year, to upgrade our jetties, LPG storage tanks and fuel terminals," he said.

About one-third of the figure will be used to develop gas infrastructure, including two refrigerated LPG storage tanks in West Java and East Java, each with a capacity of 60,000 metric tons. These two facilities are slated to begin commercial operations in 2019.

Next year, the firm also plans to build several new fuel terminals, including three in Jambi, West Kalimantan and East Kalimantan with a capacity of 100,000 kiloliters each and another one in West Java with a capacity of 40,000 kiloliters. Pertamina will also build smaller ones in locations like Sorong, Papua, with capacities of 10,000 kiloliters.

The expansion is part of Pertamina's efforts to increase its operational fuel reserves to 30 days from the current 22 days. The last

time there was enough fuel to last 30 days was more than 10 years ago.

Meanwhile, the development of the new fuel depot in Sukabumi is expected to ease the burden on the overloaded Plumpang terminal in North Jakarta.

The Plumpang facility is currently Indonesia's biggest fuel terminal. As of March, it supplied fuel for 876 gas stations across the Greater Jakarta area, as well as Sukabumi and Puncak in West Java, with an average distribution volume of 14,250 kiloliters per day, or more than 20 percent of national fuel consumption.

"Fuel distribution can't rely on just one spot [as with Plumpang]," Pertamina spokesman Adiatma Sardjito said previously.

Between January and September, Pertamina's revenues climbed by 17.8 percent year-on-year to \$31.38 billion. Nonetheless, its net income fell by 29.7 percent to \$1.99 billion, driven by a 27 percent increase in its cost of goods sold and operating expenses.

Radicalism, weaponry upgrades Hadi's priorities

Nurul Fitri Ramadhani and Marguerite Afra Sapiie
THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

Without even the slightest opposition, the House of Representatives approved on Wednesday the nomination of Air Chief Marshal Hadi Tjahjanto as the next Indonesian Military (TNI) commander, replacing Gen. Gatot Nurmantyo who will step down three months prior to his retirement.

House Commission I, which oversees defense, intelligence and foreign affairs, moved to accept President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's nomination of Hadi after an hours-long closed-door screening. The decision was met with applause by Gatot and a number of military officers who attended the confirmation hearing.

"Commission I has accepted Hadi as the next TNI chief. We consider Hadi as having a good track record and being fully capable of leading the military. He has also fulfilled all the requirements to become the TNI commander," Commission I chairman Abdul Kharis Almasyhari said.

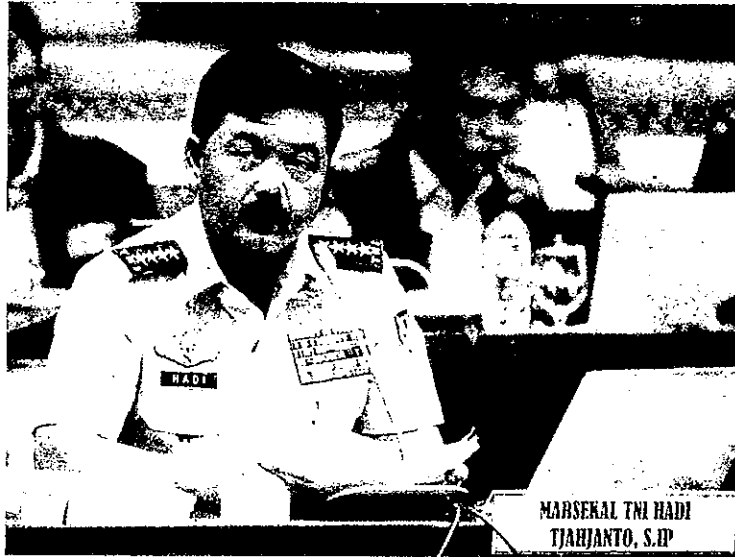
The House also approved Jokowi's proposal to honorably discharge Gatot.

"We appreciate the dedication and professionalism. Gatot brought to his role as TNI chief," Abdul said.

The House will read out the approval during a plenary meeting slated for Thursday while Hadi's inauguration is expected to take place on Friday.

The 53-year-old Hadi, who was sworn in as Air Force chief of staff almost a year ago, will head the TNI until his retirement in 2020.

During his presentation before the legislators, Hadi pledged to modernize TNI's weaponry to help boost the force's



JP/Wendra Ajistyatama

Scrutinized: Air Chief Marshal Hadi Tjahjanto, the candidate put forward by President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo to replace Gatot Nurmantyo as military chief, undergoes a confirmation hearing at the House of Representatives Commission I in Jakarta on Wednesday.

Hadi approved without opposition

Conveys concerns about social media

professionalism.

"The TNI needs a transformation to become a more modern and professional defense institution, equipped with a modern defense system, so we can perform our duties, as mandated under the Constitution, properly," Hadi said.

Hadi's track record is not without a stain. Back in 2015, while serving as the commander of the Abdurrahman Saleh Air Base in Malang, East Java, Hadi lost a Hercules aircraft from his squadron after it crashed into a residential area in Medan, North Sumatra, killing 120 people.

The Air Force has also been plagued in the past five years by

hardware malfunctions, corruption and discipline issues. The latest involved the smuggling of some 75 bottles of vodka in one of the force's cargo aircraft for delivery to Papua.

However, no lawmakers brought up the issues with Hadi during the confirmation hearing.

Hadi, who became close to Jokowi while the later was serving as the mayor of Surakarta in Central Java, emphasized during the hearing his concerns about the threat posed by terrorism and radicalism, which has spread through social media, and insisted that a policy be implemented to quash the danger.

"The spread of hoaxes via social media is worrying as it could lead to instability and the outbreak of conflicts," Hadi said.

Commission I deputy chairman Asril Hamzah Tanjung of the Gerindra Party said Hadi had pledged that he would maintain

the TNI's neutrality, particularly as several high-level military officers had decided to retire early so as to run in the country's simultaneous regional elections next year.

Asril also highlighted the 2019 simultaneous legislative and presidential elections during which Hadi was also expected to maintain neutrality.

The House also used the occasion to criticize Gatot's decision to rotate the positions of 85 high-ranking officers on Monday, a move that raised suspicions he was seeking to put "his people" in strategic command positions before Hadi took charge.

"There should be no rotations before an evaluation by Hadi," Asril said.

Among the notable rotations was the promotion of Sriwijaya Military Commander Maj. Gen. Sudirman to the commander of the Army's Strategic Reserve Forces (Pangkostrad), capable of mobilizing a strike force consisting of more than 40,000 personnel.

Gatot argued that the rotations were issued shortly after the nomination because he had not been informed by the President of his early retirement.

"The President had not informed me of Hadi's nomination, while the rotation plan was already in motion and had been decided on by the board of promotion days earlier," Gatot said.

Al-Araf from the think-tank Imparsial, said ethically it was not proper for a TNI commander to initiate strategic policies during a transition period.

Gatot, he said, should instead prepare for the transition of TNI leadership to Hadi and ensure that the latter could continue the reform process toward becoming a more professional and modern military.

JUSTICE SELECTION

Arief gets second tenure as Constitutional Court justice

**Nurul Fitri Ramadhani
and Marguerite Afra Sapiie**

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

Despite criticism and controversy over alleged "political horse trading," the House of Representatives has granted Constitutional Court (MK) chief justice Arief Hidayat a second term as a member of the court in the next five years.

Passing a screening with the House's Commission III overseeing legal affairs on Wednesday, Arief, whose current term will end in March next year, will once again serve as one of the nine justices at MK, the final adjudicator of disputes on the interpretation of national laws and election results.

"Commission III has agreed to extend Arief's tenure as a court justice. He has experience as court chief justice and has a proven integrity," its deputy chairman Trimedya Panjaitan of the

Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP-P) said.

A House plenary session slated for Thursday will officially announce such a decision, which was marred by controversy, as claimed not only by activists, but also some factions at the House.

Among 10 House factions, the Gerindra Party was among the harshest critics and rejected Arief's nomination, citing not only Arief's lack of achievement during his time in office, but also alleged irregularities in the vetting process.

The House, instead of hosting a transparent nomination process and with public participation, as mandated by Constitutional Court Law, decided to name Arief the sole candidate behind closed doors.

Gerindra lawmaker Desmon J. Mahesa said some factions had rushed the confirmation hearing due to political lobbying between Arief and Commission III over an

ongoing judicial review petition on the House's inquiry rights.

Any of the MK's future rulings will determine the fate of the House's ongoing inquiry into the performance of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), which critics say is an attempt by lawmakers to weaken the anti-graft body amid its investigation into a massive graft case implicating dozens of politicians.

"We [Gerindra] had demanded a transparent recruitment, but they pushed for what they wanted. Let the public judge whether the decision is political or not," Desmon said.

At first, two other factions — the Prosperous Justice Party [PKS] and the Democratic Party [PD] — seemed reluctant to extend Arief's tenure as they expected a new face for the court. But they eventually decided to support Arief following a closed-door meeting between him and Commission III.

Arsul Sani of the United Development Party (PPP) confirmed the meeting, but denied there was any political negotiation. "Arief only said he was willing to continue his term at the court," Arsul said.

The court's ethics council, meanwhile, is set to probe the alleged political negotiation, with council member Salahuddin Wahid saying it would summon Arief on Thursday to seek clarification.

Some civil society groups, including the Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW), have filed a report on Arief's alleged ethical breach.

"The [future] decision of the ethics council could affect the House's decision on whether [Arief's tenure] will be extended or not," Salahuddin said.

Arief denied all of the allegations, saying, "No, there was no such lobbying. The council knew that I was attending this screening. I simply followed the procedure."

Outbreak threatens Asiad

Gemma Holliani Cahya
THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

The government is set to hold a massive vaccination campaign in regions hit by a diphtheria outbreak — particularly in densely populated areas such as Jakarta, Banten and West Java — amid concerns of rising anti-vaccine sentiment in the country.

Health officials said they were racing against time to contain the spread of the disease in 12 regencies in three provinces in the northwestern part of Java Island, as Jakarta will host the Asian Games next year.

“We’re prioritizing these three first because they have high population densities and because this is also part of the Asian Games preparations,” Health Ministry disease control director general Muhammad Subuh told reporters on Wednesday.

The official made the statement following a meeting with local health officials to discuss ways to control the outbreak, which has been categorized as an “extraordinary event.”

Since January 593 people have been infected with the disease, with 32 fatalities, in 95 regencies and cities across 20 provinces, according to the Health Ministry.

The ministry has decided to hold the first outbreak response immunization (ORI) in the Greater Jakarta area next Monday. It is expected that those being vac-

Vaccination program launched in Greater Jakarta ahead of Asian Games

Health official calls for stern measures against antivaccine holdouts

inated will be able to complete the vaccination stages in July, a month before the regional sporting event starts.

Everyone aged between 1 and 19 years is obliged to receive the vaccination, which will be given three times over eight months to complete the immunization. For Jakarta, West Java and Banten the ORI will be held on Dec. 11, Jan. 11 and July 11.

Officials said they were aware that they would still face resistance from people who refused to let their children be vaccinated for a variety of reasons, including the belief that it was *haram*, in contravention of Islamic teachings.

The coordinator of surveillance and immunization at Banten’s Health Agency, Rostina Epid, said during Wednesday’s meeting that even after 63 people had been infected with the disease and nine died, there were people who still resisted immunization.

“Even after the outbreak has killed many people they still don’t want to get it,” Rostina said. “I even found an infected patient

that refused to be brought to the hospital because she believed this was God’s destiny and He would heal her.”

Rosita said they had worked together with the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) in Banten to provide information to parents and schools, but 10 percent of *pesantren* (Islamic boarding schools) in Banten had rejected immunization.

While this percentage might seem small, Rostina said these *pesantren* had large numbers of students. For example Daarul Qur’an in Cipondoh has 3,600 students.

Some parents of children at international schools had also opposed the vaccination, citing fears it would endanger their children’s health, Rostina claimed.

She said the local administration should be strict in carrying out the ORI program by asking those who refused to be vaccinated to leave the province.

“The governor must hold a meeting with the regents and mayors and tell residents to leave the province if they don’t want to be vaccinated. That way you could get their attention, and it might be effective,” she said.

A 2013 Health Ministry regulation stipulates that every child has the right to receive immunization but it imposes no sanctions on anyone who prevents them from accessing vaccination and government officials have so

far been reluctant to take stern measures.

“We prefer to use a persuasive approach,” Subuh said.

Indonesian Asian Games Organizing Committee (INASGOC) secretary general Erris Harriyanto has urged the government to resolve the diphtheria outbreak immediately before the county hosts the largest sporting event in Asia from Aug. 18 to Sept. 2 2018.

Erris said the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) would check the venues that would be used during

the Olympic and make sure that they were all safe.

“The government must control the outbreak immediately. Every area that will be used for sports activities must be free of any disease, virus and bacteria,” Erris told *The Jakarta Post* on Wednesday.

Jane Supardi, the Health Ministry’s director of surveillance and quarantine, said Palembang in South Sumatra, which will co-host the Asian Games, would conduct the ORI in January 2018.

Regions where outbreak response immunization (ORI) will take place



VACCINES		West Jakarta	North Jakarta	Purwakarta	Karawang	Bekasi	Bekasi city
7-<19 years old	448,824	316,225	203,744	465,591	668,612	534,958	
5-<7 years old	92,575	66,295	35,296	32,976	146,765	102,098	
1-<5 years old	180,803	129,688	71,110	164,520	285,069	199,574	

VACCINES		Depok	Tangerang	Serang	Tangerang city	Serang city	South Tangerang
7-<19 years old	417,023	755,557	352,738	370,719	155,412	300,798	
5-<7 years old	85,238	146,630	55,483	85,120	24,421	59,498	
1-<5 years old	166,574	286,937	118,670	162,670	55,658	118,298	

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Honda, Yamaha to appeal court ruling

JAKARTA: Indonesia's biggest motorbike distributors, PT Astra Honda Motor (AHM) and PT Yamaha Indonesia Motor Manufacturing, said on Tuesday they will appeal a price-fixing ruling after a Jakarta court upheld an earlier verdict by the nation's anti-monopoly agency.

The Indonesian Business Competition Supervisory Commission (KPPU) had said in February that its tribunal ruled that AHM and PT Yamaha Indonesia had agreed to set prices for 110-120 cc automatic scooters. The tribunal set a Rp 25 billion (US\$1.85 million) fine for Yamaha Indonesia and a Rp 22.5 billion fine for AHM.

AHM is a motorbike distributor jointly owned by Indonesian conglomerate PT Astra International and Japan's Honda Motor Co. Ltd. Yamaha Indonesia is part of Japan's Yamaha Group.

Motorbikes are hugely popular in Southeast Asia's biggest economy and their sales are a key indicator of consumption.

Last year, the two companies controlled 97.4 percent of Indonesia's motorbike market. The companies appealed the tribunal's decision in a Jakarta court, but the ruling on Monday upheld the KPPU's decision.

"This ruling is disappointing for us, thus we will continue to seek justice because we reject the accusation by KPPU," Ahmad Muhibbuddin, an AHM spokesman, said in a statement. Muhibbuddin said AHM will file an appeal to the Supreme Court.

A Yamaha Indonesia spokesman also said it would appeal but did not provide details. — Reuters