

# VAN ZORGE REPORT ON INDONESIA

COMMENTARY & ANALYSIS ON INDONESIAN POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

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## In this issue...

of the *Van Zorge Report on Indonesia*, we take a look at the country's aviation industry, which is being heavily scrutinised in the wake of the January Adam Air crash. The *Report* identifies numerous conflicts of interest, an industry beset by weak enforcement, and, more specifically, an industry in need of a serious overhaul.

In the **From the Editor** section, Editor in Chief James Van Zorge discusses some of the potential candidates for the 2009 presidential election and questions their electability. In the end, he recommends that the president should be focusing more on the needs of Indonesians and not on opposition political parties who he seems to acquiesce to at times for fear he will lose their support come 2009.

With the Sidoarjo mud disaster continuing to garner serious news coverage, we present a January question and answer session between Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare Aburizal Bakrie and members of the Jakarta Foreign Correspondents Club. The minister new he would be facing a tough crowd and indeed found himself in the hot seat.

Due to the high level of responses we received from the presidential popularity poll in the last issue, our **Research Report** looks at a poll from LSI that also gauges SBY's current level of support.

**Intelligence** takes a look at the gubernatorial candidate being fronted by the PKS for the upcoming Jakarta governor race. It also looks at the government's reasoning for allegedly not seeking the death penalty for a group of Muslim hardliners being tried for murders committed in Sulawesi.

**In Brief** analyses a new political party that Gen. (ret.) Wiranto recently launched, while also providing an update on the Avian Flu situation. Finally, in this section we look at an ongoing land dispute outside of Bogor between members of the air force and local villagers.

We hope that you find this issue useful and of interest to yourself and your colleagues. Please feel free to contact us here at the *Report* if you have any comments or suggestions; we are genuinely grateful for your feedback.

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