

VAN ZORGE REPORT

ON INDONESIA

Behind the Headlines

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INTELLIGENCE

Sjamssoeddin is still on the waiting list

- Three-star Army Lt. Gen. Sjafrie Sjamssoeddin, current Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence, had been named as the candidate for Cabinet Secretary, but following a United States decision not to issue him a visa, it is unlikely he will take office.

Three Military Chiefs of Staff are replaced; TNI Chief to follow

- Following the removal of the Chiefs of Staff of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, President Yudhoyono may also replace incumbent Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) Commander Gen. Djoko Santoso in the coming months.

SPECIAL FEATURE

The ‘judicial mafia’ and judicial reform in Indonesia

- Local, national, and international organizations and civil society have long labelled the Indonesian judiciary as one the weakest and most corrupt elements in Indonesia. The Reformasi era has so far seen the establishment of promising institutions including the Judicial Commission, the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), the Corruption Crimes Court, and the Constitutional Court. However, vested interests plague the operations of these institutions and the Indonesian judiciary remains unreformed and highly susceptible to economic and political pressures.

INTERVIEW

Sebastian Pompe

- The Indonesian judiciary has become increasingly independent through institutional reform such as the ‘one- roof system’ which is designed to allow the judiciary to work without government interference. A number of obstacles remain including the broad area of internal operations, improving service delivery, and unabated corruption in the courts. The political will to reform the judiciary is not sufficient. Now more than ever, international donors and Indonesian civil society are critical to providing guidance to reform, and the pressure to see it through.

PRESENTATION

Kevin Evans on the new House of Representatives

- The large turnover in the House (70 percent) will make it difficult to hold experienced players in the government to account. The Constitutional Court’s decision last year to move to an open list system did not mean fewer women were elected in the legislative elections (as many feared), but the decision did benefit local candidates. It also represents a move toward greater accountability as representatives will need to make sure their electorate approves of the job they are doing. There remains, however, a ‘democratic deficit’ as the Regional Representative Council (DPD) is an elected body without authority. Finally, the current dispute between the KPK and the National Police highlights the need to move from anti-corruption as only law enforcement to creating a system wherein it is possible to work and be successful without engaging in corruption.



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