

VAN ZORGE REPORT

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Behind the Headlines

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amien Rais makes strategic exit from PAN In the wake of the House vote on the Bank Century case, Amien Rais left PAN (National Mandate Party), which sided with President Yudhoyono's Democrat Party, to focus on the mass Islamic social organization, Muhammadiyah. Insiders point to this as a strategic move that will allow him to maintain the trust of members of PAN, while building influence in Muhammadiyah. • Century bargaining continues: AGO vs. KPK Though the KPK is already investigating the money trail of the Bank Century case, Yudhoyono's camp continues to press for an investigation by the AGO and the national police. Meanwhile, Golkar politicians argue that the executive would be more likely to meddle in investigations conducted by the AGO and national police. • Two senior members of HMI behind widespread protests against the police A source told the <i>Report</i> that the Islamic Student Association's (HMI) widespread protests against the police were not only a result of student solidarity. "Two senior members of HMI have benefited from the situation by continuing to mobilize junior members for the sake of their own political interests," said the source, referring to two senior members of HMI, Akbar Tandjung of Golkar and Fuad Bawazier of Hanura 	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the periphery This week's <i>From the periphery</i> covers two companies looking to expand their operations in Papua, the promotion of electronic fund transfers for migrant workers in South Sulawesi, and some cooking of the budget books in Aceh. • The 2010 budget: More of the same? Yes, the 2010 budget is packed with subsidies (13 percent of total spending), but there are no substantial changes from the 2009 budget. Though similar, this year's budget is expected to create quite a stir in the House of Representatives as opposition politicians threaten to boycott any hearing on the budget that embattled Finance Minister Sri Mulyani attends. • NU at a crossroads? Not the first time Promising to retreat from politics is the theme of Nahdatul Ulama's national congress, but NU is too large and too entrenched to extricate itself fully. Other issues include providing computers for their <i>pesantren</i> and establishing universities, creating a formal cadre system, and helping the victims of natural disasters. 	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gita Wirjawan, Chairman of BKPM Newly appointed BKPM Chairman Gita Wirjawan shares his optimistic outlook on investment in Indonesia at the <i>Jakarta Foreign Correspondents Club</i>. He points to Indonesia's macroeconomic stability and natural resources as assets, education and hard infrastructure as areas that need improvement, and the expansion of the one-stop shop at the BKPM as a way of enticing investors. • US-Indonesia cooperation and infrastructure development On the occasion of President Obama's now-delayed visit to Indonesia, the USINDO held a conference on U.S.-Indonesia bilateral relations. Included here are remarks from the infrastructure development seminar which featured Shinta Widjaja Kamdani, Chair of Foreign Investment, KADIN; Stuart Dean, President of GE Southeast Asia; Hadi Soesastro, Senior Fellow at CSIS; and Kevin Thieneman, President of Caterpillar Asia. 	
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