

VAN ZORGE REPORT

ON INDONESIA

Behind the Headlines

VOL.XII No.9 — June 9, 2010

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Too much pork?

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House will OK Nasution's appointment as BI governor

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much pork? Legislators from the Golkar Party are pushing for US\$ 1.6 million in “development funds” for each legislator to use in their districts. While the initiative is not exactly pork barrelling, or vote buying either, it’s definitely fishy. 	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behind the victory of Anas Urbaningrum Anas Urbaningrum won the chairmanship of the Democrat Party in a surprise upset during the party’s national congress in Bandung. Defeating the favoured challengers was not just a matter of grassroots connections, however: The support of President Yudhoyono’s powerful mother-in-law is reported to have played a big role. • House will OK Nasution’s appointment as BI governor After rejecting Yudhoyono’s two previous picks for a governor to head up Bank Indonesia, the House of Representatives appears ready to accept Darmin Nasution as the next head. His nomination is not opposed by the major players and he will likely pass the “fit and proper test” applied by the House. 	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the periphery This issue’s <i>From the Periphery</i> includes stories on security preparations for Papuan provincial elections, business hold-ups in Central Kalimantan, the mayoral election in Samarinda, and forest fire outbreaks in Sumatra. • Mending the patchwork: Government initiatives for infrastructure development The Indonesian government continues to set out ambitious goals for infrastructure investment, and hopes that private investment will be channeled mostly through public private partnerships (PPPs). While recent laws and decrees have improved the outlook, problems like land acquisition will stymie further projects until properly dealt with. 	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of the minds: Unions, business, and government on labour The Executive Network (TEN) recently hosted a panel discussion on labour law and policy featuring speakers from the government, business, unions, and multilateral organizations. The speakers discussed whether the labour law was competitive; how to improve workers’ living standards; and how and when social security reform will take place. • Mr. Monitoring: Pak Kuntoro brings accountability to the government Kuntoro Mangkusubroto is both head of the anti-judicial mafia taskforce and head of the Presidential Delivery Unit (UKP), which monitors the performance of 48 agencies and ministries in the government. At this Jakarta Foreign Correspondents Club talk, he discusses the progress in this newly-created body. 	
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