

VZ-Now

Projection of new Cabinet lineup

Skepticism over the government's better performance through the planned Cabinet reshuffle have been rife; nevertheless, getting to know about the who-to-serve-what would be an interesting reason on why issues about Cabinet reshuffle remain on the highlight.

A Golkar source recently leaked to the report the latest composition of new Cabinet lineup with noted lawyer-cum-Democrat deputy chairman Amir Syamsuddin and businessman Sandiaga Uno are among the new faces. According to the list, Syamsuddin will replace Patrialis Akbar, the incumbent Minister of Justice and Human Rights; meanwhile, Uno is named as head of the office of the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM).

Apart from Uno, another potential candidate who may fill in the post as BKPM head is Emirsyah Satar, who currently serves as President Director of Indonesian flight carrier services, PT Garuda Indonesia. Both Uno and Satar are representatives of the professionals.

President Yudhoyono has recently given a hint that he would "invite" more professional in his new Cabinet lineup. Another candidate with non-political party affiliation is Budi Susilo Supandji, who is projected to be Minister of Public Works, replacing Djoko Kirmanto – also from professional. Supandji currently serves as Governor of National Resilience Institute (Lemhannas) and once served as Director General of Defense Potential at the Ministry of Defense.

Former Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Toisutta is said to replace Freddy Numberi as Minister of Transportation; while incumbent chairman of the National Commission for Placement and Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers (BNP2TKI), Juhur Hidayat, is set to replace Muhaimin Iskandar as Minister of Man Power.

Iskandar is under a hotplate following accusation of corruption in his ministry; nevertheless, Yudhoyono might defend Iskandar in the Cabinet by giving the latter new job as minister of public housing. Iskandar is set to replace Suharso Manoaarfa, whose personal problems were blown up by media within the recent weeks.

Iskandar is also chairman of National Awakening Party (PKB), while Manoarfa is from United Development Party (PPP). A Golkar cadre is said to be in, while the other is to be out. According to the list, Cicip Sharif Sutardjo is proposed to be minister of maritime and fisheries, replacing Fadel Muhammad – who is set to replace Agung Laksono as Coordinating Minister of People's Welfare. Based on the list, there is no new Cabinet post would be offered to Laksono.

Other posts of economic ministers are also believed to be affected during the possible upcoming reshuffle. It is said that Gita Wiryawan has been offered to lead the office of State Minister of State Enterprises (BUMN). He is set to replace Mustafa Abubakar, whose health condition might not enable him to serve his job in total.

The controversial Energy Minister Darwin Zahedy Saleh is reportedly to be out from the Cabinet post. He might be replaced by Karen Agustiawan, the incumbent President Director of Indonesia's oil company, PT Pertamina.

Individual capabilities and personal attitude are major factors that determine the performance of the ministers.

Even though the leaked data of the new Cabinet lineup is yet to be the final composition, seems to be ironic that Yudhoyono defended his ministers whose ministry and/or names are implicated in corruption cases; one of them is Muhaimin Iskandar, while the other is Andi Mallarangeng, incumbent Minister of Sport and Youth. Both Iskandar and Mallarangeng have been summoned by Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) as witnesses.

If Yudhoyono fails to do so, then the upcoming reshuffle will give less to the performance of his administration. Instead, it will only reconfirm the public skepticism: the President is doing political compromise with his adversaries amidst the media blown-up over corruption issues that implicate top cadres of Yudhoyono's Democrat Party.