



## Indonesia Sustainable Development News Digest

### 2025 Issue 14 — 3 July

*The **Indonesia Sustainable Development News Digest** is a biweekly collection of summaries of articles related to conservation, the environment, and sustainability in Indonesia that have appeared in print or online in local, regional, and global English-language media. We welcome comments, suggestions, and corrections. To learn more about us and to access previous editions of the News Digest, please visit our website at [www.starlingresources.com](http://www.starlingresources.com). If you would like to add colleagues or friends to our distribution list or unsubscribe, please contact us at [newsdigest@starlingresources.com](mailto:newsdigest@starlingresources.com).*

---

### CONTENTS

- A. Marine and Fisheries
- B. Forests and Land Use
- C. Biodiversity, Conservation and Protected Areas
- D. Climate Change, Energy and Mining
- E. Pollution, Waste, Water and Disaster
- F. Technology, Investment and Finance
- G. Human Rights, Indigenous People and Gender Equality
  
- I. Government Priority Program
- II. Indonesia in Politics and Geopolitics

---

### A. Marine and Fisheries

#### Protecting the Sea, Prospering Fishermen: The Path to a Sustainable Marine Future

—MB Dewi Pancawati, *Kompas*, 3 July 2025

Commemorating National Maritime Day 2025 on July 2, Indonesia reflects on its maritime identity and the vital role of fishermen in securing a sustainable ocean future. Under the theme “The Role of Fishermen and the Sea for a Sustainable Future,” the observance

highlights the urgent need to improve marine governance and the welfare of coastal communities. Despite possessing 6.4 million km<sup>2</sup> of waters and vast marine economic potential, challenges such as ecosystem destruction, pollution, illegal fishing, and poverty among fishermen persist. The fisheries sector contributed 2.66% to GDP in 2023, and fishery production reached 23.54 million tons. However, 17.74 million coastal residents live in poverty, and the fisheries sub-sector's exchange rate remains below other agriculture sectors. The number of coastal villages utilizing marine tourism and transportation has risen, but equitable development remains elusive. Advocates call for adopting a Blue Economy framework centered on conservation, measured fishing, sustainable aquaculture, and empowering fishermen as ecological stewards—viewing sustainable marine development as both an economic strategy and a moral obligation.

### **Coral Bleaching Threatens Waters in East Java, Three Points Monitored**

—Dahlia Irawati, *Kompas*, 1 July 2025

Coral reefs in East Java are experiencing bleaching due to rising sea temperatures, likely triggered by the El Niño phenomenon, according to [early warnings from The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\) Coral Reef Watch](#). The bleaching, which may spread across much of Indonesia, could peak in June–July 2025, threatening marine ecosystems and coastal resilience. Responding to this, Brawijaya University (UB), in collaboration with the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP), conducted pro bono monitoring at Pasir Putih, Sendang Biru, and Bangsring Beaches. Initial findings confirmed bleaching, though some coral remains recoverable if no further stressors—such as pollution or mass tourism—occur. Coral bleaching disrupts the coral-algae symbiosis, leaving corals pale and functionless, compromising their role as habitats and coastal wave barriers. UB deployed a team of students and faculty for field surveys, engaging local communities to strengthen conservation efforts. UB emphasized the need for academic-community-government collaboration in addressing the effects of climate change and building long-term marine resilience.

### **Expert Reveals Napoleon Fish Threatened by Mining Activities**

—Irsyan Hasyim, *TempoNews*, 1 July 2025

Marine biology expert Mohammad Mukhlis Kamal from IPB University has urged immediate conservation efforts to protect the endangered Napoleon fish (*Cheilinus undulatus*), warning that mining activities in coastal areas are severely threatening its survival. As one of the world's largest coral reef fish, the slow-growing, late-maturing, and hermaphroditic species plays a vital role in maintaining coral reef health by controlling marine invertebrates. However, widespread capture—especially of young and female fish—disrupts reproduction and risks long-term population collapse. Mukhlis emphasized that habitat destruction caused by mining, including sedimentation, pollution, and chemical changes in seawater, threatens the species' food supply and behavior, while also damaging coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangroves. These disruptions endanger not only marine biodiversity but also the livelihoods of coastal communities dependent on ocean resources. He called for the establishment of marine protected areas and tighter fishing regulations, stressing that safeguarding the Napoleon fish is essential to preserving broader marine ecosystem stability.

### **Indonesian islanders lose ground as islets put on sale**

—Maretha Uli, *TheJakartaPost*, 30 June 2025

Islander communities across Indonesia are losing access to land as small islands are increasingly privatized, sparking renewed concerns over land rights following online listings of

Indonesian islets for sale by a Canadian website. At least three properties—two in East Nusa Tenggara (NTT)’s Sumba and one on Seliu Island, Belitung—were recently found for sale, while previous listings included islands in Riau and NTT. Locals in affected areas like Karimunjawa and Pari Island report shrinking living space and loss of livelihood as private companies take over lands once used for fishing, farming, or seaweed cultivation, often without fulfilling promises of compensation. According to KIARA, 237 small islands have been privatized despite legal limits on foreign and corporate ownership. Officials affirmed islands cannot be sold, and ministries are investigating ownership claims and requesting blocks on the sales website. Critics say differing regulatory interpretations and unchecked investments are displacing locals and undermining environmental and economic sustainability, with upcoming government meetings set to review responses to these sales.

### **Defense, maritime ministries sign Lol with Babcock on maritime partnership program**

—Novan Iman Santosa, *TheJakartaPost*, 28 June 2025

Indonesia and the United Kingdom have signed a Letter of Intent to strengthen maritime cooperation, linking maritime defense, security, and food security, as part of a broader Maritime Partnership Program. The agreement, signed aboard the visiting HMS Richmond at Tanjung Priok Port, involves Indonesia’s Defense Ministry, the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Ministry, and British shipbuilder Babcock International. It builds on the existing cooperation for developing two Arrowhead 140 frigates, known as the Red-and-White Frigate, to be built by PT PAL Indonesia. The initiative aims to bolster Indonesia’s naval capabilities while enhancing the fishing fleet to combat illegal fishing and support food independence. The partnership was initiated following a recent meeting between President Prabowo Subianto and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer. British Ambassador Dominic Jermey highlighted its strategic value in securing borders and promoting sustainable fisheries. Babcock’s Mark Goldsack emphasized its socioeconomic potential to uplift coastal communities by transitioning to a steel-based fishing fleet and building local manufacturing skills.

### **Smart Dashboard System for Modern Fisheries Cultivation Development**

—Sonya Hellen Sinombor, *Kompas*, 23 June 2025

Indonesia’s vast marine potential remains underutilized, with aquaculture contributing only 55% of national fishery production despite projections allowing for a 70% increase within a decade through sustainable practices, according to the FAO. To address this gap, Diponegoro University’s Center of Marine Ecology and Biomonitoring has developed the Smart Robotic Multi-level Floating Net Cage (KJAB)-IMTA system, integrating fish, shellfish, and seaweed in a nutrient-recycling aquaculture model. Tested across multiple marine sites, KJAB-IMTA has improved feed efficiency by 15% and reduced nitrogen waste by 40%, while incorporating IoT features like smart feeders, water sensors, and ROVs for real-time monitoring. The system includes a seven-module smart dashboard—ranging from edutourism and smart security to environmental geoportals—aimed at modernizing aquaculture and educating stakeholders. This innovation offers a scalable, low-carbon, and inclusive model that supports economic opportunities for coastal communities while ensuring ecological sustainability. Experts believe this approach can transform aquaculture into a key driver of the blue economy, aligning food security with environmental stewardship.

---

## **B. Forests and Land Use**

## **Indonesian Govt to Improve National Park Standard Procedure Following Mount Rinjani Incident**

—M Faiz Zaki, *TempoNews*, 2 July 2025

Following the fatal fall of Brazilian climber Juliana de Souza Pereira Marins on Mount Rinjani on June 21, Indonesia's Minister of Forestry, Raja Juli Antoni, announced plans to overhaul Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) across all national parks. The government will improve facilities, install safety signage at critical points, add security posts, and integrate technologies like RFID and emergency locator transmitters (ELTs) to enhance emergency response. Climbing route classifications based on danger levels and improved certification for guides and climbers are also in development. In a meeting with Basarnas Chief Air Marshal Mohammad Syafii, both parties agreed to boost search and rescue (SAR) capacities by involving local communities and training porters. A memorandum of understanding was signed to strengthen cooperation in conservation area emergencies. The public is encouraged to take climbing preparation seriously and avoid treating high-risk climbs as trends. Mount Rinjani, with its 3,726-meter elevation and moderate difficulty, is unsuitable for beginners, according to the Indonesian Mountain Guides Association.

## **RI Govt highlights benefits of import deregulation**

—Martha Herlinawati Simanjuntak, *AntaraNews*, 2 July 2025

Indonesia's Forestry Minister Raja Juli Antoni announced that the newly finalized import deregulation policy for forestry products, developed in collaboration with the Trade and Finance Ministries, aims to boost legal certainty, attract investment, and generate employment. Part of the government's broader import reform strategy, the policy eases import restrictions on 10 commodity groups, with forestry products being the largest, covering 441 HS code items such as logs, plywood, and wooden crates. While importers are no longer required to obtain Import Approval (PI) from the Forestry Ministry, they must still secure an import declaration to ensure legality and traceability, preventing the exploitation of domestic forests. Trade Minister Budi Santoso emphasized that most imported forestry items serve as industrial raw materials, making regulatory simplification essential. The move is expected to enhance Indonesia's global competitiveness while maintaining safeguards for forest sustainability through continued legal oversight.

## **Forest Fires Triggering Haze Crisis**

—Pradipta Pandu Mustika, *Kompas*, 28 June 2025

Indonesia has faced recurring large-scale forest and land fires (karhutla) since at least 1967, with severe incidents in 1997–1998, 2015, and 2019 causing transboundary haze that disrupted health and mobility in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore. The 1997–1998 fires burned 10 million hectares, incurring Rp 711 trillion in losses and prompting ASEAN to adopt the 2002 Transboundary Haze Pollution Agreement. In 2015, fires scorched 2.6 million hectares, triggered over 500,000 respiratory cases, and forced school closures and emergency declarations in six provinces. President Joko Widodo deployed military and firefighting teams, established the Peat Restoration Agency, and enforced a moratorium on new peatland permits. However, in 2019, fires burned 1.6 million hectares, emitting over 360 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, with 99% of fires reportedly caused by human activity—primarily in palm oil and timber concessions. More than 50 corporations were investigated. Despite mitigation efforts, structural governance issues and corporate impunity remain key barriers to preventing Indonesia's annual haze crisis and its cross-border impacts.

## High Floods Hit North Buton, Forest Clearing Caused

—Saiful Rijal Yunus, *Kompas*, 27 June 2025

Severe flooding up to 1.5 meters has submerged six villages in North Buton, Southeast Sulawesi, affecting over 1,000 residents and damaging dozens of hectares of rice fields. The floods, which began two days prior and worsened due to heavy rainfall coinciding with high tides, are attributed to widespread deforestation driven by patchouli cultivation and other plantation activities. Rantegola Village saw the worst impact, with 150 families affected and one home destroyed. According to the regional disaster agency (BPBD), although waters have started to recede, continuous rainfall poses ongoing risks. The Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) forecasts more moderate to heavy rain across the region, as Southeast Sulawesi enters its rainy season peak. Environmental degradation has made lowland areas increasingly vulnerable, with forests cleared for crops like patchouli and oil palm, and wood consumed daily for distillation processes. Locals acknowledge that deforestation, driven by economic incentives, has intensified flooding in areas historically prone to such disasters, prompting calls for more sustainable land management.

## Forestry Ministry Closes Illegal Businesses in Anai Valley That Reopened After Flash Floods

—Yola Sastra, *Kompas*, 25 June 2025

The Ministry of Forestry, supported by a joint team of government and security agencies, shut down nine unlicensed businesses—including bathing spots, restaurants, and homestays—in the Megamendung Nature Tourism Park (TWA) near Lembah Anai, Tanah Datar, West Sumatra, on June 25, 2025. The closures were prompted by safety concerns following last year's deadly flash flood (*galodo*) and the fact that the businesses operated without permits in a forest area prone to disasters. The enforcement faced opposition from local customary leaders, who claim the land is ancestral and have managed the area for over two decades. An agreement was reached to seal off the sites with warning signs and tape without demolishing structures pending further discussions. Authorities plan to restore TWA Megamendung's status to that of a strict nature reserve to prevent future risks. The ministry also urged local communities to seek legal social forestry permits for sustainable use. Ongoing disputes include land rights issues involving certified plots within the protected zone, some dating back to the Dutch colonial period.

---

## C. Biodiversity, Conservation and Protected Area

### Turtle Shell Accessories Sold in Balikpapan

—Sucipto, *Kompas*, 30 June 2025

The Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) uncovered illegal sales of accessories made from protected turtle and fish parts during a surprise inspection at Inpres Kebun Sayur Market, Balikpapan, on June 20, 2025. At least seven shops were found selling 43 turtle shell bracelets, 24 rings, a preserved turtle, and other items made from dugongs, corals, and shark bones—violating national conservation and fisheries laws. The majority of products originated from endangered species such as green, olive ridley, and critically endangered hawksbill turtles, all of which are protected under Indonesian law and listed by the IUCN. Traders admitted to ignorance about the legal status of such materials, prompting the KKP to focus on

socialization efforts, including educational posters and awareness campaigns. Authorities seized the illegal items and continue tracing product sources, likely from East Kalimantan. Experts warn that turtle exploitation threatens marine ecosystems, as turtles help regulate jellyfish and maintain healthy coral reefs vital for fish habitats and coastal livelihoods. Conservation efforts are underway amid a declining turtle population.

### **UGM Researchers Discover 7 New Freshwater Lobster Species in West Papua**

—Zulkifli Ramadhani, *TempoNews*, 30 June 2025

Researchers from Gadjah Mada University (UGM), in collaboration with German scientists, have discovered seven new species of freshwater lobster in West Papua, highlighting the region's status as a global biodiversity hotspot. Published in the journal *Arthropoda*, the study identified *Cherax veritas*, *C. arguni*, *C. kaimana*, *C. nigli*, *C. bomberai*, *C. farhadii*, and *C. doberai* from remote freshwater ecosystems in Misool, Kaimana, Fakfak, and Bintuni Bay. Using an integrative method combining morphology and DNA analysis (mitochondrial genes 16S and COI), the team confirmed these as distinct species within the northern lineage of *Cherax*, raising the genus total to 35 species. Lead researcher Rury Eprilurahman noted that many of these lobsters had already entered the global ornamental trade under names like "Red Cheek" and "Peacock," indicating the potential of ethical trade to spark scientific inquiry. The findings underscore the urgency of habitat protection and informed conservation policy amid growing environmental pressures. UGM affirmed its commitment to local-rooted science for sustainable biodiversity stewardship.

### **From Frog Researcher to Radiation Expert Confirmed as Research Professor**

—Ichwan Susanto, *Kompas*, 25 June 2025

The National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) has appointed five new research professors from diverse scientific fields, who delivered inaugural orations at Jakarta's BJ Habibie Building on June 25, 2025. The honorees are Amir Hamidy (herpetology), Hadi Supratikta (science and technology policy), Andi Parenrengi (genetics and fish biotechnology), Irawan Sugoro (radiation microbiology), and Roni Maryana (biomass conversion technology). BRIN Deputy Head Amarulla Octavian emphasized that the title represents both the peak of academic achievement and a responsibility to mentor, uphold integrity, and drive innovation. Their research covered topics ranging from taxonomy-based conservation, digital governance of science policy, RNAi technology in aquaculture, nuclear applications in microbiology, to biomass innovation for clean energy. BRIN's continued recognition of research excellence reflects its long-standing tradition of fostering a professional and impactful scientific community. With this addition, BRIN reinforces its vision of building a competitive, collaborative, and globally engaged research ecosystem to advance science and national development.

### **500 Bird Species Will Be Extinct in 100 Years**

—Ahmad Arif, *Kompas*, 25 June 2025

More than 500 bird species could go extinct within the next 100 years due to climate change and habitat loss, according to a [study](#) published in *Nature Ecology & Evolution* on June 24. Researchers from the University of Reading, analyzing nearly 10,000 bird species via IUCN Red List data, found extinction risks tripled compared to all bird extinctions since 1500. Even if all human-driven threats were halted, around 250 species would still face extinction, necessitating targeted recovery programs like captive breeding and habitat restoration. Large-bodied birds are more vulnerable to hunting and climate change, while wide-winged birds are most affected by habitat loss. The study emphasizes prioritizing conservation for functionally



unique species—such as the Sulu hornbill, Andean condor, and Madagascar serpent eagle—as they contribute disproportionately to ecosystem health and human services. Researchers warn that simply stopping habitat destruction is insufficient; immediate, specialized conservation action is needed to prevent unprecedented losses in global avian biodiversity and maintain ecological functions.

### **Camera traps and Indigenous knowledge help confirm presence of ‘lost’ echidna species**

—Kristine Sabillo, *Mongabay*, 19 June 2025

A rare species once thought lost, Attenborough’s long-beaked echidna (*Zaglossus attenboroughi*), has been rediscovered in Cyclops Mountains, as confirmed by a new study following a [2023 Mongabay report](#). Using camera traps deployed from 2022–2023, researchers captured 110 images and 15 videos of the elusive, critically endangered egg-laying mammal—last officially documented in 1961. This breakthrough was made possible through collaboration with Indigenous communities, particularly the Yongsu Sapari and Yongsu Dosoyo, who provided sacred access and ecological knowledge. The footage suggests the echidna is breeding, offering hope for its survival. The study emphasizes that its continued existence likely owes much to sustainable Indigenous land practices, unlike in Papua New Guinea’s Oenake Mountains, where the species was hunted to extinction. Researchers urge greater recognition of Indigenous knowledge as central to conservation strategies and call for increased support for biodiversity research in the underfunded Indonesian half of New Guinea. Local NGO YAPPENDA and Oxford University scientists are continuing fieldwork to safeguard the species and its habitat.

### **Rare bird sightings highlight Jakarta Naturalist Walk exploration on urban biodiversity**

—Nur Janti, *TheJakartaPost*, 18 June 2025

Dozens of nature enthusiasts joined the Jakarta Naturalist Walk at Taman Mini Indonesia Indah (TMII) in late May to explore the capital’s hidden biodiversity, guided by the Jakarta Birdwatcher’s Society and nature groups like Kupu Kita and Generasi Biologi. The quarterly event, now in its second edition, aims to raise awareness of urban conservation by involving students, researchers, and families in identifying birds, animals, and native plants. Participants spotted species such as the red-breasted parakeet, Javan flowerpecker, kingfishers, and the Asian common toad, while learning about habitat protection. Experts like primate biologist Tatang Mitra Setia emphasized the importance of field-based education for ecological understanding. Jakarta, home to nearly 200 bird species including 22 protected and seven near-threatened, remains vulnerable to illegal wildlife trade and habitat loss. Despite hosting over 50 biodiversity hotspots, green space in the city remains critically low at just 6.48 percent—well below the legally mandated 30 percent—posing a serious threat to wildlife and environmental sustainability.

---

## **D. Climate Change, Energy and Mining**

### **From Enggano to Papua, Hope for Energy Security Should Not Be Just a Promise**

—Dionisius Reynaldo Triwibowo, *Kompas*, 2 July 2025

President Prabowo Subianto inaugurated renewable energy power plants in 15 provinces and announced increased oil production in the Cepu Block, East Java, via video conference on

June 26, 2025, after weather forced him to cancel an in-person visit. The ceremony marked a major step in Indonesia's push for energy resilience, with new projects including geothermal and solar power plants expected to benefit 1,600 unelectrified villages. Minister Bahlil Lahadalia reported a total 379.7 MW capacity and Rp 25 trillion investment value. Local leaders, including from Mappi (South Papua) and Enggano Island (Bengkulu), highlighted persistent electricity shortages, prompting Prabowo to reaffirm his commitment to electrify all villages within four years and establish Merah Putih cooperatives nationwide. The initiatives aim to boost rural development and energy equity. Experts stressed that state-owned enterprises (BUMN) remain the backbone of energy security and called for institutional and fiscal reforms to reduce dependency on volatile sectors and resolve overlapping regulations that hinder investment and service delivery.

### **Prabowo launches Rp 25t geothermal, solar power plants in 15 provinces**

—Ni Made Tasyarani, *TheJakartaPost*, 27 June 2025

President Prabowo Subianto virtually inaugurated 50 renewable power plants and broke ground on five more across 15 provinces on Thursday, with total investments reaching Rp 25 trillion (US\$1.5 billion) and a combined capacity of 379.7 MW. The main ceremony was held at the Ijen geothermal plant in East Java, while other events took place simultaneously nationwide. Most of the investment focused on geothermal energy, with three plants— Ijen, Sorik Marapi, and Salak Binary—now operational, and five others starting construction this year. Additionally, 47 solar power plants totaling 27.8 MW were launched to electrify 47 villages across 11 provinces. Energy Minister Bahlil Lahadalia emphasized that 5,600 villages still lack electricity, and the government aims to close this gap within the next 5–10 years. The event also marked an expansion of the Cepu oil block to boost output by 30,000 barrels per day. According to PLN's 2025–2034 plan, Indonesia targets 34.3% renewables by 2034, with 42.6 GW of new renewable capacity led by solar, hydro, wind, and geothermal sources.

### **War, Climate and Ecocide**

—Ahmad Arif, *Kompas*, 24 June 2025

War not only causes human casualties but also leaves deep, lasting wounds on the environment, with military activities contributing 5.5% of global carbon emissions—more than all African countries combined, according to a [2022 study](#). The destruction of infrastructure, bombings, and toxic remnants like depleted uranium lead to air, water, and soil contamination, as seen in Fallujah, Iraq, and most recently in Gaza. [A study shared exclusively](#) with *The Guardian* reported that rebuilding Gaza alone could emit 31 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e—surpassing Costa Rica's and Estonia's combined 2023 emissions. In Gaza, olive groves, livestock, and water sources have been devastated, underscoring that war is also ecocide. Activist Greta Thunberg's assertion that “there is no climate justice on occupied land” highlights how violence, colonization, and environmental collapse are interconnected. Her stance has drawn criticism, yet it reinforces a crucial truth: climate justice is inseparable from political and social justice. Without peace, clean air, water, and land remain inaccessible to many, and the planet's recovery will remain out of reach.

### **Indonesia weather agency revises outlook, shorter dry season in 2025**

—Team, *Reuters*, 23 June 2025

Indonesia's dry season is expected to be shorter than previously forecast due to higher-than-normal rainfall, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) announced over the weekend. The anomaly, which has delayed the onset of the dry season in most areas—with only 19% of the archipelago affected as of early June—is projected to benefit rice production



by ensuring continued water supply. As a result, rice output from January to July 2025 is estimated to rise 14.93% year-on-year to 21.76 million metric tons, with a full-year target of 32 million tons, up from 30.62 million tons in 2024. Increased rainfall is expected to persist across southern Sumatra, Java, Bali, and the Nusa Tenggara provinces, while parts of Sumatra and Borneo are expected to enter the dry season first. The BMKG urged stakeholders to prepare for climate unpredictability, noting that intense rain earlier this year caused severe flooding, especially in Jakarta, forcing thousands to evacuate. The agency attributes these shifting patterns to the broader impacts of climate change.

### **RI nickel lacks sufficient environmental oversight**

—Divya Karyza, *TheJakartaPost*, 18 June 2025

The government has revoked permits for four of five nickel mining firms operating in the ecologically sensitive Raja Ampat region, responding to public and environmental pressure, but allowing PT Gag Nikel to continue operations under a valid 2025 work plan. Experts say the move falls short of addressing broader governance flaws in the nickel industry, particularly environmental oversight and regulatory enforcement. Despite Indonesia's global dominance in nickel reserves and its strategic role in the electric vehicle battery supply chain, critics argue the country has prioritized foreign investment over stringent environmental, labor, and local content standards. Mining activities have expanded into protected forests and small islands, violating existing regulations. Analysts like Putra Adhiguna and Ahmad Zuhdi warn that without recalibrating policy and enforcing responsible mining practices, Indonesia risks long-term ecological damage. Proposals include stricter environmental reviews, real-time restoration during operations, and incentive-based royalties for cleaner practices. While the downstreaming efforts show progress, experts urge stronger integration into advanced sectors and more consistent implementation of the Mining Law.

### **Indonesian coal industry risking a tough transition as demand declines, report says**

—Aniruddha Ghosal, *APNews*, 17 June 2025

Indonesia's coal industry, a key economic pillar generating jobs and tax revenue, is under growing pressure as major buyers China and India cut imports amid clean energy transitions, according to a new report by Energy Shift. Coal exports hit a three-year low in early 2025, despite record-high production of 836 million tons in 2024. China and India purchased nearly two-thirds of Indonesian coal in 2023, but China's growing clean energy use and India's reduced imports—down 8.4% from April to December 2024—signal long-term decline. Experts warn Indonesia risks a costly transition if it fails to pivot now. The industry faces additional challenges including insider-dominated ownership, restrictive regulations, limited access to global finance, and policy contradictions—such as expanding coal production while committing to emission cuts. Analysts stress the need for coherent planning and diversification to avoid being left behind in the global energy shift. Investors remain focused on short-term gains, while government actions remain inconsistent, raising doubts about the effectiveness of Indonesia's clean energy transition efforts.

---

## **E. Pollution, Waste, Water and Disaster**

### **Pressure on for businesses to reduce plastic waste**

—Gembong Hanung, *TheJakartaPost*, 2 July 2025

The government is pressuring national and multinational companies to take greater responsibility for plastic waste, as the country struggles to meet its waste reduction targets under the 2019 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) roadmap. Aimed at cutting 30% of producer-generated waste by 2029, the regulation mandates producers to manage post-consumer waste, but only about 50 companies currently comply due to weak enforcement and oversight. At a Greenpeace-hosted discussion, officials noted that 40% of national waste remains untreated, and only 22% of 10.8 million tonnes of plastic waste was recycled last year. A recent brand audit by BRUIN found packaging waste from major companies like Unilever, Indofood, Wings Group, and Mayora in rivers and coastal areas. While Unilever claimed to have recycled 39,000 tonnes of waste via 4,000 collection sites, it acknowledged the need for more sustainable packaging. Officials are considering upgrading the roadmap into a presidential or government regulation to enhance enforcement, as activists and industry players call for stronger incentives and penalties to drive compliance.

### **Ecoton Research Finds Microplastics in Drinking Water and River Fish in East Java**

—Septia Ryanthie, *TempoNews*, 2 July 2025

Microplastic pollution in East Java's rivers has reached an environmental emergency, according to Prigi Arisandi, founder of the Ecoton Foundation, who revealed research findings showing microplastics present in drinking water, fish, and river sediments. The data, presented at a public discussion hosted by Sebelas Maret University (UNS) on July 1, underscores serious health and ecological risks. Experts highlighted that microplastics—both primary and secondary—are persistent pollutants formed from plastic fragmentation and are difficult to decompose. UNS researchers noted ongoing trials of biological waste management methods, such as using maggots and bacteria, though challenges remain in cost, effectiveness, and scalability. Dean Sajidan and other academics stressed the need for cross-disciplinary collaboration, public education, and applied research to address plastic waste. Meanwhile, environmental law lecturer Dewi Gunawati emphasized the urgency of legal enforcement and community-based advocacy, framing access to a healthy environment as a constitutional right. A symbolic plastic tap art installation was unveiled to raise awareness about reducing single-use plastic consumption.

### **Jakarta Needs at Least 5 Waste-to-Energy Plants, Says Environment Minister**

—M Faiz Zaki, *TempoNews*, 1 July 2025

Indonesia's Environment Minister Hanif Faisol Nurofiq stated that Jakarta needs at least five Waste-to-Energy Power Plants (PLTSa) to significantly reduce the 8,000 tons of waste generated daily, most of which currently ends up at the overburdened Bantargebang landfill in Bekasi. Speaking in Cempaka Putih on July 1, 2025, Hanif emphasized that the existing PLTSa processes only 1,000 tons per day, while open dumping at Bantargebang poses serious environmental and health risks. PLTSa projects, which can also contribute to electricity supply, require long-term investment and careful planning to avoid becoming abandoned due to high operational costs. Jakarta, as the province with the highest waste production and available funding, is a priority for these facilities. Hanif also stressed the importance of proper waste sorting to prevent issues like the odor complaints that led to the suspension of the Rorotan RDF plant. Although the Ministry has proposed five PLTSa units, it awaits President Prabowo Subianto's directive, while RDF plants—processing up to 2,500 tons daily—remain a secondary but insufficient solution.

### **Indonesia's Air Quality Worsens, Jabodetabek Far Exceeds Safe Threshold**

—Ahmad Arif, *Kompas*, 24 June 2025

Air quality in Indonesia, especially in the Jabodetabek area, has deteriorated sharply, with PM 2.5 pollution levels reaching 30–55 µg/m<sup>3</sup>—up to 11 times the World Health Organization's recommended limit of 5 µg/m<sup>3</sup>—posing serious health risks. According to a June 2025 report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), Depok, Tangerang, and South Tangerang recorded annual PM 2.5 averages exceeding 55 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, classified as “unhealthy,” while most cities across Java and major islands also reported elevated pollution. Jakarta's PM 2.5 levels now rival those of Mumbai and Beijing during the dry season, driven by emissions from industry, coal plants, transport, and biomass burning. Despite court orders and civil pressure, Indonesia lacks a national target for reducing air pollutants and transparency in monitoring. Health impacts are severe—over 10,000 deaths and \$2.9 billion in annual economic losses. Following a Supreme Court ruling in 2023, the government is legally obliged to control air pollution, yet implementation and accountability remain inadequate.

### **Waste processing rate in Indonesia only reaches 10 percent**

—News Desk, *TheJakartaPost*, 26 June 2025

Indonesia's waste management system is in crisis, with only around 10 percent of waste properly processed nationwide and landfills projected to reach full capacity by 2030 if urgent reforms are not enacted, officials warned this week. Deputy Environment Minister Diaz Hendropriyono revealed that 34 million tonnes of waste pollute the environment annually, contributing to severe microplastic contamination and methane emissions from open dumping, which remains the dominant method. Despite a 2017 target of achieving 100 percent waste management by 2025, recent recalibrated data shows actual performance has dropped to 39 percent. A new regulation issued by President Prabowo now extends the deadline to 2029. Indonesia produces 56.6 million tonnes of waste annually, nearly 20 percent of it plastic, yet only 22 percent is recycled. Open burning—used by 48 percent of households despite being banned—remains widespread, adding to health and environmental risks. Experts stress that the country's linear “collect-transport-dump” model must urgently shift to a circular approach involving sorting, recycling, and energy recovery to prevent ecological disaster.

### **Longer exposure, more pollen: Climate change worsens allergies**

—Julien Mevielle, AFP/*TheJakartaPost*, 18 June 2025

Climate change is driving a global surge in allergies, with longer and more intense pollen seasons causing increased respiratory issues such as hay fever and asthma, experts warn. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reports that earlier springs and warmer temperatures are lengthening pollen seasons, while air pollution worsens allergic reactions and boosts plants' pollen production. Invasive species like ragweed are spreading, with studies projecting ragweed-related allergies in Europe to more than double by 2060, affecting up to 77 million people. Currently, around 25% of adults and up to 40% of children in Europe suffer from airborne allergies—a number expected to reach 50% by 2050, according to WHO. Countries are responding with interventions like pollen-monitoring systems, early-warning gardens, and replacing highly allergenic trees with less harmful species. In Japan, the government plans to cut cedar trees to reduce pollen. Scientists emphasize that climate-induced plant stress, combined with carbon emissions, is a key factor in rising allergen levels, making allergies more severe and widespread globally.

---

## F. Technology, Investment and Finance

### Indonesia-China lithium battery plant to be operational by end-2026

—Stefanno Sulaiman, Kim Coghill and William Mallard, *Reuters*, 29 June 2025

Indonesia's first lithium-ion battery plant, a joint venture between Indonesia Battery Corp and China's CATL, is slated to begin operations by late 2026 with an initial capacity of 6.9 gigawatt hours, according to the Energy Ministry. The facility, part of a \$6 billion agreement signed in 2022 involving state miner PT Aneka Tambang and a CATL-led consortium, will later expand to produce up to 15 GWh in electric vehicle batteries for both domestic and international markets. Located in West Java, the plant may also produce solar energy storage batteries, potentially boosting total capacity to 40 GWh. Energy Minister Bahlil Lahadalia emphasized the plant's strategic role in Indonesia's clean energy transition, with related subprojects—nickel mining, processing, and battery recycling—set in North Maluku, a province rich in nickel reserves. The project supports Indonesia's goal of producing 600,000 electric vehicles annually by 2030, a significant increase from current levels, and leverages the country's position as the holder of the world's largest nickel reserves.

### Green NGOs raise concern over \$6b EV battery project

—AFP, *The Jakarta Post*, 26 June 2025

Environmental groups have raised alarm over a \$6 billion electric vehicle (EV) battery megaproject in East Halmahera, backed by Chinese firms CATL and Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt, and Indonesian state-owned Antam, which President Prabowo Subianto is set to inaugurate on June 29. The project, located near the Weda Bay industrial park—already criticized for deforestation and pollution—will span the entire nickel supply chain from mining to cathode production. NGOs, including Greenpeace and [Climate Rights International](#), warn that environmental safeguards and protections for local communities, including the indigenous Hongana Manyawa tribe, remain absent, urging the government and companies to prevent further ecological and social harm. Critics argue the project continues a pattern of unchecked environmental damage tied to Indonesia's aggressive nickel downstreaming strategy following a 2020 export ban. Halmahera hosts Weda Bay, the world's largest nickel mine by production, which has been linked to forest loss and repression of indigenous communities. Activists call on the Prabowo administration to enforce stronger environmental and human rights protections before proceeding further.

### Indonesia working on new e-commerce tax rule in bid to target 'shadow economy'

—Stefanno Sulaiman, *Reuters*, 26 June 2025

The Indonesian government is finalizing a new regulation requiring marketplace platforms to collect and remit a 0.5% income tax from online sellers with annual revenues between Rp 500 million and Rp 4.8 billion, according to a Reuters report. The Directorate General of Taxes (DJP) will designate marketplace operators as tax collectors, aiming to streamline administration, improve compliance, and ensure fair tax treatment without imposing new taxes or additional burdens. The policy, expected to be announced next month, revives earlier efforts from 2018 that stalled due to industry pushback. The regulation has been developed through consultations with e-commerce stakeholders and relevant ministries. Officials emphasize that income tax applies to all increases in economic capacity, including online sales. While some see the move as fair—targeting only higher-revenue sellers—others express concern over its impact on MSMEs already struggling with high platform fees. DJP's

Director of Public Relations, Rosmauli, assured that the final policy will be clearly and transparently communicated to the public upon issuance.

### **Indonesia Cancels ADB Housing Loan after Securing \$8B in Domestic Financing**

—Erfan Maruf, *JakartaGlobe*, 26 June 2025

Indonesia has canceled its plan to borrow \$138 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for its national housing program, including subsidized housing, opting instead to rely entirely on domestic funding sources. Housing and Settlements Minister Maruarar Sirait announced Wednesday that the government secured Rp 130 trillion (around \$8 billion) in financing from the sovereign wealth fund Danantara and additional fiscal support from Bank Indonesia, making foreign loans unnecessary. The ADB loan, initially offered to support the 3 Million Homes Program, was under consideration for expansion before the government's shift in financing strategy. Maruarar clarified that the foreign loan proposal originated from his director generals, not himself, and emphasized the government's confidence in domestic financial capacity. He confirmed the decision was made in coordination with President Prabowo Subianto and praised international institutions for their support and interest, despite declining the loan. The program will now be backed by Danantara and state-owned banks through microcredit (KUR), supported by national fiscal incentives, ensuring housing development proceeds without external borrowing.

### **US withdrawal from Indonesia coal phase-down plan to have limited impact, official says**

—Fransiska Nangoy, *Reuters*, 26 Juni 2025

Indonesia downplayed the impact of the United States' withdrawal from the \$20 billion Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), with JETP Indonesia Secretariat head Paul Butarbutar stating Thursday that the effect is "not so severe" despite concerns. The U.S. exit—part of President Donald Trump's plan to cut foreign aid—means Indonesia will lose out on \$60 million in grants, but key U.S.-backed loan guarantees to the World Bank, totaling about half of the \$2 billion U.S. commitment, remain intact and usable. While the U.S. contribution will no longer fall under the JETP framework, further funding may still flow through bilateral channels, such as support from the U.S. Development Finance Corporation for projects like geothermal energy. Announced in 2022 as the largest climate finance transaction to help Indonesia shift away from coal, the JETP has seen limited fund disbursement to date. Indonesia continues to emphasize its low per-capita emissions and the need for affordable financing as justification for its continued coal use to ensure cheap electricity access.

### **Human Brain Gets Duller, AI Gets Smarter**

—Ahmad Arif, *Kompas*, 22 June 2025

Heavy reliance on large language models (LLMs) like ChatGPT may erode human critical thinking, according to MIT Media Lab research published on arXiv. In a study involving 54 participants writing essays under three conditions—using ChatGPT, Google Search, or no tools—those in the "brain-only" group showed the strongest brain connectivity, higher engagement, and better recall. Participants using ChatGPT demonstrated weaker neural activity and less ownership of their writing. The study warns that frequent LLM use may reduce learning outcomes and cognitive function over time, despite offering convenience. Separately, research from Columbia University and Northwell Health's Feinstein Institutes found that as LLMs become more advanced, their internal language processing patterns increasingly resemble the human brain's neural responses. These findings suggest that while LLMs grow smarter and more brain-like, human overdependence on them could dull mental

acuity. Experts emphasize that AI is a tool, not a substitute for critical thought, and caution users to maintain skepticism and mental engagement when relying on AI for learning or professional tasks.

---

## **G. Human Rights, Indigenous People and Gender Equality**

### **Femicide on rise amid legal, enforcement gaps**

—Maretha Uli, *TheJakartaPost*, 2 July 2025

Femicide cases in Indonesia surged to at least 204 in 2024, an 11 percent increase from 2023, amid a lack of legal recognition and inadequate law enforcement response, according to advocacy group Jakarta Feminist. The victims—many of whom were underage girls or trans women—were often killed by intimate partners or family members, with over half of the crimes occurring in their homes. The group stressed that femicide, unlike general homicide, is deeply gendered and often preceded by repeated abuse. Legal experts, including Siti Aminah Tardi of the ILRC, emphasized that gender-based motives are difficult to prove under current laws, which treat most femicides as standard murders. While the new Criminal Code will impose stricter penalties for intra-family killings starting next year, it still excludes non-familial gender-based violence. Law enforcement bodies, such as Bareskrim, admit their investigations often overlook gendered contexts and are working on internal reforms to integrate gender sensitivity. Activists are urging for dedicated femicide legislation to close existing legal and enforcement gaps and prevent further violence.

### **Indonesia signs wiretapping pacts with telco operators; analysts flag privacy concerns**

—Ananda Teresia and Stefano Sulaiman, *Reuters*, 27 June 2025

Indonesia's Attorney General Office (AGO) has signed an agreement with four major telecommunication providers—Telkom Indonesia, Telkomsel, Indosat, and XLSMART Telecom—to install wiretapping tools, enabling access to telecommunications data for law enforcement. The AGO stated the move is aimed at locating fugitives, in line with a 2021 law granting it wiretapping authority. However, digital rights experts and civil society groups have raised serious concerns over privacy and potential mass surveillance. Wahyudi Djafar of Rakhsha Initiatives warned that the arrangement lacks clear limits on duration, scope, or oversight, potentially giving AGO broader powers than the police or anti-corruption agency. Amnesty International Indonesia also criticized the expansion of surveillance authority, warning it may endanger civil liberties. While AGO spokesperson Harli Siregar assured that wiretapping would only target fugitives and “not be done arbitrarily,” critics say legal safeguards remain insufficient. Telecom firms pledged data protection compliance, citing the 2022 data protection law, which mandates fines and asset seizures for violations. The Presidential Communication Office has not responded to the growing concerns.

### **Women's growing role in drug trade sparks exploitation concerns**

—Maretha Uli, *TheJakartaPost*, 27 June 2025

A rising number of women involved in Indonesia's drug trade—10% of suspects in recent trafficking cases—has sparked alarm among rights groups, who warn many are exploited as couriers by criminal syndicates but remain criminalized despite their vulnerable socioeconomic status. The National Narcotics Agency (BNN) arrested 285 suspects in 172



trafficking cases over the past three months, including 29 women, mainly housewives, often lured by money or false promises. Some women were caught smuggling drugs internally, a tactic BNN says exploits their physical traits. While BNN claims some women participated voluntarily, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Komnas Perempuan stress systemic exploitation and call for a gender-sensitive, fair approach. Legal advocacy groups argue women couriers are denied legal aid, leniency, or rehabilitation, and the punitive focus of the 2009 Narcotics Law fails to address their vulnerabilities. The Indonesia Criminal Justice Reform (ICJR) urges policy reform to stop punishing exploited women. BNN insists arrests are lawful, with coercion claims assessed in court, not during investigations.

### **UN calls out Indonesia's Merauke food estate for displacing Indigenous communities**

—Hans Nicholas Jong, *Mongabay*, 24 June 2025

U.N. human rights experts have raised serious concerns over alleged human rights violations and environmental destruction linked to Indonesia's massive Merauke food estate project, which spans 3 million hectares in Papua and threatens to displace over 50,000 Indigenous people. In a March 2025 letter to the Indonesian government and developer PT Global Papua Abadi, nine U.N. rapporteurs detailed forced evictions, lack of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC), militarization, and forest clearing without proper environmental assessments. Indigenous leaders reported land seizures, intimidation by military personnel, and coercion to accept the project. Despite these claims, the government denied wrongdoing in a May 2025 response, asserting compliance with national laws and environmental procedures, though civil society groups say it failed to provide evidence of consultation or address key allegations. Critics accuse the government of enabling corporate land grabs under the guise of national food security and call for a U.N. fact-finding mission. NGOs warn the project risks erasing Indigenous cultures and violating international human rights and environmental commitments.

---

## **I. Government Priority Program**

### **Government Plans to Form National Productivity Institute**

—Caecilia Mediana, *Kompas*, 2 July 2025

The government plans to establish a National Productivity Agency involving eight ministries/agencies, with the Ministry of Manpower leading, to address low labor productivity and rising unemployment, currently at 7.28 million. Announced by Minister Yassierli, the agency will include input from industry, academia, and civil society to improve human capital—currently indexed at 0.54, below the ASEAN average. Initiatives include vocational training, certifications, and collaboration with schools. However, labor experts such as Rekson Silaban and Said Iqbal questioned the agency's urgency and impact, citing existing data from companies and the BPS, while stressing the need to prioritize industrial resilience and prevent layoffs, which have already affected over 26,000 workers in 2025. The rise in unemployment among university graduates, and ongoing layoffs in the trade and services sector, further fuel concern. Labor groups demand stronger protections and the immediate activation of a Layoff Task Force. Analysts urge revitalization of the long-existing but inactive productivity bodies and alignment with industry needs through updated vocational education.

### **Prabowo Inks Regulation on Assistance Fund for Sexual Violence Victims**

—Ade Ridwan Yandwiputra, *TempoNews*, 1 July 2025

President Prabowo Subianto has signed Government Regulation (PP) No. 29/2025 on the Assistance Fund for Victims of Sexual Violence Crimes (DBK-TPKS), a follow-up to the 2022 Sexual Violence Crimes Law. While the regulation aims to strengthen victims' rights, the Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (ICJR) criticizes it for lacking clarity on key implementation mechanisms. Researcher Asry Alkazahfa highlighted four major shortcomings, including the absence of detailed procedures for state-funded restitution, vague funding sources, unclear timelines for victims to access assistance, and weak coordination among key institutions. She stressed the need for stronger collaboration between the Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK), the Prosecutor's Office, and the police to evaluate perpetrators' assets and inform victims of their rights early in the legal process. Asry called on Bappenas, the Finance Ministry, and LPSK to define budget allocations and recovery concepts, ensuring victims receive comprehensive and timely support. Critics argue that without these reforms, the regulation risks failing to meet the urgent and long-term needs of sexual violence survivors.

### **Compulsory Education Period Continues to Increase**

—Ester Lince Napitupulu, *Kompas*, 28 Juni 2025

President Prabowo Subianto has signed off on a policy to extend Indonesia's compulsory education to 13 years starting in 2026, marking a significant evolution from the original six-year mandate declared by President Soeharto in 1984. This expanded policy includes one year of preschool and 12 years of primary through senior secondary education. The move builds on decades of effort to increase access, beginning with massive SD Inpres school construction in the 1970s and the formal adoption of nine-year compulsory education in 1994. Despite improvements, challenges remain—particularly in ensuring equitable access to free, quality education across both public and private institutions. Rights groups and policymakers stress the need for legal and financial frameworks to uphold this expansion, including enforcing the state's obligation to fund education and addressing hidden fees. The policy's inclusion of early childhood education reflects research showing its long-term benefits for school readiness and social equity. With only 70% of countries guaranteeing nine years or more of compulsory education, Indonesia's move is ambitious but requires sustained political and fiscal commitment.

### **Indonesia's 3 million homes push gets US\$2.5 billion boost from Qatar**

—Resty Woro Yuniar, *SouthChinaMorningPost*, 27 June 2025

A Qatari firm, Qilaa International Group, has pledged a US\$2.5 billion investment to support Indonesia's affordable housing program, aiming to build one million homes over five years as part of President Prabowo Subianto's commitment to construct 3 million new dwellings during his term. The initial phase includes 100,000 homes, pending government licensing and land readiness. Qilaa's chairman, Sheikh Abdulaziz Al Thani, emphasized community building over profit, promising affordable homes with full facilities. The homes will be built on state-owned land and assets of SOEs like PT KAI and Pertamina. While Qatar is the first confirmed investor, other countries including the UAE, India, Turkey, China, Japan, and Singapore have shown strong interest. Minister Maruarar Sirait canceled a proposed ADB loan, aligning with Prabowo's directive to avoid foreign debt, with national funding now sourced from Indonesia's sovereign wealth fund and state banks. Experts warn of cost challenges and advocate revitalizing inner-city kampungs over building distant housing, to ensure access to jobs and services for low-income urban residents.

## Implementation of JKN Standard Class Continues to Reap Rejection

—Mawar Kusuma Wulan, *Kompas*, 27 Juni 2025

The planned implementation of the Standard Inpatient Class (KRIS) under Indonesia's National Health Insurance (JKN) in December 2025 has drawn widespread criticism from labor groups, civil society, and health observers, who warn it could reduce access to healthcare and unfairly burden low-income participants. Critics argue KRIS may cut hospital room capacity by 15–20% and eliminate the existing class system without clear regulations or service guarantees. The proposed flat-rate contribution of Rp 70,000 could double the cost for Class 3 members, potentially increasing arrears, while reducing contributions from Class 1 participants may jeopardize JKN's financial sustainability. Rights groups say the policy undermines the core principle of mutual assistance, shifting the cost of service improvements from the government to participants. Many regional hospitals are also unprepared to meet KRIS facility standards, which could deepen service disparities. A recent FGD involving labor unions and stakeholders emphasized the need for a fair, inclusive policy-making process that improves service quality rather than imposing top-down changes under regulatory uncertainty.

## II. Indonesia in Politics and Geopolitics

### Lessons from Aceh peace process may still be relevant in today's conflicts

—Yvette Tanamal, *TheJakartaPost*, 2 July 2025

Two decades after the 2005 peace deal between the Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement, experts and former officials say the Aceh peace process still offers vital lessons for modern conflict resolution. Marking the 20th anniversary, a discussion held in Jakarta on Monday highlighted how the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding, which granted Aceh wide autonomy while affirming Indonesian sovereignty, succeeded through dignity-based negotiations, inclusive leadership, and compromise. Former Vice President Jusuf Kalla emphasized that resolving Aceh's conflict required understanding its root causes—mainly economic inequality—rather than using force. Janne Taalas of the Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation warned that today's global trend of militaristic approaches poses a threat to sustainable peace. He stressed the continued relevance of inclusive dialogues, regional-international synergy, and Ahtisaari's principle: “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.” While the Aceh model became a rare success in internal mediation, experts noted such approaches are increasingly overlooked in current high-conflict zones like Syria and Sudan, where diplomacy now often prioritizes short-term ceasefires over addressing root causes.

### Polemic of Separation of National and Local Elections, Yusril: MK Decision is Final and Binding

—Dian Dewi Purnamasari, *Kompas*, 2 July 2025

Following the Constitutional Court's binding decision No. 135/PUU-XXII/2024 mandating the separation of national and local elections starting in 2029, pressure is mounting on the Indonesian government and the DPR to revise the Election Law. Coordinating Minister Yusril Ihza Mahendra emphasized that lawmakers must adjust legislation to comply, despite opposition from several political parties who argue the decision exceeds the Court's authority.

and conflicts with Article 22E of the Constitution, which mandates simultaneous five-year elections. The ruling dictates that national elections—presidential and parliamentary—must precede local elections by 2 to 2.5 years, creating legal and institutional dilemmas such as extended terms for local councils without clear legal basis. Human rights bodies, including Komnas HAM, back the decision, citing improved working conditions and reduced election-related deaths. A government-led team is now studying legal implications, with a preference for the government to initiate the bill due to its capacity for unified consensus, unlike the fragmented DPR. The revised law is deemed urgent to ensure constitutional continuity and prevent future governance crises.

### **Prabowo to discuss haj management with MBS during Saudi visit**

—News Desk, *TheJakartaPost*, 2 July 2025

President Prabowo Subianto is set to meet Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) on Wednesday evening to discuss improving services for Indonesian haj pilgrims, including a proposed “Indonesian Village” in Mecca. The meeting marks Prabowo’s first official visit to Saudi Arabia since taking office in October 2024 and comes as a stopover en route to the BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro on July 5. According to State Secretary Prasetyo Hadi, enhancing pilgrimage services is a top priority, while regional issues like Israel-Iran tensions and the war in Gaza will also be discussed. Deputy Chairman of the Haj Management Agency (BP Haji), Dahnil Azhar Simanjuntak, said substantial funding is needed for the Indonesian Village project and suggested that Indonesia’s sovereign wealth fund, Danantara, could play a key role in financing it. He confirmed that mechanisms for investment are being explored to support construction and operations. The visit underscores Indonesia’s intent to strengthen bilateral ties and better serve its large annual haj pilgrim contingent.

### **Minister Explains Why Indonesia, Malaysia Opt for Joint Ambalat Block Management**

—Adhfar Aulia Syuhada, *TempoNews*, 2 July 2025

Indonesia and Malaysia have agreed to jointly manage the oil- and gas-rich Ambalat Waters in Nunukan, North Kalimantan, to avoid prolonged territorial disputes and promote regional harmony, Indonesian Defense Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin said on Wednesday, July 2. The decision follows a bilateral meeting on June 27 between President Prabowo Subianto and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta, where both leaders committed to resolving border issues and forming a joint development authority for the Ambalat Block. Sjafrie emphasized the importance of mutual respect for national sovereignty while pursuing shared benefits. Prime Minister Anwar stated that cooperative resource management in Ambalat should begin immediately, even if maritime boundaries are still under negotiation. The move signals a strategic shift from confrontation to collaboration between the two neighbors in managing contested territories with significant energy potential.

### **Prabowo’s visit to Russia underscores Indonesia’s non-aligned foreign policy**

—Maria Siow, *SouthChinaMorningPost*, 20 June 2025

President Prabowo Subianto reaffirmed Indonesia’s non-aligned foreign policy during his speech at the 2025 St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) in Russia on June 20, emphasizing that Indonesia seeks friendly relations with all nations and does not support global power bloc divisions. Addressing speculation over his absence from the G7 Summit in Canada, Prabowo clarified that he had committed to attending SPIEF before receiving the G7 invitation and urged others not to politicize his presence in Russia. Highlighting Indonesia’s guiding principle—“one thousand friends are too few, one enemy is too many”—Prabowo stressed the importance of neutrality and international cooperation in times of growing

geopolitical tension. He called for increased cross-bloc collaboration and humanitarian missions, stating that Indonesia aims to be a partner for global peace and prosperity. During his visit from June 18–20, Prabowo also met with Russian President Vladimir Putin, reinforcing diplomatic ties while maintaining Indonesia's stance of strategic independence on the world stage.