



Indonesia Sustainable Development News Digest

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*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. If you would like to add colleagues or friends to our distribution list or unsubscribe, please contact us at newsdigest@starlingresources.com.*

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A. Marine and Fisheries

Saving the Shrimp Industry from the Onslaught of Radioactive Issues

—Brigita Maria Lukita G., *Kompas*, 9 September 2025

Indonesia's shrimp industry is facing a crisis after U.S. authorities detected radioactive isotope cesium-137 in frozen shrimp exported by PT Bahari Makmur Sejati (BMS), triggering Walmart to withdraw products in 13 states and prompting Senator John Kennedy to publicly warn against consumption through a video posted on his X account. The U.S. Food and Drug

Administration (FDA) confirmed contamination, though Indonesia's Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency (Bapeten) said shrimp farms showed no radiation, linking exposure instead to scrap metal near BMS's Cikande facility. Despite assurances from Marine Affairs and Fisheries Minister Sakti Wahyu Trenggono that exports remain unaffected, prices at the farmer level have plunged 20–30%, local sales have stalled, and buyers from Japan and other markets are seeking clarification, threatening Indonesia's \$1.68 billion shrimp export industry—63.7% of which goes to the U.S. Farmers in Aceh and Medan are hardest hit as operations halt, leaving them unable to cover costs. Industry groups warn that without a swift, transparent, official government statement to both domestic and foreign markets, trust in Indonesian shrimp could collapse, leaving long-term damage to the sector.

North Kalimantan Launches Labour Inspection in Fishing

—Albert Bonasahat and Gita Lingga/FAO, *MirageNews*, 9 September 2025

The Provincial Government of North Kalimantan, with support from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the European Union, launched its Joint Inspection Team for Labour Norms onboard Fishing Vessels in Tarakan City, marking a milestone in protecting fishers and promoting sustainable marine economies. Operating under Governor's Decree No. 100.3.3.1/295/2025, the interdisciplinary team brings together fisheries and manpower officials to strengthen labour regulations, conduct inspections, and develop technology-based education systems for the province's 16,400 fishers and over 11,000 mostly small-scale vessels. The initiative, North Kalimantan's first of its kind, follows a similar program in Central Java and aligns with broader labour inspection reforms under a 2022 inter-ministerial MoU. Officials highlighted the program's role in ensuring decent working conditions while supporting economic growth, community welfare, and forest-to-sea sustainability. The launch also commemorated 75 years of Indonesia's ILO membership and was followed by training on occupational safety and health at Tarakan Fishing Port.

String of frozen shrimp recalls related to radioactive material may be linked to Indonesia industrial site

—Chris Chase, *FoodSafety&Health*, 8 September 2025

Several companies, including Walmart, have recalled frozen shrimp after the Customs and Border Protection detected Cesium-137, a radioactive isotope, in multiple shipping containers arriving at ports in Los Angeles, Houston, Savannah, and Miami, the Associated Press reported. The recalls, which began in late August and were later supported by Food and Drug Administration advisory, have sparked widespread media coverage of “radioactive shrimp.” Walmart's recall of its Great Value frozen shrimp drew particular attention. U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. highlighted the issue in a cabinet meeting, framing it as evidence of Southeast Asian nations allegedly dumping contaminated shrimp into the U.S. market after Europe refused such imports. Preliminary investigations suggest the contamination may be linked to an industrial site in Indonesia, though details remain under review. The incident has raised concerns about food safety, international seafood trade practices, and regulatory oversight of imported products.

Radioactive shrimp issue will not hinder export to US: Minister

—Bayu Saputra and Resinta Sulistiyandari, *AntaraNews*, 8 September 2025

Indonesian Trade Minister Budi Santoso assured that shrimp exports to the United States will continue despite the discovery of radioactive Cesium-137 in four containers of frozen shrimp processed by PT Bahari Makmur Sejati (BMS Foods), which led the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to suspend the company's imports pending corrective measures. The

contaminated products, sold at Walmart stores across several U.S. states, triggered recalls and raised concerns over food safety. Santoso said his office would strengthen preventative measures and coordinate with relevant ministries to avoid recurrence, while the Coordinating Ministry for Food is holding discussions on the issue. Earlier, Indonesia's Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency (Bapeten) reported finding scrap metal contaminated with Cesium-137 in an industrial area in Banten, suspected to be linked to the shrimp case. Authorities, including Bapeten, the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, and law enforcement, are working together to ensure nuclear safety. Experts warn that Cesium-137, widely used in industrial applications, poses long-term health risks.

Shrimp Radiation Scare Hits Market; Indonesian Govt Urged to Be Transparent

—Defara Dhanya, *TempoNews*, 8 September 2025

Shrimp Club Indonesia (SCI) has stressed that Indonesian shrimp is safe for consumption, urging the government to issue a transparent and evidence-based statement after U.S. authorities rejected narrative reports on radioactive Cesium-137 contamination linked to PT Bahari Makmur Sejati (BMS Foods). SCI Vice Chair Aryo Wiryawan warned that prolonged uncertainty could erode international trust, with U.S. officials demanding quantitative measurements and corrective action plans. Although Indonesia's Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency (Bapeten) reported no radiation in the shrimp supply chain, the lack of a formal written statement has fueled market concerns. The impact is already visible, with shrimp prices in Aceh and North Sumatra dropping over 30 percent following the closure of BMS Foods' factory, forcing farmers into early harvests and oversupply. SCI cautioned that delays in government communication could reduce stocking, shrink production, and open markets to competitors, making recovery difficult for Indonesian farmers. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration continues to advise against consuming BMS shrimp products amid its ongoing investigation.

Solar-Powered Mobile Cold Storage for Fish Preservation

—Ester Lince Napitupulu, *Kompas*, 7 September 2025

Fishermen in Blanakan Village, are turning to a solar-powered mobile cold storage (MCS) system developed by Bandung Institute of Technology to preserve their catches and improve incomes, addressing long-standing problems of fish spoilage and unstable prices. Funded by a West Java government grant, the car-like facility with rooftop solar panels can store up to three tons of fish at 0–5°C and operate off-grid, reducing reliance on costly generators and saving over Rp 300 million annually while cutting CO2 emissions by 8.62 tons. The innovation, showcased at the 2025 Indonesian Science, Technology, and Industry Convention, is managed through fishermen's cooperatives to ensure benefits reach underprivileged members, who make up 70% of cooperative participants. By extending storage time, the system helps fishermen avoid losses during oversupply, stabilize prices, and improve bargaining power. The innovation is expected not only to boost fishermen's incomes but also to support food security, renewable energy adoption, and broader rural economic growth. Researchers say the model could also be adapted for fresh fish, vegetables, and small-island agriculture, offering a replicable solution for boosting food security and rural livelihoods.

Radioactive metal at Indonesia industrial site may be linked to shrimp recall

—Jonel Aleccia/AP, *ABCNews*, 6 September 2025

Radioactive contamination traced to an industrial site in Serang, west of Jakarta, may have caused the detection of Cesium-137 in frozen shrimp exported from Indonesia to the United

States, prompting massive recalls and heightened scrutiny, international nuclear safety officials said. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported the isotope may have originated from a nearby metal melting facility or scrap disposal, with Indonesian regulators now investigating. PT Bahari Makmur Sejati (BMS Foods), which shipped about 12 million pounds of shrimp to U.S. ports in Los Angeles, Houston, Miami and Savannah in July and August, has recalled more than 300 containers. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an import alert after finding contaminated shrimp in multiple shipments, though none of the tainted products reached consumers. Radioactivity levels of 68 becquerels per kilogram were well below the FDA's 1,200 limit but still deemed a potential long-term health concern. Emergency teams have been deployed to isolate and assess contamination, while experts warn cleanup is critical to prevent wider risks.

Draining the sea: fishing in crisis in south-east Asia – in pictures

—Team, *TheGuardian*, 5 September 2025

Overfishing, illegal practices, and dwindling marine resources are pushing Southeast Asia's fishing industry into crisis, threatening livelihoods and ecosystems across Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. Filipino fishers in Palawan report rising harassment from Chinese coastguard and militia near disputed South China Sea atolls, while shark markets in Lombok continue to supply fins and bones to Hong Kong and China despite government restrictions. In Thailand, declining local fish stocks have increased reliance on imports, with migrant workers processing seafood in hubs like Samut Sakhon and Ranong, and fishmeal factories fueling further depletion by grinding wild fish and bycatch into animal feed. Indonesia's Muara Angke and the Philippines' General Santos remain major export ports, but fishers and their families face exploitation, uncertain incomes, and dangerous conditions. Beyond human tolls, marine life suffers from ghost nets and overexploitation, while Indigenous communities such as Thailand's Urak Lawoi are abandoning traditional fishing due to collapsing stocks, turning instead to tourism for survival.

Scientists tap 'secret' fresh water under the ocean, raising hopes for a thirsty world

—Calvin Woodward, Carolyn Kaster and Rodrique Ngowi, *APNews*, 5 September 2025

A multinational team of scientists has uncovered vast reserves of freshwater beneath the North Atlantic seafloor, raising hopes for easing global water scarcity as demand is projected to outpace supply by 40% within five years. Expedition 501, a \$25 million collaboration funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation and European partners, drilled up to 400 meters off Cape Cod and extracted nearly 50,000 liters of fresh or near-fresh water, suggesting a massive aquifer stretching from New Jersey to Maine. Researchers believe similar "hidden aquifers" exist worldwide, including near Jakarta, where coastal populations face worsening freshwater stress from climate change and rising sea levels. While the discovery could provide enough water for a city the size of New York for centuries, challenges remain over ownership, environmental risks, and feasibility compared with desalination. Scientists will now analyze samples to determine the aquifer's age, safety, and renewability, findings that could inform future policies on tapping undersea freshwater during droughts or crises.

Advancing small fish production in Indonesia: Increasing protein and reduce waste

—Eristyana Sari and Ibnu Budiman, *GainHealthNews*, 2 September 2025

Indonesia is facing a sharp decline in small native fish species such as *bilih* and *wader*, which are vital sources of affordable protein, nutrition, and livelihoods, prompting a new initiative led by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) with local universities, research agencies, and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries. National fish consumption reached

58.91 kg per capita in 2024, still below target, while undernutrition remains a concern as protein intake from animal sources, mainly fish, is limited. GAIN's study found bilih and wader have strong potential for sustainable production, but overfishing, destructive gear, ineffective restocking, and habitat degradation threaten populations, especially in Lake Singkarak where catches exceed sustainable limits. To address this, the program will evaluate restocking effectiveness, design new guidelines, develop monitoring systems, and integrate ecological and socio-economic data into the Indonesian Food Systems Dashboard. The government and partners agreed to harmonize policies, curb destructive practices, restore habitats, and integrate small fish into nutrition campaigns to boost food security.

Indonesia's fish farm expansion to absorb D.C.-sized swath of protected forests

—M Ambari, *Mongabay*, 29 August 2025

Indonesia's \$1.6 billion plan to expand fish farming along Java's northern coast, aimed at supporting President Prabowo Subianto's free school meals program, has sparked criticism from environmental groups who warn it could trigger one of the largest releases of protected forests in West Java's history. The project, designated a national priority, will cover 78,000 hectares, with the first phase spanning 20,400 hectares across four districts by 2027, allowing fast-tracked approval with limited environmental safeguards. The fisheries ministry projects 119,000 new jobs and annual revenues of \$1.9 billion, but Walhi and other NGOs say the initiative threatens mangrove ecosystems vital to coastal protection and livelihoods, while worsening abrasion, flooding, and food insecurity. Critics also highlight the lack of consultation, zoning conflicts with regional governments, and absence of environmental impact assessments. They argue the program risks undermining local economies and failing to address child stunting effectively, urging instead for community-led aquaculture and stronger climate adaptation measures.

Wasik, Z., et al. (2025). [Contribution of aquaculture to future food security: Economic analysis and development in Indonesia](#). *International Journal of Innovative Research and Scientific Studies*, 8(1), 1036-1048

B. Forests and Land Use

Ministries launch agroforestry training to boost workforce

—Primayanti, *AntaraNews*, 9 September 2025

The Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Manpower officially launched the third batch of the agroforestry training program at the Vocational and Productivity Training Center in West Bandung, West Java, on September 9, aiming to enhance human resources and workforce capacity in the forestry sector. Running until September 13, the program has enrolled 388 participants, including forestry school graduates, rural youth, and villagers from several regions, and is designed to tackle two pressing national challenges: sustainable forest management and long-term job creation. Forestry Minister Raja Juli Antoni emphasized that agroforestry not only boosts short-term yields but also provides long-term ecological benefits such as soil conservation, water protection, biodiversity restoration, and climate change mitigation, while aligning with President Prabowo Subianto's Astacita vision. He added the initiative represents a long-term investment in green jobs that support both livelihoods and

environmental protection. Manpower Minister Yassierli highlighted the role of training, certification, and social forestry in strengthening national development and competitiveness.

Why is the photo of Forestry Minister Raja Juli playing dominoes with a former illegal logging suspect problematic?

—Staff, *BBCNews*, 9 September 2025

A photo of Forestry Minister Raja Juli Antoni playing dominoes with timber entrepreneur Aziz Wellang—whose suspect status in a 2024 illegal logging case was later annulled—sparked controversy after going viral on September 1, amid nationwide protests against parliament allowance hikes and the death of an online driver. Also in the photo were former Migrant Worker Protection Minister Abdul Kadir Karding and Domino Association executive Andi Rukman. While Raja Juli and Karding confirmed the meeting, they said it was a brief, casual game without discussion of logging cases. Environmental groups, including Walhi and Greenpeace, criticized the encounter as unethical, symbolic of state-business collusion, and damaging to public trust in forest governance, stressing the ministry's authority over permits and law enforcement. Critics warned the incident could undermine investigators and deepen suspicions over weak oversight of illegal logging, which has contributed to Indonesia's massive forest loss.

Forestry ministry projects 2026 budget to boost investment

—Arnidhya Nur Zhafira and Kuntum Khaira Riswan, *AntaraNews*, 7 September 2025

The Ministry of Forestry has proposed a Rp6.039 trillion (US\$367.8 million) budget ceiling for 2026, projecting it could spur investment absorption of up to Rp21 trillion (US\$1.28 billion) and create more than 400,000 jobs. Minister Raja Juli Antoni said the increased allocation—Rp1.105 trillion higher than the indicative ceiling—supports priority programs such as forest rehabilitation, wildfire control, ecosystem restoration, and agroforestry, in line with presidential regulations. The plan is also tied to national climate targets, with the forestry sector expected to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent. Other priorities include equitable forest governance, expanded community access to forest management, streamlining permits, and boosting food and energy security through multi-business forestry and downstream forest products. The ministry also pledged full implementation of the One Map Policy to reduce land conflicts and further digitization of services. The budget will be reviewed by the DPR's Budget Committee, while Commission IV has urged stronger focus on forest protection, community empowerment, and sustainability.

Waiting for the Strategic Commodities Law

—Hendriyo Widi, *Kompas*, 7 September 2025

Indonesia's parliament is drafting a Law on Strategic Commodities to regulate plantation goods from upstream to downstream, covering cloves, cocoa, rubber, coconut, palm oil, coffee, sago, sugarcane, tea, and tobacco, with plans for a Strategic Commodity Agency reporting to the president. The bill, comprising 16 chapters and 73 articles, prioritizes development of these sectors with special treatment such as base prices, tax rules, and export regulations. Lawmakers hope it will address longstanding problems, including soaring palm oil prices and cooking oil shortages, coconut industry shutdowns due to supply gaps, unsold farmers' sugar amid illegal imports, and rubber's declining profitability pushing farmers toward oil palm. Despite Indonesia's dominance in global palm oil and coconut production, farmers face market instability and weak protections. The Ministry of Agriculture projects IDR 371.6 trillion in investment needs for commodity downstreaming to create 8.6 million jobs.

Observers warn, however, that beyond legal frameworks, urgent short- and medium-term solutions are needed to stabilize commodity markets and protect livelihoods.

EUDR implementation comes laden with potential unintended consequences

—Sean Mowbray, *Mongabay*, 4 September 2025

The European Union's deforestation-free products regulation (EUDR), set to take effect on December 30, 2025, aims to curb the bloc's 10% contribution to global deforestation by requiring proof that commodities like palm oil, soy, cattle, cocoa, coffee, rubber, and wood are not sourced from land cleared after December 31, 2020. While hailed as a landmark law, experts warn of unintended consequences, including "market leakage" where exporters bypass the EU for unregulated markets, ecosystem spillover as production shifts to non-forest biomes like Brazil's Cerrado, and the exclusion of smallholder farmers unable to meet strict traceability and land tenure requirements. These risks could undermine the law's effectiveness, worsen deforestation in other ecosystems, and devastate livelihoods, particularly in tropical commodity-producing nations. NGOs and researchers argue the EUDR must broaden its scope beyond forests, strengthen smallholder support, and incentivize sustainable farming to avoid turning Europe's "green supply chains" into a policy that reduces EU-linked deforestation at the expense of vulnerable producers.

Yarlagadda, B., et al. (2025). [Emissions leakage and economic losses may undermine deforestation-linked oil crop import restrictions](#). *Nature Communications*, 16(1)

Johnston, C., et al. (2024). [The European Union deforestation regulation: Implications for the global forest sector](#). *Forest Policy and Economics*, 103462

Azevedo, A. A., et al. (2017). [Limits of Brazil's forest code as a means to end illegal deforestation](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 114(29), 7653-7658

Van Noordwijk, M., et al. (2025). [Beyond imperfect maps: Evidence for EUDR-compliant agroforestry](#). *People and Nature*, 7(7), 1713-1723

Van Noordwijk, M., et al. (2025). [The European deforestation-free trade regulation: Collateral damage to agroforesters?](#) *Environmental Sustainability*, 72, 101505

Urugo, M. M., et al. (2025). [Ethiopian coffee: Production systems, geographical origin traceability, and European Union deforestation regulation directive compliance](#). *Journal of Agriculture and Food Research*, 19, 101695

C. Biodiversity, Conservation and Protected Area

Humans Can Learn to Maintain a Balanced Diet from Orangutans

—Tatang Mulyana Sinaga, *Kompas*, 10 September 2025

A 15-year study published in *Science* by researchers from Rutgers University and international collaborators reveals that Bornean orangutans possess remarkable dietary and behavioral strategies that help them survive extreme fluctuations in food availability, offering valuable lessons for human health. By maintaining consistent protein intake and reducing activity during fruit-scarce seasons, orangutans conserve energy, avoid obesity, and exhibit metabolic flexibility similar to intermittent fasting in humans. When fruits are abundant, they still balance nutrients by combining carbohydrates, fats, and proteins, while in lean periods

they rely on leaves, bark, stored fat, and muscle protein. The research, conducted at the Tuanan Orangutan Research Station in Central Kalimantan, highlights parallels between orangutan and human metabolism, warning that modern diets high in processed foods and low in protein disrupt this natural balance, fueling obesity and metabolic disorders. Lead researcher Erin Vogel emphasized that understanding orangutan survival strategies not only aids conservation but also provides insights into healthier, more balanced diets for humans.

Vogel, Erin R., et al. (2025). [Integrated Behavioral and Metabolically Flexible Responses of Wild Orangutans to Ecologically Driven Dietary Variation](#). *Science Advances*, vol. 11, no. 35

It's Time for Young People to Eat Local Food Again

—Tatang Mulyana Sinaga, *Kompas*, 8 September 2025

Despite Indonesia's rich local food diversity, reliance on rice and wheat and continued imports weaken food sovereignty, prompting calls to revive local staples such as sago, cassava, sorghum, corn, and bananas. At a media gathering ahead of the Parara Mini Festival 2025 in Jakarta, Steering Committee Chair Anang Setiawan urged greater youth involvement in preserving and consuming local food, warning that without their participation, sustainability efforts will falter. The festival, set for September 12–13, will showcase local agricultural and craft products alongside cooking demos and discussions to attract 3,000 visitors. However, challenges remain, as younger generations increasingly prefer instant foods, while indigenous communities that sustain local food face weak legal protection, with the long-delayed Customary Law Communities Bill only recently re-entering the legislative agenda. Farmers also struggle with marketing and fair pricing, often undercut by imports. Advocates stress that holistic government policies, stronger indigenous rights, and youth engagement are essential to build resilient, fair, and sustainable food systems.

In a series of incidents, tigers attack farmers in West Lampung

—Vina Oktavia, *Kompas*, 7 September 2025

A farmer in West Lampung was injured after being attacked by a Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*) while returning from his plantation in the Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (TNBBS) area on September 5. The victim, 50-year-old Amir bin Muhali, was riding a motorcycle with his child when the tiger struck, leaving him with head lacerations and abrasions before the animal fled. Authorities confirmed tiger tracks at the site and have deployed trap cameras while urging residents to avoid forest areas that serve as tiger habitats. Officials linked the recurring conflicts to declining prey populations, particularly wild boars, after African swine fever outbreaks. Data show an average of 53 human-wildlife conflicts annually in the TNBBS, with seven people killed and several injured since 2024. The Lampung Forestry Service stressed that conflict resolution requires ecosystem recovery, restricted forest access, and multi-stakeholder collaboration, as clashes between humans and critically endangered Sumatran tigers continue to escalate.

Orangutans Learn to Build Nests Through Observation of Others

—Pradipta Pandu Mustika, *Kompas*, 3 September 2025

A 17-year study by researchers from the University of Warwick and the Max Planck Institute has revealed that young orangutans learn vital nest-building skills through close observation of their mothers and other orangutans, marking the first evidence of this learning process in the wild. Published in [Nature Communications Biology on June 7](#), the study shows that while the tendency to build nests is innate, the techniques and material selection must be learned socially. Orangutan nests, crucial for survival, provide safety from predators, warmth,

protection from weather, and even repel mosquitoes, with daytime nests kept simple and nighttime nests built as complex platforms up to 20 meters high. Juveniles spend years watching, experimenting, and imitating before mastering the process, and as they mature, they broaden their learning by observing other individuals. The findings highlight cultural elements in orangutan populations that risk being lost without conservation, underscoring the role of social learning in great apes and its deep evolutionary roots.

New model reveals hidden dynamics of Indonesia's booming songbird trade

—Basten Gokkon, *Mongabay*, 2 September 2025

Researchers have developed the first model to map supply and demand in Indonesia's vast songbird trade, revealing that market dynamics are shaped more by traits like mimicry, body size, and rarity than species identity, according to a new study in *Biological Conservation*. Analyzing data from 2015–2022 across six provinces in Java, the study identified at least 332 traded species and showed how substitution—where sellers offer lookalike species at different price points—expands trade and increases conservation risks. The research highlights three clusters: high-demand competition birds, vulnerable species tied to illegal harvesting, and household pets prized for status or rarity. Indonesia, the world's largest songbird market, faces mounting ecological threats as cultural traditions and consumer preferences fuel poaching and overexploitation, while nearly four times more species appear in supply than demand. The study suggests that targeted conservation strategies, market monitoring, and community engagement are essential, warning that without intervention, dynamic trade patterns will continue to endanger already threatened bird populations.

Indraswari, K., et al. (2025). [Market patterns within Indonesia's songbird trade](#). *Biological Conservation*, 310

On Java's Mount Slamet, two former trappers find new calling as bird protectors

—L Darmawan, *Mongabay*, 29 August 2025

Once avid bird hunters supplying Indonesia's illegal wildlife trade, Ari Hidayat and Junianto from Central Java have transformed into conservation activists protecting threatened species around Mount Slamet. Both men began trapping songbirds as children, later expanding into the trade of rare species such as the endangered Javan hawk-eagle and slow loris, but declining bird populations and law enforcement pressure forced them to abandon hunting. In 2013, Ari joined the Biodiversity Society, mapping nests and persuading other hunters to become forest guardians, while Junianto turned to photographing the birds he once caught. Their efforts now support biodiversity surveys with forestry officials and NGOs, highlighting how former hunters' skills can aid conservation. Mount Slamet hosts endangered and critically endangered birds, including the rufous-fronted laughingthrush and Javan pied starling, the latter likely extinct in the wild due to relentless trapping. Ari and Junianto stress that bird preservation is vital for ecosystem balance, with Ari receiving the Kalpataru award in 2019 for his contributions to conservation.

Small islands offer big hope for conservation of endemic species, study shows

—Carolyn Cowan, *Mongabay*, 28 August 2025

New research from Indonesia's Wallacea region challenges assumptions that small islands are genetic traps for wildlife, finding instead that they can serve as critical refuges for endangered species like the anoa (*Bubalus spp.*) and babirusa (*Babirusa spp.*). Using DNA from over 110 samples and habitat modeling, scientists from Queen Mary University of London and partners discovered that while small-island populations had lower genetic

diversity and higher inbreeding than their Sulawesi mainland counterparts, they carried fewer harmful mutations, likely due to long-term natural selection. Crucially, islands such as Buton and Togean still maintain higher-quality, better-protected forests compared to Sulawesi's heavily deforested and poached habitats, helping sustain these mammals despite declining numbers elsewhere. The study, published in *Nature Communications Biology*, warns against translocating animals from mainland to island populations, which could introduce harmful mutations, and instead urges safeguarding island habitats as conservation priorities. The findings highlight that small islands, often overlooked, can act as safe havens for rare species under mounting human pressures.

Aninta, S. G., et al. (2025). [The importance of small island populations for the long-term survival of endangered large-bodied insular mammals](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 122(26), e2422690122

D. Climate Change

Global Warming Triggers Surge in Dengue Fever Cases and Deaths

—Ahmad Arif, *Kompas*, 10 September 2025

Dengue fever, once confined to tropical regions, is projected to surge globally as rising temperatures expand the disease's transmission range, with Asia and the Americas facing the sharpest increases, according to a [new study in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*](#) published on September 9. Researchers from Stanford, Harvard, Arizona State University, and the National Bureau of Economic Research found climate change already accounts for about 18% of dengue cases in 21 countries, equivalent to 4.6 million additional infections annually, and cases could rise by 49–76% by 2050, with cooler, densely populated areas such as Mexico, Peru, and Brazil among the hardest hit. The study highlights that dengue thrives in a “Goldilocks zone” of around 27.8°C, which is widening as cooler regions warm. A [related study in *Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease*](#) linked rising temperatures to higher dengue mortality in Indonesia from 2010–2023. Experts warn adaptation—mosquito control, stronger health systems, and vaccines—will be vital alongside climate mitigation.

A Chaotic Season: La Niña Predicted to Arrive, But Temperatures Remain Hot

—Ahmad Arif, *Kompas*, 6 September 2025

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) [forecasts a 55% chance of La Niña developing between September and November 2025](#), rising to 60% for October–December, though global temperatures are still expected to remain above average despite the cooling effect. La Niña, marked by cooler Pacific sea surface temperatures, typically brings wetter conditions to Indonesia but increases the risk of floods and landslides, while much of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres are projected to face record heat. The Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) meanwhile confirmed current ENSO conditions remain neutral but warned of heightened vigilance as rainfall intensity in Indonesia may increase during the rainy season, amplifying hydrometeorological disasters. Globally, several countries including the UK, China, and Japan have already recorded their hottest summers in more than a century, driven by rising greenhouse gas emissions. To improve accuracy, BMKG has begun integrating artificial intelligence into its seasonal climate outlooks, with results of the rainy season prediction set to be announced in early September.

Local leadership powers Indonesia's climate ambitions

—Miklos Gaspar, *UNNews*, 6 September 2025

Indonesia's national climate strategy to reach net-zero emissions by 2060 relies heavily on forests absorbing 140 million tonnes of CO₂ annually, with Riau province playing a critical role due to its vast peatlands and history of deforestation. To meet this goal, Indonesia, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the UK launched the *Green for Riau* initiative, which combines climate action with community livelihoods through agroforestry, eco-tourism, and non-timber forest products. Central to the program is the REDD+ mechanism, rewarding measurable emission reductions and enabling Riau to become the first Indonesian province to access REDD+ finance. By integrating AI-based carbon monitoring with local wisdom and recognizing the rights of customary communities, the initiative ensures both environmental and social safeguards. Protecting Riau's forests also safeguards endangered species like the Sumatran orangutan, tiger, and elephant. With growing investor interest, Riau's model could unlock hundreds of millions annually in carbon finance, positioning it as a blueprint for inclusive, sustainable forest management in Indonesia and beyond.

Achieving Climate Justice for a Sustainable Future

—Editorial, *Kompas*, 4 September 2025

Climate change is increasingly recognized as a human rights issue, with the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities bearing disproportionate impacts despite contributing the least to global emissions. Rising temperatures, extreme weather, and pollution are causing loss of lives, livelihoods, cultures, and languages, while also threatening food and water security, health, and education. Vulnerable groups—such as women, persons with disabilities, and indigenous peoples who safeguard 80 percent of global biodiversity—face heightened risks due to limited adaptive resources. Socioeconomic disparities deepen climate injustice, as low-emission countries suffer the worst impacts, while the top 10 emitters—including China, USA, India, Russia, Japan, Iran, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and South Korea—account for most global CO₂ emissions and economic output. Between 2022 and 2024, 16 extreme weather events across 18 countries triggered unprecedented food price surges, illustrating the crisis' global reach. Experts stress that climate justice must be central to policymaking, requiring wealthy, high-emitting nations and industries to support affected communities and embed equality and rights in climate action.

Four residents of Indonesia's Pari Island push to take Holcim cement to court over climate change impacts

—Nina Larson/AFP, *ABCNews*, 3 September 2025

Four residents of Pari Island, north of Jakarta, have filed a landmark lawsuit against Swiss cement giant Holcim, demanding compensation for climate-related damages as rising sea levels threaten to submerge much of their 42-hectare island by 2050. Two of the four plaintiffs traveled to Zug, Switzerland, for a preliminary hearing to determine if the case will proceed, marking the first such action by Indonesians against a foreign company and the first targeting a major cement producer. The plaintiffs argue that Holcim, estimated to be responsible for 0.42% of global industrial CO₂ emissions since 1750, should pay 3,600 Swiss francs (\$4,500) each for damages and fund protective measures like mangrove planting and breakwaters. They also demand the company cut emissions by 43% by 2030 and 69% by 2040. Swiss Church Aid (HEKS), which is supporting the case, emphasized that the compensation sought represents only 0.42% of actual costs, stressing the reductions are consistent with the Paris

Agreement's 1.5°C target. Holcim, which sold its Indonesian plants in 2019, denies liability, insisting emissions rules should be set by lawmakers, not courts.

Cooling La Nina may return in coming months: UN

—AFP, *TheJakartaPost*, 2 September 2025

The United Nations' World Meteorological Organization (WMO) that there is a 55% chance of La Niña developing between September and November 2025, rising to 60% in October-December, though global temperatures are still expected to remain above average. La Niña, which cools surface waters in the equatorial Pacific and brings shifts in wind, rainfall, and pressure, often produces opposite climate impacts to El Niño, which heats oceans and drives droughts and heavy rains. The last triple-dip La Niña from 2020–2023 worsened droughts and floods, yet failed to halt record heat, with the past decade the hottest ever and 2024 the hottest year recorded. WMO stressed that natural cycles like La Niña and El Niño now unfold against a backdrop of human-induced climate change, which amplifies extreme weather and reshapes rainfall and temperature patterns. Forecasts indicate above-normal temperatures in much of the northern and large parts of the southern hemisphere during September-November.

Climate change is driving fish stocks from countries' waters to the high seas: Study

—Edward Carver, *Mongabay*, 29 August 2025

A new study in *Science Advances* warns that climate change will drive more than half of the world's straddling fish stocks, including key tuna species, across exclusive economic zones (EEZs) and into the high seas by 2050, threatening food security and fisheries revenues in tropical nations like Indonesia. The research projects that 58% of straddling stocks in the central Indo-Pacific — a region critical for Indonesia and Pacific small island states — will move into international waters, where management is weak and overfishing risks are high. For Indonesia, which relies heavily on tuna and other migratory species for export earnings, livelihoods, and nutrition, the redistribution could reduce access to marine resources while advantaging distant-water fleets with greater capacity to fish the high seas. Experts warn this shift compounds climate injustice, as tropical countries least responsible for emissions bear the heaviest losses. They call for stronger international cooperation, climate-informed stock assessments, and reforms to regional fisheries management to protect vulnerable coastal economies.

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Azmi, K., et al. (2025). [Putting regional fisheries management organisations' climate change house in order](#). *Fish and Fisheries*.

E. Energy and Mining

Nickel Smelter Investment in Southeast Sulawesi Soars, a Chance of a Windfall or a Sharp Thorn

—Saiful Rijal Yunus, *Kompas*, 6 September 2025

Investment in Southeast Sulawesi surged to Rp 13.6 trillion in the first half of 2025, surpassing the annual target of Rp 13.2 trillion and exceeding last year's realization of Rp 11 trillion, largely driven by massive nickel smelter construction, according to local investment chief Parinringi. The metal industry, particularly in Kolaka and Konawe, accounted for 68% of the inflows, with Chinese-backed PT Virtue Dragon Nickel Industry and other firms leading projects. While the boom has fueled 5.66% economic growth in early 2025, concerns remain over rising poverty in mining districts, job losses in agriculture and fisheries, and worsening environmental disasters. Halu Oleo University economist Syamsir Nur warned that nickel downstreaming displaces traditional livelihoods without guaranteeing prosperity, while Trend Asia's Ahmad Ashov Birry called for a comprehensive audit of the sector, citing recurring floods, pollution, and worker fatalities. With 61.3 million tons of nickel resources, Southeast Sulawesi is Indonesia's nickel epicenter, but the region faces a dilemma between industrial windfall and deepening social and ecological costs.

From Ulubelu, Geothermal Energy Becomes a Key Pillar of the Transition to Clean Energy

—Aditya Putra Perdana, *Kompas*, 6 September 2025

Indonesia's geothermal energy potential is gaining momentum as installed capacity continues to grow, with geothermal power plants (PLTP) now contributing 2.6 gigawatts (GW) to the national grid, making it the third-largest renewable source after hydropower and bioenergy, according to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM). In June 2025, President Prabowo Subianto inaugurated new capacity from the Ijen PLTP in East Java (35 megawatts/MW) and the Salak Binary plant (16.6 MW), while PT Pertamina Geothermal Energy's Ulubelu PLTP in Lampung, operating since 2011, now supplies 220 MW and covers a quarter of Lampung and southern Sumatra's electricity demand. The sector is also expanding with greenfield exploration at Gunung Tiga (55 MW potential) and a cooperation agreement between PGE and PLN Indonesia Power to accelerate 19 projects totaling 530 MW, with potential investments of up to USD 5.4 billion. Despite only 11 percent of geothermal potential being utilized, regulatory revisions are underway to attract more investment, boost efficiency, and support Indonesia's net-zero 2060 target.

Developing Integrated Agriculture in Former Mining Areas

—Mawar Kusuma Wulan, *Kompas*, 5 September 2025

Former mining land in East Kalimantan is being successfully repurposed for agriculture, as PT Kitadin, a subsidiary of PT Indo Tambangraya Megah Tbk (ITM), carried out its second rice harvest in 2025 on reclaimed land at its Embalut site, producing 275 tons of wet paddy from 50 hectares with yields of 5.5 tons per hectare. Despite challenges from poor soil fertility, the company applied contour analysis, irrigation planning, and soil restoration with organic inputs to transform degraded land into productive rice fields benefiting farmer groups in nearby villages. ITM Director Ignatius Wurwanto said the program, part of a 1,600-hectare reclamation plan including livestock and corn areas, supports food security and community independence after mining operations cease. East Kalimantan Deputy Governor Seno Aji

praised the initiative as a model for sustainable post-mining land use. Separately, IPB University's Irdika Mansur stressed the importance of safety checks for heavy metals and bioremediation when needed, noting ex-mining lands' potential to strengthen food, water, and energy security across Indonesia.

Combating dirty nickel rumors with responsible mining push

—Rahmad Nasution, *AntaraNews*, 4 September 2025

Mining is deeply embedded in daily life and central to the global energy transition, yet its environmental toll has fueled criticism, particularly in Indonesia, the world's top nickel producer. The country faces a "dirty nickel" reputation as its downstreaming program, especially at the Weda Bay Industrial Estate, draws scrutiny from Western media and NGOs. French miner Eramet, which co-owns PT Weda Bay Nickel with China's Tsingshan Group, rejects the label, arguing Indonesia's rapid rise—supplying 61% of global nickel by 2024 from just 8% in 2014—threatens competitors. With global nickel demand expected to surge 176% by 2035, much for batteries, Indonesia is positioned to dominate. President Prabowo has pledged to shut 1,063 illegal mining sites and reclaim Rp300 trillion in state wealth, while Eramet promotes ESG commitments, including 40% emission cuts by 2035, carbon neutrality by 2050, and local social programs. Advocates stress shifting the focus from "sustainable" to "responsible" mining, ensuring economic gains are matched by long-term environmental and social accountability.

Strengthening Mining Governance, Key to Investment Attractiveness

—Aditya Putra Perdana, *Kompas*, 3 September 2025

Indonesia's massive nickel mining expansion is raising concerns over rapid reserve depletion, threatening the long-term sustainability and investment appeal of this strategic commodity. Since the 2020 export ban, 34 pyrometallurgical smelters are operating with 17 under construction, backed by US\$11 billion in investment, while hydrometallurgical smelters for EV battery materials have only recently emerged with US\$2.8 billion invested. Energy analyst Ferdy Hasiman warned that overexploitation of high-grade ore (saprolite) for stainless steel threatens future supply, while Dendi Ramdani of Bank Mandiri noted risks of falling nickel prices, inefficient firms, and potential bad loans as bank credit to the sector has surged. Indonesia holds 5.32 billion tons of reserves with a 2024 output target of 173 million tons, yet unchecked exploitation could shorten lifespan and depress market confidence. While the government promotes downstreaming to boost value-added industries, experts urge stronger governance, updated nickel balance data, and sustainable mining policies to avoid repeating past resource depletion and ensure nickel's role in both stainless steel and EV battery industries.

Censured Sumatra coal plant blamed for sickening children in Indonesia's Bengkulu

—Elviza Diana, *Mongabay*, 1 September 2025

Residents of Teluk Sepang, a coastal village in Bengkulu, blame a Chinese-backed coal power plant for rising health problems, particularly acute respiratory infections among children, with local clinics recording 72 cases in December 2023 alone. Despite repeated sanctions from Indonesia's environment ministry for illegal waste dumping and a red notice under the PROPER framework, operator PT Tenaga Listrik Bengkulu has faced no firm penalties, raising concerns of weak oversight. Built in 2019 under a 25-year take-or-pay contract guaranteeing revenue, the plant was part of Indonesia's 35 GW expansion plan but now contributes to oversupply, crowding out renewable energy. Villagers report chronic coughs, skin diseases, and declining livelihoods, with women working long hours in

hazardous coal stockpiles for low pay. Environmental groups cite coastal ecosystem damage and turtle die-offs, while community advocacy has been stifled under pressure. Mothers like Yesi continue to demand accountability, health support, and a transition to clean energy as the community struggles under pollution and economic hardship.

Syadli, H., et al. (2014). [Demand side management for reducing rolling blackouts due to power supply deficit in Sumatra](#). *Jurnal Teknologi–Sciences & Engineering*, 69(5)

Rokhmawati, A., et al. (2023). [Quantifying social costs of coal-fired power plant generation](#). *Geography and Sustainability*, 4(1), 39-48

F. Pollution, Waste and Disaster

Gov't Probes Four Companies for Alleged Pollution Along Brantas River

—News Team, *JakartaGlobe*, 4 September 2025

The government has stepped up monitoring of four companies operating along the Brantas River basin in East Java after inspectors uncovered multiple environmental violations during checks between August 20 and 23. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry found Energi Agro Nusantara discharging untreated waste, including biofertilizer residue, into rivers without updated permits, while Molindo Raya Industrial constructed new ethanol and CO₂ facilities without environmental clearance or wastewater treatment permits. Two sugar plants run by Sinergi Gula Nusantara were cited for lacking technical approvals, failing air quality monitoring, and improper boiler ash storage, while Etanol Ceria Abadi was found inactive. Authorities have sealed waste outlets, posted supervision signs, and installed monitoring lines as initial warnings, vowing sanctions if violations persist. Officials emphasized the Brantas River's importance as East Java's largest water source for millions and warned that strict compliance is essential to prevent ecological damage and protect public health.

Indonesia and China Conduct Expedition to Study Microplastics in the Ocean

—Pradipta Pandu Mustika, *Kompas*, 2 September 2025

Indonesia and China will launch the Indonesia Maritime and Western Pacific Ocean Longterm Scientific Expedition (IMPOLSE 2025) in October–November this year, a 31-day voyage to study microplastics in the seas and the role of the Indonesian Throughflow (ITF) in climate change. Conducted by Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) and China's Institute of Oceanology (IOCAS), the mission will assess the distribution of microplastics before and after COVID-19, monitor turbulent mixing and circulation patterns in the ITF, and validate climate models. Using research vessel RV Geomarin III, the team will deploy four new moorings, conduct 55 CTD samplings, collect sediments, and retrieve older equipment for maintenance. The initiative, aligned with Indonesia's Global Maritime Axis vision and China's Maritime Silk Road, also opens opportunities for ten Indonesian researchers to join. BRIN oceanographer Muhammad Reza Cordova stressed that microplastics are already found in deep-sea barnacles within the ITF, underscoring global pollution risks as currents can transport contaminants across the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Jakarta cleans up after violent protests leave scars

—Rahmad Nasution, *AntaraNews*, 2 September 2025

A week after violent protests in Jakarta over lawmakers' housing allowances, the city is grappling with extensive damage exceeding Rp50 billion (USD 3.2 million) to public infrastructure, including nine Transjakarta bus stops—seven of which were set on fire—18 traffic lights, and MRT facilities. The riots left 28.63 tons of waste and echoed the 2020 Job Creation Law unrest that caused Rp65 billion in losses. In response, the Jakarta government launched the #JagaJakarta “Gotong Royong” campaign, mobilizing officials, residents, and the city’s “Rainbow Troops” to clean, repaint, and restore damaged areas, with full repairs targeted for completion by September 9, 2025. Deputy Governor Rano Karno joined the cleanup in Senen, calling the initiative “social therapy” and urging peaceful protest. Police have arrested 1,240 people, including 22 who tested positive for drugs, while seven Brimob officers face disciplinary detention for misconduct during the protests. Authorities stressed the importance of safeguarding democratic rights without resorting to violence or destroying public property.

G. Technology, Investment and Finance

Keeping the Grassroots Economy Alive Through Inclusive Financial Services

—Emanuel Edi Saputra, *Kompas*, 9 September 2025

Indonesia’s banking sector is intensifying efforts to strengthen financial inclusion and empower micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which contribute 60% to GDP and absorb 97% of the workforce, amid rising layoffs and the dominance of informal workers. Bank Rakyat Indonesia (BRI) reported that as of June 2025, 80.32% of its IDR 1,416.6 trillion in credit was allocated to MSMEs, supported by initiatives in 4,625 villages, 41,217 business clusters, and 1.2 million BRILink agents across 67,000 villages, generating Rp 843 trillion in transactions. Meanwhile, Bank Central Asia (BCA) has supported MSMEs with halal certification, export readiness programs, and skills training for people with disabilities. Despite these initiatives, challenges remain as 86.58 million Indonesians, or nearly 60% of workers, are in the informal sector, driven by limited market access, capital constraints, and stagnant purchasing power. Experts warn that without clear policy roadmaps and breakthroughs in financing and market expansion, MSMEs will struggle to scale up and sustain grassroots economic growth.

World food prices at more than two-year high, FAO says

—Sybille de La Hamaide, Tomasz Janowski and Andrew Heavens, *Reuters*, 5 September 2025

Global food prices in August hit their highest level since February 2023, with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's index at 130.1 points, up 6.9% from a year earlier, as rising meat, sugar and vegetable oil costs outweighed declines in cereals and dairy. Vegetable oil prices rose 1.4% to a three-year high, driven largely by Indonesia’s plan to boost its biodiesel mandate by increasing palm oil blending to cut reliance on imported fossil fuels, while soy oil fell on expectations of ample supply. Meat prices reached a record, supported by strong U.S. and Chinese demand for beef, although poultry prices eased on abundant exports from Brazil. Sugar edged up 0.2% after five months of decline on concerns about Brazil's harvest, while dairy slipped 1.3% on weaker Asian demand. Cereal prices dropped for a fifth month, with wheat down on large EU and Russian harvests, maize up on U.S. feed demand, and rice

cheaper due to falling Indian prices. FAO also projected record global cereal output in 2025, led by strong maize prospects in the Americas.

Digital Technology Is Not Just Modernizing Schools

—Ester Lince Napitupulu, *Kompas*, 5 September 2025

Education digitalization program, launched under Minister Nadiem Makarim to address the Covid-19 learning crisis, has been marred by corruption allegations after the Attorney General's Office named Nadiem and four others suspects in a case involving Chromebook procurement from 2019–2022, which reportedly failed in remote regions. Despite this setback, digitalization continues under President Prabowo's administration, with schools set to receive interactive flat panel screens. Programs like Bulungan Regency's AI-powered online counseling app and student-led innovations, such as a sign language interpreter developed in South Tangerang, highlight how technology can foster inclusive learning, support children with disabilities, and ease teachers' administrative burdens. However, UNESCO warns that while AI offers opportunities for equity and access, it also poses risks of privacy violations, algorithmic bias, deepfakes, and negative impacts on students, especially girls. Experts stress that digitalization must go beyond providing devices by strengthening digital literacy, ethics, and teacher support to ensure education reform remains human-centered and inclusive.

Beyond travel warnings: reassuring Indonesia's safe tourism

—Primayanti, *AntaraNews*, 5 September 2025

A wave of demonstrations across Indonesia in late August, marked by arson, looting, and clashes in cities such as Jakarta, Makassar, Surabaya, and West Nusa Tenggara (NTB), prompted countries including the U.S., Singapore, Japan, and the U.K. to issue travel warnings, raising concerns about Indonesia's safety image abroad. The unrest, which included the burning of DPRD buildings and the death of a motorbike taxi driver hit by a police vehicle, received wide foreign media coverage, though daily life and tourism activities in many regions remain unaffected. NTB, for example, continues to welcome tourists in Lombok and Sumbawa, with hotels, flights, and attractions operating normally, while local leaders stress that warnings are precautionary, not prohibitions. Experts warn, however, that negative portrayals risk stigmatizing Indonesia as unstable, underscoring the need for crisis communication, tourism diplomacy, and community engagement to restore confidence. Indonesia's challenge lies in countering perceptions, ensuring visitors feel safe, and projecting its long-standing reputation for hospitality and stability.

Indonesia Turns to Central Bank for Burden Sharing Agreement

—Prima Wirayani, Grace Sihombing and Marcus Wong, *Bloomberg*, 3 September 2025

Indonesia's central bank has agreed to a new burden sharing arrangement to support President Prabowo Subianto's priority programs, including low-cost housing and village cooperatives, by handing over part of the interest it earns from government bonds and continuing bond purchases in the secondary market. Bank Indonesia Governor Perry Warjiyo told lawmakers the central bank will transfer half of the difference between the 10-year bond yield and the government's deposit rate to the state, though details remain unclear. So far this year, BI has purchased about 200 trillion rupiah (\$12.2 billion) in bonds, in line with its expansionary policy. The move, weaker but more formula-based than the pandemic-era scheme that saw BI directly buy over 800 trillion rupiah in bonds from 2020 to 2022, has sparked debate over risks to the bank's balance sheet and independence. Finance Minister

Sri Mulyani Indrawati defended the plan as consistent with BI's dual role of ensuring stability and supporting economic growth.

Economists Question BI's Independence in the "Burden Sharing" Scheme

—Agustinus Yoga Primantoro, *Kompas*, 3 September 2025

Several economists are questioning Bank Indonesia's independence after the central bank purchased IDR 200 trillion worth of government bonds under a burden-sharing scheme with the Ministry of Finance to support the President's priority programs, such as public housing and village cooperatives. Economic analyst Yanuar Rizky criticized BI for failing to demonstrate independence, warning that its expansive monetary policy could strain liquidity and reduce banks' capital ratios. Bhima Yudhistira Adhinegara of Celios argued that the scheme is questionable since it is not being implemented during a crisis, as mandated by law, while M. Fadhil Hasan of Indef likened it to money printing, cautioning that it risks triggering inflation and undermining BI's credibility, recalling the hyperinflation of the Old Order. Wijayanto Samirin of Paramadina University noted the scheme could be acceptable if applied carefully and for productive projects, but warned of debt rollover risks. Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati defended the plan as consistent with BI's mandate to balance financial stability and economic growth.

H. Human Rights, Indigenous People and Gender Equality

Indigenous Women Experience Double Vulnerability, Structural Discrimination, and State Neglect

—Sonya Hellen Sinombor, *Kompas*, 7 September 2025

Indigenous women and children in Indonesia face heightened risks as industrial expansion and weak legal recognition of customary territories erode their land rights, leaving them vulnerable to eviction, poverty, and violence, experts and rights groups warn. Professor Aarce Tehupeiori of the Christian University of Indonesia stressed that women often lack decision-making power in land governance and face discrimination under both customary and state law, while Komnas Perempuan (the National Commission on Violence Against Women) recorded multiple agrarian and resource conflict cases involving indigenous women in 2024. Land mafia practices further exacerbate injustice, with arbitrary evictions and weak legal protections undermining livelihoods, food security, and cultural survival. Commissioners Dahlia Madanih, Yuni Asriyanti, and Chatarina Pancer Istiyani highlighted the loss of food sources, traditional knowledge, and creative spaces such as weaving. Rights advocates urge Parliament to end the 25-year delay on the Indigenous Peoples Bill, ensuring it incorporates gender and child protections, participatory mapping, and ecological justice to safeguard communities' constitutional and cultural rights.

Policewomen, a Humane Face and New Hope for Police Reform

—Sonya Hellen Sinombor, *Kompas*, 4 September 2025

On the 77th anniversary of Policewomen's Day, observers and rights advocates called on the Indonesian National Police (Polri) to strengthen the role of female officers (polwan) as agents of reform capable of restoring public trust. Figures such as Jaleswari Pramodhawardani, Head of the Indonesia 2045 Laboratory, stressed that polwan must be freed from stereotypical roles and placed in operational and leadership positions through structural and

cultural reforms, transparent career paths, and mentorship programs. The National Commission on Violence Against Women (Komnas Perempuan) highlighted that policewomen are vital in handling cases of sexual violence, trafficking, and online gender-based crime, aligning with the mandate of the Sexual Violence Crimes Law (UU TPKS) and Indonesia's CEDAW obligations. While only a handful have reached the rank of inspector general, including Rinny Shierley Theresia Wowor promoted in May 2025, advocates argue more women in strategic roles would foster humane, inclusive law enforcement. Reforming recruitment, promotions, and gender-sensitive training is seen as key to making Polri more effective, modern, and trusted.

Women's groups gather in front of parliament in Indonesia amid protests

—News Agencies, *AlJazeera*, 4 September 2025

About 300 members of the Indonesian Women's Alliance (API) rallied outside parliament in Jakarta demanding an end to state violence, withdrawal of the military from civilian security duties, and the release of detainees held without charge, following a week of unrest that has left at least 10 people dead. The protests, sparked by the death of a motorcycle taxi driver run over by a police vehicle on August 28, have grown into nationwide demonstrations against low wages, rising taxes, and lawmakers' pay. The unrest forced President Prabowo Subianto to scrap plans to increase parliamentary benefits, while ordering military and police crackdowns after state buildings and politicians' homes were attacked. Clashes in Bandung saw police fire tear gas and rubber bullets at students. API urged President Prabowo, Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin, and Armed Forces Commander Agus Subiyanto to withdraw troops, while Amnesty International condemned the rising death toll, calling it a violation of Indonesians' rights to protest peacefully.

Broom Sticks and Women's Voices, United Against Injustice

—Denty Piawai Nastitie, *Kompas*, 3 September 2025

Hundreds of women under the Indonesian Women's Alliance (API) rallied outside parliament in Jakarta, using domestic symbols such as brooms and wearing pink and black attire to protest state violence, rising inequality, and lawmakers' lavish allowances amid nationwide unrest that has killed at least 10 people since August 25, according to Komnas HAM. The demonstrations, sparked by the death of ride-hailing driver Affan Kurniawan, who was run over by a police tactical vehicle, have grown into a broader movement led by women, housewives, students, and civil society groups demanding justice, accountability, and an end to repression. Protesters carried posters condemning repeated violence, low wages, and discriminatory policies, while figures like Mrs. Anna in her pink hijab emerged as symbols of resistance. Activists stressed that women, as the most affected by economic hardship and social injustice, are now at the forefront of pushing back against authoritarian practices, calling on President Prabowo Subianto's government to restore rights, stop militarized crackdowns, and address systemic inequality.

Twenty missing in Indonesia protests, rights group says

—Rebecca Ratcliffe and agencies, *TheGuardian*, 2 September 2025

At least 20 people remain missing and six have been killed following a week of violent protests across Indonesia that erupted on August 25 over lawmakers' lavish benefits, including a controversial housing allowance, and escalated after a motorcycle taxi driver, 21-year-old Affan Kurniawan, was run over by a police vehicle. The Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS) reported the missing persons were last seen in Bandung, Depok, and several parts of Jakarta, while protests spread to cities including

Gorontalo, Bandung, Palembang, Banjarmasin, Yogyakarta, and Makassar. Demonstrations have been marked by clashes, arson, and looting of politicians' homes and state buildings, prompting President Prabowo Subianto to order military and police crackdowns, with checkpoints, patrols, and snipers deployed in Jakarta. The UN has urged investigations into alleged excessive force, while Prabowo pledged to investigate Kurniawan's death—seven officers are under probe—and announced cuts to lawmakers' perks. Despite assurances of respecting free expression, he warned against “anarchic” actions threatening lives and institutions.

I. Government Priority Program

Prabowo Orders Acceleration of National Priority Programs Implementation

—Hendrik Yaputra, *TempoNews*, 10 September 2025

President Prabowo Subianto led a limited meeting with ministers at the Merdeka Palace, Jakarta, on September 9, emphasizing the need for bureaucratic acceleration to ensure the swift implementation of government priority programs. Coordinating Minister for Food Zulkifli Hasan stated that the president ordered ministries not to let regulations or paperwork delay execution. In the food sector, the government is prioritizing the optimization of productive agricultural land and the development of new rice fields in Wanam Papua, South Sumatra, Central Kalimantan, and other regions, with spatial planning in Wanam expected to be finalized soon. To secure protein supplies, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries plans to develop 20,000 hectares of fishponds this year as part of a 70,000-hectare target. Acceleration measures also apply to the Red and White Village Cooperative and the Fishermen's Village program, which aims to reach 100 villages this year. Ministers of forestry, agrarian, agriculture, economy, energy, finance, and food were also present, with Forestry Minister Raja Juli Antoni preparing to brief the president on forest reserves, energy, water, the Peusangan Elephant Conservation Initiative in Aceh, and forest restoration in Way Kambas National Park.

Indonesia presses businesses to find a million cows

—Dewi Kurniawati/Reuters, *TheJakartaPost*, 9 September 2025

Indonesia's ambitious plan to import one million dairy cows over five years to support President Prabowo Subianto's flagship free meals program for 83 million children and expectant mothers faces slow progress, financial strain, and industry skepticism. With a nearly \$3 billion price tag, the government is pressing 196 private companies—many with no cattle experience—to fund imports, raising concerns over coercion and licensing consequences, according to documents and sources reviewed by Reuters. By July 2025, only 11,375 cows had arrived from Australia, far short of the 200,000 target for the year, casting doubt on the program's feasibility. Cooperatives like Laras Ati in West Java now house imported cows purchased by cold-chain businesses, who expect to recoup costs in about three years through revenue-sharing schemes. However, experts warn that weak infrastructure, past disease outbreaks, and reliance on inexperienced firms threaten animal welfare and program outcomes, questioning Indonesia's readiness to scale up milk production and reduce reliance on imports from Australia, New Zealand, and the U.S.

Indonesia's delayed new capital risks 'white elephant' status

—Satya Adhi and Jack Moore/AFP, *France24*, 7 September 2025

A year after its inauguration, Indonesia's new capital Nusantara remains largely unfinished, with empty avenues and a half-built presidential palace symbolizing stalled progress amid slashed budgets and waning political will. Conceived by former president Joko Widodo to replace overcrowded, sinking Jakarta, the \$32 billion project faces uncertainty under President Prabowo Subianto, who has redirected focus and funding toward social welfare programs such as free meals. Official allocations for Nusantara have dropped from Rp 43.4 trillion in 2024 to just Rp 6.3 trillion in 2026, far below the Rp 21 trillion requested, while foreign investment has been slow to materialize. Only 800 of the planned 6,600 hectares of the core government zone are ready, with just over 1,000 employees living in the city, far from its 2045 target of two million residents. While Nusantara officials insist core facilities are nearly complete and aim for a 2028 move, critics warn the project risks becoming a costly white elephant.

The Facts of the Case Ensnaring Nadiem Makarim and the Vulnerability of Corruption in the Education Sector

—Hidayat Salam, *Kompas*, 5 September 2025

Former Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology Nadiem Makarim has been named a suspect in a corruption case involving the Rp 9.9 trillion Chromebook laptop procurement under the Education Digitalization Program (2019–2022), with state losses estimated at Rp 1.98 trillion. The Attorney General's Office alleged that Nadiem ordered the use of Chromebooks before the official procurement process and coordinated with Google Indonesia, with discussions traced back to a WhatsApp group formed in August 2019, two months before his ministerial appointment. Four other suspects—former special staff Jurist Tan, consultant Ibrahim Arief, ex-director of elementary schools Sri Wahyuningsih, and ex-director of junior high schools Mulatsyah—are also implicated. Anti-corruption experts, including Herdiansyah Hamzah of Mulawarman University, said naming Nadiem was appropriate given his subordinates were already suspects, urging investigators to follow the money trail and probe potential high-level involvement. Indonesian Corruption Watch (ICW) noted the case adds to 240 corruption scandals in the education sector between 2016 and 2021, underscoring systemic weaknesses.

The (Bitter) Smile of Rice Self-Sufficiency

—Hendriyo Widi, *Kompas*, 3 September 2025

Indonesia is projected to achieve rice self-sufficiency in 2025, with national production expected to reach 33 million tons by year-end, even higher than the government's 31.04 million-ton estimate for January–October and USDA and FAO forecasts of up to 35.6 million tons. Supported by Rp 15.15 trillion in Bulog's capital, government rice reserves stood at 3.93 million tons in September, strengthening confidence that rice imports will not be needed. Yet, prices continue to rise, with retail rice hitting Rp 15,393 per kg in August, up 4.24 percent year-on-year, outpacing general inflation at 2.31 percent. Analysts link this to Bulog's policy of buying unhusked rice (GKP) of any quality at Rp 6,500 per kg, which has raised farmer incomes but also spurred fraud, higher production costs, and declining rice quality. With large mills controlling 60 percent of output, oligopolistic practices are worsening, while adulterated rice cases mount. Despite market operations and aid distribution, rice prices remain stubbornly high, casting doubt on the benefits of early self-sufficiency.

Achieving 13 Years of Compulsory Education Requires Political Commitment from Regional Heads

—Stephanus Aranditio, *Kompas*, 3 September 2025

Indonesia's push to implement 13 years of compulsory education hinges largely on regional governments, which control nearly half of the education budget, totaling Rp 347.1 trillion (47.92 percent) in 2025, compared with less than 10 percent allocated to central ministries such as Primary and Secondary Education (Rp 33.5 trillion), Higher Education (Rp 57.7 trillion), and Religious Affairs (Rp 65.9 trillion). Officials from the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) stressed that progress must begin locally, urging regional heads to use research-based planning through BRIDA and BAPPERIDA to tackle challenges such as low participation rates—36 percent in early childhood education and 74 percent at senior high school—alongside infrastructure gaps, geography, and socio-economic barriers. Indonesia's poor PISA scores (numeracy 366, science 383, reading 359) highlight the urgency. With over 3,500 sub-districts lacking early education facilities and hundreds without junior or senior high schools, experts emphasize that local leaders' political will, budget priorities, and cross-sector collaboration will determine whether the 13-year vision succeeds.

Having received a Danantara loan, ID Food and SGN begin absorbing sugar from farmers

—Hendriyo Widi, *Kompas*, 3 September 2025

Indonesia's state-owned enterprises ID Food and PT Sinergi Gula Nusantara (SGN) have started buying unsold sugar from farmers at auction using Rp 1.5 trillion sourced through a shareholder loan from PT Danantara Asset Management, under a business-to-business scheme. As of August 29, 2025, ID Food had absorbed 21,500 tons and SGN 6,900 tons, while sugar traders took in 21,590 tons, leaving 31,900 tons yet to be purchased. The National Food Agency (Bapanas) said the sugar will help strengthen government reserves, targeted at 260,000 tons this year, of which 170,000 tons are already secured. Authorities also pledged tighter supervision of refined crystal sugar (GKR), which is banned from consumer markets, and instructed regional police to ensure farmers' sugar is purchased at the reference price of Rp 14,500 per kg. The Indonesian Sugarcane Farmers Association (APTRI) welcomed the move but urged transparency, noting nearly 100,000 tons of sugar remain unsold at SGN-managed mills, and called for closer monitoring of absorption data.

Around 400 children fall ill after eating free school meals in Indonesia's Bengkulu

—Reuters, *TheStraitsTimes*, 3 September 2025

About 400 children in Bengkulu Province, were hospitalized with stomach pain after eating free school meals, marking the worst mass food poisoning case linked to President Prabowo Subianto's flagship food program. Launched in January to provide meals for children and pregnant women, the initiative has repeatedly faced sanitation-related poisoning incidents, including one in Central Java in August that sickened 365 people. Bengkulu's vice-governor said operations at the implicated kitchen have been suspended pending investigation by the National Nutrition Agency (BGN) and authorities. BGN chief Dadan Hindayana confirmed the kitchen had only recently begun operating and staff are reviewing procedures while awaiting lab results. The program, rapidly expanded to reach 20 million recipients, is expected to cover 83 million people by the end of 2025 at a cost of 171 trillion rupiah (US\$13.3 billion). The repeated outbreaks have raised concerns over food safety and oversight as the government presses ahead with its ambitious scheme.

II. Indonesia in Politics and Geopolitics

Indonesia and Australia Strengthen Long-Term Defense Relations

—Nino Citra Anugrahanto, *Kompas*, 8 September 2025

Indonesia and Australia are deepening defense cooperation with a focus on human resource development through cadet exchanges, scholarships, and joint training programs, highlighted during the visit of Australian Army Chief Lt. Gen. Simon Stuart to Jakarta on September 8, 2025. Stuart met with Indonesian Deputy Defense Minister Donny Ermawan in a closed meeting that underscored ongoing collaboration under the 2024 Defense Cooperation Agreement signed when President Prabowo Subianto was still defense minister. Current initiatives include Indonesian cadets studying at Australia's Royal Military College and Defence Force Academy, with future plans to expand scholarships for postgraduate studies in areas such as strategic defense and counterterrorism. Joint exercises between conventional and special forces are also being explored. Analysts view the cooperation as a long-term investment in defense diplomacy, building personal networks and trust among future military leaders, which could help manage crises and strengthen bilateral ties. The partnership also reflects Indonesia's independent foreign policy while supporting Indo-Pacific stability.

Grand Parade at Tiananmen

—Editorial, *Kompas*, 6 September 2025

China marked the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II with a grand military parade in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on September 3, showcasing advanced weaponry including ballistic missiles, hypersonic cruise missiles, laser arms, and stealth drones, some revealed publicly for the first time. The annual September event highlighted China's military modernization and signaled its growing power in the Asia-Pacific, particularly amid tensions over Taiwan and the South China Sea. The parade was attended by dozens of world leaders, with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto seen together in the front row, underscoring China's role in forging a bloc distinct from U.S. influence. Analysts viewed the spectacle both as a display of national strength—contrasting China's wartime weakness—and as a warning against challenges to its sovereignty, while also reflecting Beijing's broader influence through economic and diplomatic ties.

Indonesian protests draw regional solidarity with food orders for delivery drivers

—Mandy Leong, Heru Asprihanto and Stanley Widiyanto, *Reuters*, 4 September 2025

Motorcycle taxi and delivery drivers in Indonesia have become symbols of solidarity amid nationwide protests over inequality and lawmakers' perks, after the death of driver Affan Kurniawan, who was run over by a police vehicle in Jakarta. The tragedy, which ignited demonstrations that turned violent and left 10 dead, has drawn cross-border support, with people from Malaysia and other Southeast and East Asian countries ordering food via apps like Grab and Gojek for Indonesian drivers. Many orders include notes urging drivers to keep the meals or share them with their families, and screenshots of these gestures have spread widely on social media. Grab confirmed a rise in overseas orders, while GoTo highlighted the popularity of its "Treat Your Driver" feature. President Prabowo Subianto has vowed to deploy police and military to contain the unrest, but the protests continue to spotlight the precarious

wages and working conditions of ride-hailing drivers, long a contentious issue in Indonesia's gig economy.

US and Indonesian troops conclude joint drills with live-fire exercise

—Niniek Karmini, *APNews*, 3 September 2025

Indonesia and the United States wrapped up their annual Super Garuda Shield joint military drills on Wednesday with a large-scale live-fire exercise involving 6,500 troops from 13 countries, including Australia, Japan, the UK, France, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Brazil, Singapore, and South Korea. The 11-day exercise, held in Jakarta, Baturaja, and Dabo Singkep, featured artillery and rocket launches, airstrikes, and ground maneuvers, and for the first time in Indonesia, U.S. forces fired two FIM-92 Stinger missiles. Overseen by Indonesian Defense Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin and Military Chief Gen. Agus Subiyanto, the drills aimed to boost interoperability and strengthen regional defense ties amid rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific. Since expanding in 2022, Garuda Shield has drawn more participants and observers from Asia, while China has criticized it as a U.S. attempt to build an "Asian NATO." Washington said the exercise is part of efforts to reassure allies facing Beijing's growing military presence and assertiveness in the South China Sea.

Prabowo, Xi Jinping Talk \$80 Billion Giant Sea Wall

—Jayanty Nada Shofa, *JakartaGlobe*, 3 September 2025

President Prabowo Subianto used his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on Wednesday to push Indonesia's \$80 billion giant sea wall project, a 500–700 km coastal defense along Java's northern coast aimed at preventing flooding. The talks followed China's massive military parade, which Prabowo attended after reversing an earlier decision to skip the event due to unrest at home. While Jakarta's press bureau confirmed the project was discussed, Beijing's statement did not mention it, instead highlighting "high-quality Belt and Road cooperation." Indonesia has repeatedly sought Chinese support for the sea wall, with Infrastructure Minister Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono earlier this year requesting financing and technical assistance, suggesting a public-private partnership as the best scheme. Prabowo recently created a special agency to oversee the project, signaling his determination to launch it despite Indonesia's struggles with debt from the \$7.3 billion Jakarta-Bandung high-speed rail, also backed by Chinese loans. Xi praised Prabowo's attendance, pledging support for Indonesia's stability and growth.

What is the SCO and What are the Results of the SCO Summit?

—Laraswati Ariadne Anwar, *Kompas*, 3 September 2025

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit was held in Tianjin, China, from August 31 to September 1, bringing together its 10 member states—China, India, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Iran, and Belarus—along with 27 partner countries, including Laos, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, with Indonesia's Foreign Minister Sugiono attending as an observer. Leaders agreed to deepen cooperation in energy, green industry, digital economy, science, technology, and education, with China pledging 2 billion yuan in grants and 10 billion yuan in loans over three years for SCO financial institutions. Security cooperation was strengthened through the inauguration of four SCO security centers to combat organized crime, cyber threats, and drug trafficking, while members committed to military trust-building measures along borders. China also announced the expansion of its Luban Workshop vocational training program, with 100 new facilities planned across SCO

states over the next five years, offering opportunities for 10,000 participants in sectors such as technology, transport, and the arts.

Explainer: What's fuelling the rage in Indonesia?

—Martin Petty, *Reuters*, 3 September 2025

Protests have erupted across Indonesia since August 25 over lawmakers' lavish allowances, escalating into some of the worst unrest in decades and posing the biggest challenge to President Prabowo Subianto's 10-month-old administration. Initially sparked by revelations that legislators received housing perks on top of salaries exceeding 100 million rupiah (\$6,150), demonstrations spread to 32 of 38 provinces, with parliament buildings torched and violence erupting after the death of a bystander hit by a police vehicle in Jakarta. At least eight people have been killed and 1,200 detained, while officials including Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati and lawmaker Ahmad Sahroni were targeted by online "doxxing" that led to looting. Protesters, largely student-led but increasingly diverse, cite widening inequality, cuts to regional budgets, and soaring defense and school meal spending as sources of anger. Prabowo cancelled a China trip, scrapped perks for lawmakers, and froze overseas travel, but vowed a tough stance on unrest, with rights groups warning security forces have used excessive force.

Indonesia protests explained: why did they start and how has the government responded?

—Helen Livingstone with Agencies, *TheGuardian*, 2 September 2025

At least seven people have been killed, more than 700 injured, and over 1,200 detained in violent protests that have swept Indonesia since August 25, sparked by lawmakers' Rp50 million (\$3,075) housing allowance—nearly 10 times Jakarta's minimum wage—amid austerity cuts. Anger intensified after 21-year-old delivery driver Affan Kurniawan was run over by a police armored vehicle in Jakarta, triggering nationwide unrest in cities including Makassar, Yogyakarta, Solo, Bandung, Palembang, and Banjarmasin, where parliament buildings, police stations, and homes of officials were torched or looted. The unrest caused losses of about Rp55 billion (\$3.3m) as buses, subways, and public infrastructure were destroyed. President Prabowo Subianto, facing his biggest test since taking office, canceled a trip to China and ordered security forces to act firmly, calling the riots signs of "treason and terrorism," while conceding to cut lawmakers' perks and overseas trips. He pledged financial support for Kurniawan's family and a police probe into his death, as the UN and rights groups urged investigations into excessive force.

What to know about Indonesia's nationwide unrest over lawmakers' perks

—NinieK Karmini, *APNews*, 1 September 2025

A wave of violent protests across Indonesia has left seven dead, hundreds injured, and over 1,200 detained, posing the biggest challenge yet to President Prabowo Subianto. The unrest, sparked by lawmakers' Rp50 million (\$3,075) monthly housing allowance and intensified after a police vehicle killed 21-year-old ride-hailing driver Affan Kurniawan, spread from Jakarta to Makassar, Yogyakarta, and other cities, with mobs torching parliament buildings, police posts, buses, and subway stations, causing an estimated Rp55 billion (\$3.3 million) in losses. Subianto, who canceled a planned trip to Beijing, ordered police and military to take firm action against what he called "rioters," while foreign embassies issued travel warnings. To ease anger, he pledged to cut lawmakers' perks, suspend overseas trips for parliamentarians, and ensure support for Kurniawan's family while investigating police involvement in his death. Analysts said the protests reflect deep frustration over economic hardship and political

insensitivity, testing Subianto's leadership as Indonesia struggles with slowing growth and public distrust.

What triggered violent protests across Indonesia, and how bad could it get for President Prabowo?

—Denny Armandhanu, *CNA*, 30 August 2025

Violent protests erupted in Jakarta and several Indonesian cities on Friday, August 29 following the death of a motorcycle taxi driver, Affan Kurniawan, who was run over by a police armored vehicle while delivering food during demonstrations against lawmakers' allowance hikes. His death ignited widespread anger that shifted from opposition to parliamentary perks to broader outrage over police brutality, with clashes leaving three dead in Makassar, South Sulawesi, and public facilities torched across Java. Analysts warned the unrest reflects deep frustration over insensitive political elites and parliament's failure to act as a check on government policies, with Prabowo Subianto's ruling coalition controlling 81 percent of seats. President Prabowo's call for a police probe and promise of support to Affan's family were dismissed as insufficient, with civil society groups demanding comprehensive police reform and the dismissal of the police chief. Observers cautioned that if grievances remain unaddressed, the turmoil could trigger a domino effect threatening stability under Prabowo's administration.