

National scene

Tensions rise as Golkar factions battle

JAKARTA: Conflict between the Golkar Party's two opposing factions has intensified as news of the Agung Laksono camp's plan to seize control of the party's faction office at the House of Representatives circulated on Friday.

A number of police officers were stationed at the office on the 12th floor of the House building in Senayan, Central Jakarta, on Friday.

"The police are ready to do their job if there is a request from the House's in-house security team," said Central Jakarta Police chief Sr. Comr. Hendro Pandowo, who was also present at the office.

Agung's camp has been trying to take over the office after his leadership was validated by Law and Human Rights Minister Yasonna H. Laoly on Monday.

Lawmakers from his camp quickly followed up the announcement by attempting to seize control of the party's faction from loyalists of Aburizal Bakrie.

While keeping Setya Novanto, a loyalist of Aburizal, as House speaker, Agung is focusing on removing his opponent's loyalists from strategic posts in House commissions and other internal bodies, including faction head Ade Komarudin and faction secretary Bambang Soesatyo.

Agus Gumiwang Kartasasmita, who has been appointed by Agung to replace Ade, has sent a letter to Ade, asking him to leave his office at the House by Sunday.

Aburizal and his supporters, however, refuse to give in, saying that the camp is waiting for the House to make a decision regarding the leadership of the party's faction. They also planned to file a lawsuit against Yasonna's decree with the Jakarta State Administrative Court (PTUN).

On Friday, Agung's camp launched a counterattack by filing a report against Bambang with the National Police's crime unit. ■

DPD and KPK hold closed door meeting

JAKARTA: Leadership of the Regional Representatives Council (DPD) and commissioners of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) held a closed door meeting on Friday to forge a cooperation to combat graft.

"All KPK commissioners took part in the meeting to discuss various issues as corruption is a rampant problem that has to be solved," DPD speaker Irman Gusman said prior to the meeting.

Irman said that the DPD had agreed to join the fight against corruption.

"The KPK requested the meeting," he said. Speaking after the meeting, interim KPK chairman Taufiequrachman Ruki said that the KPK wanted the DPD to aid corruption prevention efforts in the management of natural resources in the region.

"We want to use the DPD as a conduit because they have access to the local administrations," Ruki said. ■

Court quashes Sutan's pretrial motion

JAKARTA: The South Jakarta District Court has rejected the pretrial motion filed by Democratic Party lawmaker Sutan Bhatoegana, who challenged the Corruption Eradication Commission's (KPK) move to name him a suspect in a graft case.

The court said that the pretrial motion was rejected because the KPK had wrapped up their prosecution against Sutan.

"A pretrial motion cannot be accepted if the Jakarta Corruption Court has already held a hearing for the case. A pretrial hearing only concerns administrative matters," South Jakarta District Court spokesman I Made Sutrisna said.

Earlier this week, the court ordered a two-week postponement for Sutan's pretrial hearing.

Sole judge Asjadi Sembiring adjourned the court session until April 6 after the antigraft body failed to attend the hearing.

Sutan is currently challenging the KPK's decision to name him a suspect in a bribery case involving the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry and House of Representatives Commission VII overseeing energy and mineral resources, where Sutan once served as chairman and allegedly accepted billions of rupiah in bribes. ■

Getting caught



Courtesy of Twitter/@fajroel

National Mandate Party (PAN) lawmaker Anang Hermansyah, who is also a rock singer, is caught on camera lighting up inside the air conditioned House of Representatives compound during a recent hearing. Anang has admitted that it is him in the photo and apologized for his misbehavior.

New sound



JP/DON

Volunteers from the Starkey Hearing Foundation check a hearing aid worn by a toddler during free hearing aid fittings at the Social Affairs Ministry on Friday.

Supreme Court expedites death row appeals

Ina Parlina

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

The Supreme Court guaranteed on Friday that all justices would expedite hearings on case-review petitions filed by several death row, as the international community was observing the process.

The court decided on Wednesday to reject a second case review petition filed by Philippine national Mary Jane Fiesta Veloso, a drug convict in the second batch of executions to take place.

Two other drug convicts - Serge Areski Atlaoui of France and Martin Anderson alias Belo of Ghana - are still challenging their death penalty rulings via case-review petitions.

Attorney General Muhammad Prasetyo praised the court's decision to reject Veloso's second case review petition, adding that the decision helped clear the way for the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to carry out the second batch of executions.

Supreme Court spokesman, justice Suhadi, said hearings in lower courts took up most of the time in the case-review process.

Suhadi later pledged that all court justices handling the cases would prioritize them.

"It is automatic. All justices know what to do [in prioritizing] those cases because it has drawn so much public attention," he said on Friday. "Rest assured, we are working professionally."

The Criminal Law Procedures

Code stipulates that a case review should be filed first with a lower court, which will later hear and study whether the petition meets all the requirements.

A case review can only be considered if new evidence or conflicting facts are found, or if judges are deemed to have erred in applying the law.

The first hearing of Veloso's second case review petition took place at the Sleman District Court on March 3. The lower court later submitted the documents to the Supreme Court on March 12.

Atlaoui's case review petition was first heard at the Tangerang District Court on March 11, however, the court has adjourned the hearing to March 25. The first hearing of Anderson's case review took place at the South Jakarta District Court on March 19.

Prasetyo expressed hope that court proceedings could be wrapped up soon so the AGO could announce the dates of the executions.

Veloso, Anderson and Atlaoui are three of 10 convicts set to be executed in the near future on Nusakambangan prison island near Cilacap, Central Java.

The other drug convicts facing imminent execution are Bali Nine duo Myuran Sukumaran and Andrew Chan of Australia, Rodrigo Gualarte of Brazil, Zainal Abidin of Indonesia and Raheem Agbaje Salami of Nigeria. Also slated to be executed are three convicted mur-

- ▶▶ Two death row convicts from France and Ghana are still challenging their sentences
- ▶▶ Justices have been told to prioritize case-review petitions
- ▶▶ AGO still uncertain on timing of executions

derers: Syofial alias Iyen bin Azwar, Harun bin Ajis and Sargawi alias Ali bin Sanusi, all from Indonesia.

Separately, Vice President Jusuf Kalla urged the public to wait for the AGO, which has authority over the executions, to decide when the executions would take place.

AGO spokesman Tony Spontana said it would take a while before the executions could take place. "I can assure you it will not be this week. I'm not sure if it will be this month. We must wait."

Meanwhile, House of Representatives Commission III overseeing laws and human rights checked Nusa Kambangan prison island to see if it was ready to host the executions.

Commission III chairman Azis Syamsudin said after the inspection that the prison was prepared and that it was only a matter of time before the executions would take place.

"All preparations for the executions of the drug convicts are complete, but the prosecutors are still waiting for the completion of the legal process," he said.

GRAFT

AGO opens fresh probe into Airin

Hans Nicholas Jong

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

The Attorney General's Office (AGO) grilled South Tangerang Mayor Airin Rachmi Diany on Friday in connection with a graft case involving the construction of health facilities worth Rp 7.8 billion (US\$607,000) carried out by her administration in 2011.

AGO spokesman Tony Spontana said Airin had been questioned as a witness given her position as South Tangerang mayor.

"Of course, things relate to her capacity as the regional head there because health facilities are her responsibility," Tony said.

Prosecutors also found that the health facilities were constructed using the South Tangerang regional budget, raising questions about Airin's possible involvement in the case.

Prior to Friday's questioning, the AGO had summons Airin on numerous occasions, but she failed to show up.

The AGO has named seven suspects in the case, including Airin's husband, Banten businessman Tubagus Chaeri "Wawan" Wardana, who is also the younger brother of disgraced former Banten governor Ratu Atut Chosiyah.

Wawan and another suspect, Maimak Jamaksari, are currently in the custody of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK).

Wawan was sentenced to four years in a bribery case. He is also awaiting the completion of his dossiers on two separate graft cases on medical equipment procurement in the South Tangerang and Banten administrations along with money-laundering cases handled by the KPK.

If found guilty, Wawan could be sentenced to another 20 years behind bars for the case being handled by the AGO.

The AGO has charged Wawan under Article 2 of the 1999 Corruption Law, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

Airin has also been questioned by the KPK as a witness in her husband's cases handled by the KPK.

The KPK is currently compiling the dossier on Wawan involving a Rp 23 billion medical equipment procurement project in South Tangerang, which was subject to massive irregularities, such as direct appointment, mark ups and bribery.

The South Tangerang case is only one among many massive corruption cases involving members of Banten's political dynasty, which has been in power for decades since Atut, convicted in a separate graft case handled by the KPK, became the deputy governor of Banten in 2006.

Atut took office as acting governor in the same year after former Banten governor Djoko Munandjar was dismissed from his post after standing trial in a graft case.

Atut, who was arrested for allegedly collaborating with Wawan in bribing former Constitutional Court chief justice Akil Mochtar, managed to stay in power, literally controlling her administration from the detention center with her status as a suspended governor, during her four-month-long trial in 2014.

She was eventually dismissed from her post after the Jakarta Corruption Court found her guilty along with Wawan in the bribery case.

Her post was taken over by her deputy governor, actor-turned-politician, Rano Karno.

SPATIAL PLANNING

Mixed-use developments key to RI urban problems

Already the fourth-largest country in the world by population, Indonesia continues to grow in size. According to a 2010 census, Indonesia's urban population has reached nearly 120 million, almost half the country's population. The National Development Planning Board (Bappenas) has predicted that the urban population will reach 152 million by 2025, about 67.5 percent of the total projected population. As urban population grows, urban planners have to find ways to ensure a good quality of life. One of those ways is to incorporate eco-friendly architecture into spatial planning. The Jakarta Post's Hans Nicholas Jong talked recently with award-winning architect and urban planner Jason Pomeroy, founder of Singapore-based eco-architecture firm, Pomeroy Studio, to find out how a sustainability agenda could prevent Indonesia's mega cities from crumbling under pressure from the growing number of city dwellers.

Question: What do you think of the current state of Indonesia's urban development and how does a city like Jakarta compare to other cities in Southeast Asia?

Answer: Indonesia, like many post-colonial countries, is experiencing rapid urbanization. As the country develops and its people get richer, its cities have emerged as centers of wealth creation and as a result, more and more Indonesians are moving from the countryside to the city in search of jobs and opportunities. While this is a normal phenomenon - every developed nation from Great Britain to Australia has

experienced this - rapid urbanization also brings with it many issues and challenges that are now being played out in many of Indonesia's towns and cities. The most obvious challenge is infrastructure and public services, and ensuring that they keep up with the demands of a rapidly growing population. Jakarta has struggled on this front, and a lack of public transportation has caused an almost unsustainable growth in vehicles. In 2013, there were 4.1 million automobiles and 11.9 million motorcycles on Jakarta's streets, resulting in massive congestion, noise and pollution.



Jason Pomeroy

How important is mixed-use development to Indonesia? Does the country already have enough of it?

Mixed-use developments can have many benefits for communities and cities, especially developing ones such as Jakarta. By integrating commerce, residential and leisure in one place, you increase social interaction and create a sense of community. Furthermore, by co-locating multiple destinations (shops, hairdressers, offices, sports facilities etc.) you end up reducing traffic, as there is less dependency on vehicles - especially important in a congested city such as Jakarta. On top of this, commuting times be-

come much shorter as there is less distance to travel to work. Again, for many in Jakarta who cannot afford to live near the city center, traveling to work in the morning can take hours. Time spent sitting in a traffic jam is time lost. Additionally, mixed-use developments can spur revitalization, especially important in run-down areas of the city, and you put less strain on the environment, as one tall building suddenly has multiple uses.

Do you think that is the solution for cities like Jakarta with an ever-growing population and limited space?

It is certainly a solution. As land values grow and prices increase, buildings will become taller and taller in order to maximize return. As such, it will become more necessary to stack multiple uses on top of one other.

There are cities like Jakarta where high-rise modern buildings are juxtaposed with slums. How do you bring these two different worlds together with architecture?

I would say look to your past for your answer to the present and the

future. If we consider the traditional kampong house that is indigenous to Southeast Asia - whether in Malaysia, Indonesia or even in the Philippines - we find a series of homes in and among the greenery and open space. These homes are flexible and adaptable. They can grow and contract according to the needs of the occupants. So a small family of three may grow in size as mom and dad have more kids, and the house can expand to accommodate them. Once the kids leave home, the house can contract again. They are environmentally sensitive - you could say they were the original eco-buildings. This is exactly what I did in an earlier project of mine in Malaysia. The Idea House, situated just outside Kuala Lumpur, employed many of the passive design techniques used in ancient Malay kampong houses.

Is it something that you see often in Indonesia?

It is certainly not common place. People still assume that traditional means boring, rooted in the past and irrelevant for this modern age

of technology and progress. Our understanding of sustainable design is one that draws on the essence of culture and tradition to create built environments that positively impact peoples' lives. Some of the best lessons are in the past and if we can draw on these and blend them with modern technology then we can achieve zero-carbon public realms that are liveable, pleasant places to be. I have designed Asia's first carbon-neutral home, and Pomeroy Studio has now designed Singapore's first carbon-negative landed property (the B House, due for completion in Q4 2015) - both of which draw on lessons from Malay kampong houses and Singaporean black-and-white bungalows respectively; and incorporate solar panels and other green technology. We are exploring this carbon-zero development idea for high-rise buildings as well. We are going beyond just a simple one- or two-story house and are starting to look at 30-story high-rises that can be constructed along similar principles within 6 months.