

New Future Indonesia - An Analysis by the Japanese Expert Mr. Kazuhisa Matsui

(1) Jokowi 2nd Term Prioritizes Investment and Business, Facing the Spreading of COVID-19

- **2019 was the year of politics. The second term of President Joko Widodo, who was re-elected, started with a steady government which incorporated Prabowo into his cabinet.**
- **The current cabinet is aiming for an economic growth by prioritizing business and investment, which caused environmental and land issues tends to be neglected. Not only that, there are also new movements such as demonstration by civil society and anti-discrimination movement of Papua.**
- **During such situations, the COVID-19 is spreading unexpectedly. There is a large possibility of collapse of medical system, and this is not a time for political strife nor corruption.**

◆ **2019 was a year of acrobatic politics**

2019 was a political year in which the presidential election that occurs every 5 years was held. As most people predicted, the incumbent President Joko Widodo (popularly known as Jokowi) was re-elected. However, the supporter of Prabowo Subianto, the leader of Gerindra (the opposition party) who lost the presidential election again, appealed that the election result was invalid. This turned into a riot in Jakarta, but the national security forces immediately suppressed it.

And then it progressed into an acrobatic development in which Prabowo joined the new cabinet as the Minister of Defense. Prabowo split with the Islamic hardline group who had been his strong supporter, and joined Jokowi who has same ideology, a nationalism, with Prabowo.

Looking back, what was the meaning of the vicious political strife that deepen hatred among Indonesian, the slander battles that divided the society? Many people must have thought so.

◆ **The second term of Jokowi is stable, but...**

As Prabowo turned over, the political foundation became solid. In the second term, President Jokowi wants to set the capital relocation on track and prioritizes infrastructure development and attracting investment.

The Jokowi's administration proceeds on formulating the Omnibus Law that packages together the relevant parts of existing regulations in order to make the environment of investment in Indonesia more business-friendly.

On the other hand, we can see some signs of weakening corruption eradication's efforts due to the government's efforts to make business environment more friendly and the government putting off due consideration on land and environmental issues.

As we look at the Jokowi administration for the next five years, we need to pay attention to the new movements seen in 2019. For example, it is the rapid expansion of criticism demonstrations by citizen and students across the nation against amendment of the law to reduce the function of the Anti-Corruption Committee, and large-scale protest movement against discrimination to the Papua people by non-Papuan Indonesians.

◆ **The unexpected spreading of the COVID-19**

During such situations, the COVID-19 has spreading unexpectedly. Before the announcement of the first 2 cases by the President on 2 March, it was like a story from a distant country. People imagined many unscientific reasons of no COVID-19 in Indonesia at that time, such as Indonesia's tropical climates, people are keeping their hygiene and often praying.

As of 21 April 2020, 4 PM (West Indonesia Time), the COVID-19 has spreading to all 34 provinces in Indonesia with the number of cases are 7,135, the number of deaths are 616, and the number of recovered cases are 842. The mortality rate of medical staff is especially high, and I think that there is a high possibility of collapse in healthcare. Next time, I will explain the condition and the problems of the COVID-19 countermeasures in Indonesia.

About the Author: Mr. Kazuhisa Matsui (Managing Director, Matsui Glocal LLC) / Independent consultant to connects Indonesia-Japan.
He has almost 35 years experiences in research, study and consulting on Indonesian affairs, such as senior researcher of IDE-JETRO (1985-2008), JICA expert in Bappenas, JETRO expert, etc. He has stayed in Jakarta, Makassar and Surabaya for more than 15 years.