

# **The Law and Politics of Elections in Indonesia: Possibilities, Prospects and Challenges**

Date: Monday 10 December 2018

Venue: Staff Common Room, University of New South Wales Law School, Kensington Campus

Time: 9:15-4:30pm

The world's third largest democracy, Indonesia, is preparing to go to the polls once again. On 17 April 2019, Indonesian's will vote in the next national legislative and presidential elections. This is the first time that parliamentary and presidential elections will be held on the same day. There are two candidates for president. The current President Joko Widodo ('Jokowi') is running with KH Ma'ruf Amin, the chairperson of the Indonesian Ulama Council and of the world's largest Islamic organization, Nahdlatul Ulama (NU). Against them are Prabowo Subianto, a former general of the Indonesian armed forces, and Sandiaga Uno. Prabowo previously contested the 2014 presidential elections and lost to Jokowi, a result he disputed in court.

There are competing factors at play in the upcoming 2019 elections. There have been changes to Indonesia's electoral laws, as has been the case prior to every national election since 1999. This time, 15 parties have been approved to run in the national elections. In 2017, there were also simultaneous local elections (known as pilkada) held across a large number of regions. The former mayor of Jakarta and Jokowi's former running mate for mayor, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama (known as 'Ahok'), lost the Jakarta gubernatorial elections after his popularity was affected due to mass mobilization on accusations of blasphemy. Ahok is a Chinese and a Christian, considered to be a double-minority in Indonesia. He was later found by a court to be guilty of blaspheming Islam and remains in jail.

The upcoming elections have therefore raised important questions not only about electoral laws, but also about religion, race and money politics in Indonesia. This conference will bring together a distinguished group of academics to discuss the law and politics of elections in Indonesia.

This event is hosted at the University of New South Wales Law School and is organized in partnership with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), the Indonesian Election Commission (Komisi Pemilihan Umum, KPU) and the Indonesian Elections Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu).

## **Program**

### **9:15-10 – Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Dr Melissa Crouch, UNSW

Leena Rikkilä Tamang, Regional Director for Asia & the Pacific, International IDEA (TBC)

Opening Remarks by Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Mr. Y. Kristiarto Legowo (TBC)

### **10:00-11:30 – Session 1**

Chair: Milda Istiqomah, PhD candidate, UNSW Law

Adhy Aman, Senior Programme Manager International IDEA, *Indonesia's Pilkada Elections 2018: Outcomes and Implications*

Professor Simon Butt, University of Sydney, *Legislative Changes to Indonesia's Electoral Laws*

11:30-11:45 – morning tea

### **11:45-1:15pm– Session 2**

Chair: Adhy Aman, Senior Programme Manager International IDEA

Dr Fritz Siregar, Bawaslu (Indonesian Electoral Supervision Body) – *The Important Role of Bawaslu in Supervising Indonesia's Elections*

Dr Hasyim Asyari, Indonesian General Elections Commission (KPU) Commissioner, *The Role of Indonesia's Elections Commission*

1:15-2:15pm Lunch

### **2:15-3:00pm: Session 3:**

Chair: Indri Saptaningrum, PhD candidate, UNSW Law

Dr Jacqui Bakker, Murdoch University, *The Police and Electoral Contestation*

Dr Melissa Crouch, UNSW Law

3:00-3:30pm afternoon tea break

### **3:15pm-4:30pm Session 4:**

Chair: Dr Melissa Crouch

Plenary Session with: Dr Hasyim Asyari, Dr Fritz Siregar and Adhy Aman

## **Biographies of Speakers**

**Dr Jacqui Bakker, Murdoch University.** I hold a PhD in Comparative Government and an MSc in Social Anthropology from the London School of Economics as well as Bachelor of Arts and Asian Studies degrees from the Australian National University. I am currently conducting research on the role of the Indonesian police in democratic consolidation as well as a secondary project on criminal monies in Indonesia. I have also worked or provided consultancy services on political, legal or police issues for numerous international organisations including East Timor's Commission for Truth, Reception and Reconciliation, The Asia Foundation, the European Union, Amnesty International, International IDEA and United National Office for Drugs and Crime. I am the president of the Indonesia Council. I also sit on the national board for the Australian Consortium for In-Country Studies (ACICIS) and the WA/NT board of the John Monash Foundation.

**Dr Hasyim Asyari,** Indonesian General Elections Commission (KPU) Commissioner

**Dr Fritz Siregar**, Indonesian Electoral Supervision Body (Bawaslu)

**Professor Simon Butt**, University of Sydney

**Adhy Aman**, Senior Programme Manager, International IDEA

Adhy is responsible for regional and some country-level projects surrounding electoral processes as well as political participation and representation processes in Asia and the Pacific. He has worked on a variety of issues in the field of electoral reform, democratic institution development and democracy education. Adhy specializes in legal framework review, electoral systems and electoral justice. He is formerly First Secretary of the National Election Supervisory Committee of Indonesia for the historic 1999 General Elections.

**Dr Melissa Crouch, UNSW Law.** Her research contributes to the field of Asian Legal Studies, with a focus on Comparative Constitutional Law; Law and Development; and Law and Religion. Her research has a particular focus on Southeast Asia, where she has conducted extensive socio-legal field research. She is currently Chief Investigator on an ARC Discovery Grant on "Constitutional Change in Authoritarian Regimes" (2018-2020). Melissa is the *author of Law and Religion in Indonesia: Conflict and the Courts in West Java* (Routledge, 2014). She has published in a range of peer-reviewed journals including the *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, *Sydney Law Review* and *Asian Studies Review*. She leads the UNSW Law Southeast Asia engagement strategy, and is the Myanmar Academic Lead for the UNSW Institute for Global Development.

Milda Istiqomah, UNSW Law

Indri Saptaningrun, UNSW Law

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