

## IN BRIEF: POLITICAL

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### Coming soon...

Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR) speaker Agung Laksono kicked off the first session of the DPR's 2006-2007 term on August 16 with the announcement of the year's legislative schedule. Priority consideration has been given to 33 laws, but the likelihood that all will be passed during the term is remote, given its previous record of productivity. The 2005-2006 session was particularly problematic, as only 14 laws were passed from the scheduled 55, resulting in many being carried over to the new session.

The *Report* asked Tommi Legowo, a political analyst at the Jakarta-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), which of the scheduled laws were likely to cause the most controversy. He said that laws relating to freedom of information will be one of the major issues to be dealt with in the next session, specifically the Freedom of Information Law and the Law on State Secrets. With no previous laws on the books dedicated to freedom of information, this is the first time in the post-Soeharto period that this issue will be dealt with directly.

Following a trend seen over the last few years, decentralisation will continue to be an area of focus, as the central government tries to claw back some of the authority granted to the regions in 1999 and 2001. A Law on Regional Tax and Levies will attempt to regulate the taxes that local governments are pushing primarily upon businesses in the regions, while President Yudhoyono has also given a strong indication that there is likely to be a new law restricting the creation of new regencies and provinces (see *Intelligence*, p. 5).

Another set of laws to watch out for, according to Tommi, are those dealing with the election process both regionally and nationally. A law to regulate the elections and especially the role of the General Election Committee (KPU) will be deliberated, as will one that could allow political parties with a smaller percentage of the vote to offer candidates for regional heads and mayoral elections.

In the economic sphere, some of the most important laws to be debated will be concerning tax and customs as well as the much anticipated investment law. The tax laws are designed to cut bureaucracy and reduce tax rates in order to attract investment but are likely to get bogged down given their complexity. Similarly, the investment law is expected to encounter further delays due to infighting between economic nationalists and those with a more outward looking approach toward investment.

Some of the most controversial bills from last year also need to be finalised, including the controversial labour law and anti-pornography law.

However, Tommi also cautions that the laws produced by the DPR are by no means the end of the legislating process. The effects of the laws made at the DPR are strongly mitigated by their implementation regulations which are themselves drawn up by government bureaucrats. Because the laws tend to focus on more general issues, the implementing regulations have a huge impact on how the laws are eventually interpreted.

**IN BRIEF: POLITICAL**

Another factor to consider is the continued tendency of President Yudhoyono to regulate important issues through Presidential Regulations (*Peraturan Presiden*) rather than proposing them as laws. The number of Presidential Regulations rose from five in 2004 to 83 in 2005 and so far 78 in 2006. The great benefit of using Presidential Regulations is that the president can issue them without consulting the DPR, but the risk is that they can be more easily challenged or overturned through the courts than can laws.

**Koesmayadi investigation instigates military reshuffle**

The results of the preliminary investigation into the Koesmayadi affair have been released to the public and have instigated a major internal restructuring within the military.

After his death from a heart attack in late June, Army Brig. Gen. Koesmayadi was found to have a massive stash of arms in his home, including 655 military standard rifles, 17 nonstandard handguns, 16 live grenades, and more than 9,000 ammunitions, prompting speculation in the media that he was planning a military coup against Yudhoyono's government.

The investigation, which was headed by Army Chief Gen. Djoko Santoso, had two main conclusions: the arms found had indeed been procured by the TNI and Koesmayadi was the highest ranking officer to be involved. With no indication of who else might have been involved in the affair from the military or the government, many NGOs and commentators have labeled it a white-wash. Such accusations have not been helped by outlandish suggestions in the report, including one that Koesmayadi was planning to open an arms museum.

A source close to the Palace told the *Report* that TNI commander Air Force Marshall Djoko Suyanto and the head of the investigation team met with President Yudhoyono prior to the announcement of the findings, where they advised the president that "the investigation has been completed and had better stop there."

"The military top brass doesn't want to go further in the investigation for fears that such a move could endanger unity inside the military," the source added.

In the meantime, suspicions have arisen that the recent military reshuffle is directly related to the Koesmayadi affair because of its unusual timing. Normally, military reshuffles take place in April and October of each year.

There are two main groupings within the Indonesian military. The first is known as the "red and whites" after the colours of the Indonesian flag because of its secular nationalist orientation. The second is known as the "greens" or lately the "Talibanese" for their support of Islamic politics and groups.

Because Koesmayadi was a prominent member of the "red and white" camp, it is believed that the latest reshuffle represents promotions for the "greens" over the "red and whites," many of which were linked to Koesmayadi.