Where are we now (Indonesia)?

Either as the 4th highest population or developing country, Indonesia certainly has a great number of severe issues. Some of them are rational and others are quizzical or even inexplicably. Considering the age of Indonesia since its independence, it should have cruised along with South Korean, Singapore and Malaysia. It is, however, a fact that Indonesia is “clamped” by its own leaders, keeping the political issues as the main topics and furthermore thoroughly incorporated to assorted sectors which are grueling for society. It seems that Indonesia is being besieged by a number of people who do “speak” for the better future of it. Moreover, the tag—’Democracy for People Prosperity' ironically fades away as the election is done. As a consequence, people of Indonesia encounter nearly insignificant changes though it has been almost 15 years since reformation declared in governmental structures.

As classified to 109th out of 179 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI), Indonesia has only slightly increased at HDI level (~10%) since 1995 to 2006 (FAO, 2009). Hence, despite a remarkable recovery since the 1998 economic crisis, Indonesia is still having problems specifically on poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition indicated by 27% of national poverty prevalence and the moderate level of undernourished up to 13% in 2005-2007 (FAO, 2011). The gap of economic status climbs highly which eventually fructifies multi-social conflicts, such as increased crimes (e.g., for the past three years a number of bank robberies with guns reported), intolerance between different religions, terrorism, low level of educated people, etc.

People's Interest, People's Trust and Public Enemies

To my best knowledge, there should be a question rises in society about obscurity of what Indonesia will achieve in the future by recalling what it does have at the moment. I speculate and try to transcribe that at least government has to take into account these three matters: (i) People’s Interest, (ii) People’s Trust and (iii) Public Enemies; that they are related one-another. People of Indonesia interested in a much better future! It obviously means stable economic status, that each family could live in better environmental conditions, physically and psychology. Highlighting on economic condition, one of the most significant current discussions in the society is the balance between import and export value of Indonesia,
including (i) merchandise trade and (ii) trade of commercial services. In 2011, according to the data of World Trade Organization (WTO), Indonesia’s export-import ratio of the total merchandise and commercial services was the fourth among ASEAN countries, having value of approximately 1.05, whereas our neighbor, Malaysia (as the 3\textsuperscript{rd} rank) could make the ratio up to 1.16. Singapore and Thailand possessed the first and the second position respectively. By stating the number, Indonesia’s import value was about 176881.1 million US dollars (contributing 1\% of share in world total imports). Interestingly, import value of agricultural products listed in the 3\textsuperscript{rd} rank, of 13\%. It is inevitably confusing, that is an agriculture-based country has to face such contradiction. Insofar history, Indonesia has ever declared its own food-security in terms of rice supplies in 1986. Therefore, by underlining the “tremendous” programs what so-called Five Year Development Plans and Long-term Development Plans in the era of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} president, Indonesia should shed further insights on agricultural sectors as its economic basis. However, agricultural sectors seem to escape from government’s focuses from period-to-period. Both policies and commitment on agricultural sectors are made up to just temporarily indulge, but not to solve, develop or even to advance them. Government tends to take curative actions instead of preventive ones. Government presumably prefers to support project-based-products in agricultural sectors instead of project-based-sciences. Cited as an example, making different colors of ice cream (\textit{refers to project-based-products}), without thinking about the technique of how to make different crystal structures for the soft texture of ice cream (\textit{refers to project-based-sciences}). Hence, at technological aspects of agriculture Indonesia-by-government is “satisfied” at the level of user. However, if we truly consider regarding research and development on agricultural sectors, many public (Bogor Agricultural University, Gadjah Mada University, Brawijaya University, University of North Sumatera, etc.) and private universities provide the specified programs on agriculture in order to continuously shape and produce capable human resources besides advancing the related knowledge and technologies. Supposedly, sciences and technologies could be altered progressively in universities as positive charge for the government to plan (making policies), implement, and furthermore to improve these sectors; if only government has thought about it and boldly has had strong commitment.

The second topic could be the most interesting one and strongly relates to the third one. In the era of the 5\textsuperscript{th} president of Indonesia, Corruption Eradication Commission (CEC) was set up based on the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 30 Year 2002. The idea of providing this commission was as a rapid response of government concerning corruption crime that has become a serious problem in all aspects of public government and has relinquished many disadvantages for the country.

\"Design of a process--whatever it is, fundamentally determines how it will respond
dynamically and how it could be firmly controlled, which consecutively means that consideration of controllability is the main parameter for both comfort and satisfaction of the design itself.

Frankly, people of Indonesia may perceive all of governmental cases as “by-design” scenarios. They are schemed like movies where the “authors” could control from the “back stage”. This controllability must be broken, that is by the work of CEC. Now days, as the 2nd united cabinet of the present president and House of Representatives formed by multi-parties, corruption tends to occur as each party needs high and higher budget to support its own activities in order to have “portion (again)” in the next period of regime. Since society knows clearly how corrupted this government, the only alternative that could recover people’s trust is through this commission. Therefore, people of Indonesia should strongly support this commission in order to maintain clean governmental activities and eliminate the public enemies. It is worth mentioning that progress has been made, reflected by the end of 2011 this commission has recovered at least 15.6 billion US dollars of national budget. In summary, Indonesia hopes on the works of CEC to set proper and clean government and to finally gain back its people’s trust.

So, where are we now (Indonesia)? Is it 5 or 10 cm from the goal which our Founding Fathers have dreamt about, or are we just spinning around of the edge? I guess, we are just on the motion of tired watching the surmountable problems shown on television where “they” should have known the exact solutions.

References:


*) Other data provided within the article is on-line at the official websites of WTO and FAO.