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Indonesia as a Winning Nation in the Global Landscape

Every nation has been given the means to achieve its goals and become winners through various measures and with God's destined resources. Correspondingly, the very purpose of national political systems and strategic leadership is how to relentlessly pursue national interests defined by the successful transformation of potential national power - demography, territory and natural resources - into national real power - ideology, politics, economics, society, psychology and technology.

Realization of strong national power will produce strong instruments of national power, such as military, intelligence, diplomacy, law enforcement, information, finance and economy to transform potential national power into real national power that determines the status of a nation as a winning nation at the global level.

He discussed the creation of strategic leadership to make Indonesia a winning nation in the global landscape.

"The concept of leadership is to create betterment for others with the final aim of a perfect or ideal condition. The continuous efforts of betterment and perfection in this unperfected world must become an ideal of virtuous leadership that will continue until the eternal, resurrected and perfect world to come. This is elaborated within Judeo-Christian and Islamic theology, as well as by renowned philosophers such as Plato."

Indonesia acknowledges God as a supreme being through the first article of the state ideology Pancasila as the God-given compass for Indonesia to achieve her divine destiny.

Businessmen should make investments to create assets.



world from bad to good, from death to life, or to perfection. It is also the embodied mission of leadership, which also involves one of its key elements: strategy.

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, CHALLENGES

The aim of strategic leadership is how to achieve an ideal condition for a nation by managing available resources; creating what has yet to be created to achieve goodness in the context of self-improvement, family, society, business, and a sovereign state. In other words, the good life of its citizens measured by their welfare, justice, and security within the boundary of a sovereign state must become the fundamental purpose of strategic leadership of any nation-state.

“Leadership is closely connected to strategy, which is related to strategic thinking or the capability of someone to think and act strategically and make decisions to benefit others. There are at least six thinking attributes in the mind of strategic leaders: critical thinking, thinking in time, synthesis thinking, system thinking, creative thinking and future thinking.

This set of capabilities, built upon self-introspection and self-awareness, is also a prerequisite of a leader, as leadership is also about serving, followership and others’ interests. Creating transformed, better conditions and followers shall become the goal of any leader,” Wibawa elaborated.



Wibawanto Nugroho

and technology sectors.

“An example of winning nations is the Global North, which has lower God-given resources compared to the South but has far stronger real power. Their ideology is extremely strong, rooted and even spread out across the globe. Politically, they have stable political systems and also have the capability of influencing the political condition in other countries,” Wibawa said.

“They also have strong economic power, as seen from their GDP and industrial sectors. They have strong financial powers, both in their access to financial systems and their domestic currencies. These issues round up to ideology, politics and economy.”

Indonesia’s founding fathers aimed to embody this goal, as shown by the struggle of former President Sukarno in uniting political ideologies to make Indonesia a powerful

Businessmen should not make political investments to secure their investments or assets.

“Leaders must be continuous learners, and are different to merely office-holders

Center for Defense and Strategic Studies.

In Indonesia, the National Resilience Institute is the center of excellence of high-level policy and strategy formulation, preparing future leaders for high-level policy and senior command and staff responsibilities. It is also responsible for maintaining and advancing the implementation of national values in the life of the Indonesian people.

Lemhannas Governor Lt. Gen. (Ret) Agus Widjojo, Wibawa added, is currently trying to transform the institution to become more capable of producing global-class strategists and strategic leaders, to establish competitive advantages for Indonesia in the future. Wibawa observes that as a visionary leader himself, the Lemhannas governor is doing his best to reshape the agency and the concept of national resilience into something more applicable to protect and advance national interests within the highly competitive, volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous world. The governor also pays close attention to constructive public-private sector integration and civil-military leadership in the postmodern era.

IDEOLOGY, POLITICS AND ECONOMY

The challenge of every leader, politician, economist and businessmen as the instruments of national power is to strengthen the nation to become a victor through their respective roles.

“An ideal leader should not only think critically, but also think within a historical timeline in various perspectives. He should be able to think synthetically, systematically, creatively and have a future-orientated perspective. These can only be obtained through a step-by-step process,” he said.

The process is being implemented by Lemhannas under Gen. Widjojo’s leadership. It has a program for strategic leadership, to teach its students to know themselves, through introspection, an examination of personal advantages and disadvantages, personal cultural background, open-mindedness, as well as ethics and morality.

“Pancasila, the 1945 Constitution and Unity in Diversity are values that should be embedded in every Indonesian,” he said, adding that national strategic leaders also need to be

equipped with the capability to read strategic environments, or domestic, national, regional and global conditions, as well as how to engineer them for the interests of Indonesia.

Leadership capabilities in the global context and how to lead within a changing situation must become inherent characteristics of national strategic leaders. Politicians, or political leaders, should also be equipped with a sense of morality and ethics, to prevent wrongdoing and any actions that will only benefit a particular individual or group.

Another subject discussed is the capability of knowing the instruments of power and how to use them to transform these potential resources into real powers. “Lastly, it is management strategy, or business strategy, as well as studying public and private sector interaction.”

Wibawa recommends that renowned businessman such as Theo Sambuaga and technological pioneers such as Jonathan Parapak – both Lemhannas graduates – should be invited by the government to share their experiences with future leaders about private-public sector integration.

“In the context of business, it returns to my first point that human beings are social creatures that cannot live alone and have to interact to fulfill their economic needs. Business is about how to add more value or creating a profitable economy. Business ideally is not about enriching one particular person, but also providing welfare and values for others.”

Wibawa added that businessmen should not make political investments to secure their investments or assets. “Political manipulation will most likely trigger a movement from the people. So, businessmen should not think about gaining returns (through politics) in the short term, such as thinking that they would gain returns by selecting a particular leader,” he said. ☺

Wibawanto Nugroho has a Master's Degree in International Business and Management from the University of Bradford School of Management, UK (2003); a Master's Degree in Strategic Security Studies and War-College Diploma in International Security, Irregular Warfare and Combating Terrorism from the US National Defense University (2007); and a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the George Mason University Schar School of Policy and Government (2013).

Strategic Leadership to Carry Indonesia as a Winning Nation in Global Landscape

Jakarta. Each nation in the world, including Indonesia, has been given the means to achieve their goals and become winners through various measures and God-destined resources. Correspondingly, the very purpose of national political system and strategic leadership is on how to relentlessly pursue national interests defined by the successful transformation of potential national power: demography; territorial; and natural resources into national real power: ideology; politics; economics; social; psychology; cyber; and technology.

Subsequently, the realization of strong real national power will produce strong instruments of national power, such as military, intelligence, diplomacy, law enforcement, information, finance and economy to transform the potential national power into real national power that determines the status of a nation as the winning nation at the global level.

Globe Asia sat down with Wibawanto “Wibawa” Nugroho, an Indonesian Fulbright Presidential Scholar and Ph.D. candidate with the College of Social Sciences and International Studies in University of Exeter, U.K. to finish by early 2018 in the field of National Security, Strategy, the Middle East, Arab, and Islamic studies, in a discussion of creating a strategic leadership to bring Indonesia as a winning nation in the global landscape.

Leadership, according to the strategist, policy scholar, and political scientist, is closely attached to how people perceive the source of and execute the mandated power. In general, there are two perspectives of leadership, an atheistic and theistic approach.

The atheistic approach says that the universe happened through a natural process without the presence of God— based on scientific assumption with its main premises that it might be wrong and limited to physical observation of a person or the observer.

“So, an atheist leader will say, ‘as far as I know, there is a possibility that God does not exist’ and I could possibly be wrong as fallibility is the first requirement of science” he said. Meanwhile, a theistic leader will say that leadership comes from the unlimited God, which is designed as perfect.

“The concept of leadership, in the end, is to create a betterment for others with the final aim of a perfect or ideal condition. The continuous efforts of betterment and perfection in this unperfected world must become the ideal of virtue leadership that will be continuing until the eternal, resurrected, and perfect world to come. It is also elaborated within the Judeo-Christian and Islamic theology, as well as renowned philosophers such as Plato.”

Indonesia acknowledges God as a supreme being through the first article of the state ideology Pancasila as the God-given compass for Indonesia to

achieve her divine destiny as God has the unique purpose for every nation. “Our founding fathers concluded that God is the ‘superlative strategist’, or the main power behind everything. Meaning, He is the role model of leadership,” he said. He is the Omni Science, Omni Potent, and Omni Present intellectual designer, and maestro of the unlimited universe.

As humans are limited, their efforts can only be perfected by the grace of God. In such, human leadership cannot be separated from God as the ultimate source of leadership itself, transforming the world from bad to good, from death to life, or to perfection. It is also the embodied mission of leadership, which also involves one of its key elements: strategy.

“If we want to truly understand the meaning of leadership and the very purpose of strategy, we must continuously seek to understand God and His inherent loving and just characters, and His ultimate eternal purpose for this universe.”

Strategic leadership and challenges

The aim of strategic leadership is how to achieve an ideal condition—for a nation—by managing available resources; creating what has yet to be created to achieve goodness in the context of self-improvement, family, society, business, and a sovereign state. In other words, the good life of its citizens measured by their welfare, justice, and security within the boundary of a sovereign state must become the fundamental purpose of strategic leadership of any nation-states.

“Leadership is closely connected to strategy, which is related to strategic thinking or the capability of someone to think and act strategically and creating decisions to benefit others. There are at least six thinking attributes in the mind of strategic leaders: critical thinking; thinking in time; synthesis thinking; system thinking; creative thinking; and future thinking. This set of capabilities, built upon self-introspection and self-awareness, are also a prerequisite of a leader, as leadership is also about serving, followership, and others’ interests. Creating transformed, better conditions and followers shall become the goal of any leaders,” Wibawa elaborated.

“Leaders must be continuous learners and are different with merely office holders or politicians. Being in the strategic position does not mean to make someone as a strategic leader, while doing something that creates strategic impacts also does not mean to make someone a strategic leader. Strategic leadership is about how to think and how to act in the strategic, visionary, and executable sense.”

As one of the senior strategists and adjunct lecturers (*narasumber*) at the ministerial-level National Resilience Institute of the Republic of Indonesia (Lemhannas), Wibawa said the challenge for Indonesia as part of the Global South—a division of global powers between the North and South based on their real national power—is that Indonesian leaders should be capable of transforming the nation’s potential resources into real powers.

A nation's real powers, in this perspective, are the strong ideology and identity, stable political system that may even influence other countries, good economic condition and economic equitability such as indicated by its gross domestic products (GDP), gini coefficient, balance of payment, as well as its social, cyber and technology sectors measured in terms of Human Development Index, literacy index, Democracy Index (the level of country's fair and free election, security of voters, level of foreign intervention, and quality level of democratically elected leaders), cyber capabilities, and national technological competitive advantages.

"An example of winning nations is the Global North, which has lower God-given resources compared to the South but has far stronger real powers. Their ideology is extremely strong, rooted and even spread across the globe. Politically, they have a stable political system and have the capability of influencing the political condition in other countries," Wibawa said.

"They also have strong economic power, as seen from their GDP and industrial sector. They also have strong financial powers, both in their access to financial system and their domestic currencies. These issues round up to the ideology, politics, and economy."

Indonesia's founding fathers had been aiming to embody this goal, as shown by the struggle of former president Soekarno in uniting political ideologies to preserve Indonesia as a powerful nation, former president Soeharto's struggle during the New Order era, as well as other presidents during the Reform Era.

Correspondingly, determining the position of a nation-state as a winning nation at the global level is indeed determined by the quality of its national education and specifically of how its future leaders are educated to think and act strategically.

In the U.S., it is called the senior War College system education offered by the U.S. National Defense University and senior military service schools, China offers it through the People Liberation Army National Defense University, while England and Australia respectively have the Royal College of Defence Studies, and Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies.

In Indonesia, the ministerial level-Indonesian National Resilience Institute is the embodiment of high-level policy and strategy formulation center of excellence, where it prepares and educates Indonesian future leaders for the high-level policy and senior command and staff responsibilities. The Agency is also responsible for maintaining and advancing the implementation of national values in the life of Indonesian people.

Lemhannas Governor Lt. Gen. (Ret) Agus Widjojo, Wibawa added, is also currently trying to transform the institution into becoming more capable of producing global-class Indonesian strategists and strategic leaders, to set competitive advantages for Indonesia in the future. Wibawa observes that as a visionary leader himself, the Governor of Lemhannas is doing his best to

reshape the agency and concept of national resilience into something that is more applicable to protect and advance Indonesian national interests within the highly competitive, volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous world.

Wibawa also added that the General pays close attention to the constructive public-private sector integration and civil-military leadership of postmodern era.

Ideology, politics, and economy in the strategic leadership

The challenge of every leader, politician, economist, and businessmen as the instruments of national power is to strengthen the nation to become a victor through their respective roles.

“An ideal leader should not only think critically, but also think within a historical timeline in various perspectives. He should be able to think synthetically, systematically, creatively and have a future-orientated perspective. However, all of these can only be obtained through a step-by-step process,” he said.

The process, according to the Fulbright Presidential Scholar, is being implemented by Lemhannas as a ministerial-level national institution under Gen. Widjojo’s leadership. It has a program for strategic leadership, to teach fellow attendants in knowing themselves, including on self-introspection, personal advantages and disadvantages, personal cultural background, open-mindedness, as well as ethics and morality.

“Pancasila, the 1945 Constitution and Bhinneka Tunggal Ika are also the values that should be embedded to every Indonesians,” he said, adding that national strategic leaders shall also be equipped with the capability to read strategic environments, or to read domestic, national, regional, and global conditions, as well as how to engineer those for the interests of Indonesia. The measure is to formulate and execute national strategies within peace, crisis and wartime.

Leadership capabilities in the global context and how to lead within the changing situation must become the inherent characteristics of national strategic leaders. Politicians, or political leaders, should also be equipped with the sense of morality and ethics, to prevent wrongdoings and any actions that will only benefit a particular individual or group, one of which by requiring them to obtain a security clearance to clarify their background, intentions, and purposes.

Another subject discussed is the capability of knowing the instruments of power and how to use it to transform these potential resources into real powers. “Lastly, it is the management strategy, or business strategy, as well as studying the public and private sector interaction.”

Wibawa recommends that the renowned businessman such as Theo Sambuaga and the technological pioneer such as Ir. Jonathan Parapak shall be invited by the Indonesian government as the distinguished speakers to

share their experiences with Indonesian future leaders about their long-time experiences in leading the private-public sector integration. The two senior leaders are also Lemhannas graduates many years ago.

“In the context of business, it returns to my first point that human beings are social creatures that cannot live alone and must interact to fulfill their economic needs. Business is about how to add more values, or income, from nothing to something, or creating a profitable economy—that can be consumed by the people. However, business is ideally not about enriching one person, but to also providing welfare and values for others,” Wibawa said.

Wibawa also added that businessmen should not force anything to secure their investments or assets, such as making any kinds of political investments for particular politicians or leaders.

“Political manipulation will most likely trigger a type of movement from the people. So, businessmen should not think about gaining returns [through politics] in a short term, such as thinking that they would gain a number of returns by selecting a particular leader,” he said.

**Wibawanto Nugroho has also earned several degrees, including a Master's Degree in International Business and Management from the University of Bradford School of Management, U.K. in 2003; Master's Degree in Strategic Security Studies and War-College Diploma in International Security Strategy, Irregular Warfare and Combating Terrorism from the U.S. National Defense University in 2007; and Master's Degree in Public Policy (M.P.P.) from the George Mason University Schar School of Policy and Government in 2013.*