

ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS FOR THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S HOMEWORK

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Abstract

The presidential election (Pilpres) is crucial for the people to elect a leader who will guide development towards a better future. Environmental issues are among the topics that garner significant public attention. This article delves into how environmental concerns take center stage in the 2024 presidential election and addresses Indonesia's ongoing environmental challenges. Presently, Indonesia grapples with climate change, deforestation, marine resource depletion, air pollution, water crises, and waste. However, the mission and development agenda presented by the 2023 presidential and vice-presidential candidates still needs to offer comprehensive solutions. Nevertheless, the DPR RI, particularly the commissions responsible for the environment, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure, energy, industry, disasters, and research, are keen on formulating policies to address various environmental issues. This includes performing legislative functions, such as drafting a bill on Climate Change Management and utilizing oversight and budgetary functions to encourage the government to make sustainable development efforts.

Introduction

The environmental issues facing Indonesia today are widespread. Several activists and experts agree that the global environmental situation is deeply concerning. Extractive development and business activities have elevated the Earth's temperature, causing climate change and posing a significant problem that demands concrete solutions. According to a study by the Ministry of National Development Planning (PPN)/National Development Plan-

ning Agency (Bappenas), the potential economic losses borne by the Indonesian government due to climate change in Indonesia are estimated at IDR544 trillion (Saputra, 2022). Therefore, environmental issues are crucial to receive attention in the 2024 presidential election.

The presidential election, scheduled for February 14, 2024, is a political contest to elect a new president to succeed Joko Widodo. The chosen president is anticipated to address the current environmental



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challenges in Indonesia. Environmental issues took center stage in the fourth debate among the 2024 presidential and vice-presidential candidates. This debate serves as a platform for the public to learn about the vision and mission of the presidential and vice-presidential candidates they are considering for their votes.

Based on this context, the author investigates the prominence of environmental issues in the discussions surrounding the 2024 presidential election and evaluates whether these issues address Indonesia's current environmental challenges. The aim of this study is to understand the environmental concerns emphasized by the 2024 presidential and vice-presidential candidates and assess whether they have proposed viable solutions to Indonesia's environmental problems.

Environmental Problems Facing Indonesia

Indonesia confronts several noteworthy environmental problems. Firstly, climate change has resulted in severe impacts, including alterations in rainfall patterns, extreme climate events, land resource degradation, intense heat waves, heightened occurrences of forest fires, prolonged droughts, floods, typhoon damage, and rising sea levels (Hartono, 2023). Secondly, deforestation and forest degradation have led to the loss of 9.75 million hectares of primary forest between 2002 and 2020, positioning Indonesia as the second country with the highest rate of forest loss after Brazil ("Indonesia termasuk pembabat," 2021).

Thirdly, the surge in illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fish-

ing activities in Indonesia has led to the full exploitation and over-exploitation of various fish species in several fisheries management areas (WPP) (Aryanti et al., 2021, p. viii).

Fourthly, air pollution persists in its escalation, ranking Indonesia as the sixth most polluted country out of 98 worldwide (Oktaviana, 2023).

Fifthly, the clean water crisis, driven by pollution and drought, has left 33 million Indonesians without adequate drinking water (WHO & UNICEF, 2017). In 2018, 93.2 percent of Indonesian citizens lacked safe access to clean water (Purwanto, 2020).

Sixthly, the waste problem continues to escalate due to the excessive use of single-use plastic, insufficient awareness in sorting, and a lack of environmental attention, resulting in issues at final disposal sites. In 2023, 35 landfills in Indonesia will be documented as burning (Pamela, 2023).

Environmental Issues in the 2024 Presidential Election

In the 2024 presidential election, three pairs of presidential and vice-presidential candidates—namely Anies-Muhaimin, Prabowo-Gibran, and Ganjar-Mahfud—included environmental issues in their vision and mission, which were subsequently detailed in a development agenda (Table 1). However, it is notable that the mission and development agenda only partially offer solutions to Indonesia's environmental problems.

Therefore, regardless of who is elected president, the future government must undertake several efforts through sustainable development

Table 1. Environmental Issues in the Mission and Development Agenda of the 2024 Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates

Mission and Development Agenda for the 2024 Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates	
Anies-Muhaimin	Mission: (1) ensure the availability of basic needs and low cost of living through food independence, energy security, and water sovereignty; (2) realize sustainable ecological justice for future generations; (3) build area-based cities and villages that are humane, just, and mutually progressive. Agenda: Strengthening environmental governance; utilization of new renewable energy; developing a green economy; adapting and mitigating climate change; tackling water, air, and waste pollution; preserving forests and biodiversity; resilience to natural disasters; collaboration with environmental stakeholders in carrying out all of these agendas.
Prabowo-Gibran	Mission: (1) strengthening the country's defense and security system and encouraging national independence through self-sufficiency in food, energy, water, creative economy, green economy, and blue economy; (2) strengthening the harmonious alignment of life with the environment, nature, and culture, as well as increasing tolerance between religious communities to achieve a just and prosperous society. Agenda: Ensuring environmental preservation in efforts to develop and improve the country's economy; accelerate the achievement of commitments to achieve sustainable development targets, including accelerating the achievement of NZE GHG targets, which will be implemented through efforts to reduce carbon footprints and water footprints for various products; as well as the use of bioplastics in everyday life; and implementing green economy-based development.
Ganjar-Mahfud	Mission: (1) accelerate the realization of a sustainable environment through a green and blue economy; (2) accelerate independent economic development based on knowledge and added value, one of which is through food sovereignty, including a sustainable food industry and fertile land for farmers. Agenda: Reduce GHG emissions from forestry, transportation, industry, and waste; moratorium on deforestation and accelerate reforestation, reforestation, restoration and forest rehabilitation; revitalization of watersheds and lakes, development of green cities, green industry; accelerate the provision of clean water evenly; adapting and mitigating climate change; implementing environmental, social and governance (ESG) in the economic system and financial system; implementing the Climate Aware Village program; implementing a green economy (energy transition, energy independent villages, waste management, implementing a circular economy); implementing a blue economy (optimizing the marine sector, controlled fishing, increasing the capacity of marine human resources, developing the maritime industry, developing marine tourism, overcoming marine pollution).

Source: Apriyono, 2023.

with a solution-focused approach, as outlined in Table 2. These endeavors necessitate collaboration from various parties, including the government, society, and the private sector.

Conclusion

Environmental issues stand out as crucial concerns in the 2024 presidential election, as indicated in the vision and mission statements of the presidential and vice-presiden-

Table 2: Development that the Government Needs to Carry Out in the Future

Environmental Issues	Future Environmental Development Program
Climate change	It involves strengthening regulations through the Bill on Climate Change Management, promoting the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across various sectors, implementing disaster adaptation and mitigation measures, incorporating environmental education into the curriculum, conducting research to generate innovative solutions, fostering international cooperation to address climate change, promoting community participation in environmental programs, advocating for the use of green and innovative technology, and establishing an effective monitoring system with regular policy evaluations.
Deforestation and land degradation	Develop sustainable forest management, rehabilitation, and reforestation initiatives; enforce laws against illegal deforestation practices and forest encroachment; foster local economies that do not rely excessively on forest resources; utilize technology for real-time monitoring of deforestation; promote private sector investments in sustainable business practices, peatland management, international cooperation for forest management and land conservation; and support research and innovation in sustainable forest management.
IUU fishing	Regulate fishing activities, promote sustainable aquaculture development, enhance marine conservation areas through community involvement, raise public awareness about the sustainability of marine resources and the communities' role in protection, reinforce supervision and law enforcement, enhance the welfare of fishermen, and conduct regular monitoring and evaluation.
Air pollution	Oversee the control of industrial emissions, promote the development of environmentally friendly transportation, conduct public outreach and education, advocate for eco-friendly fuels, enhance green open spaces, enforce environmental laws, and foster regional and international cooperation to address cross-border air pollution.
Clean water crisis	Promoting investment in clean water infrastructure development, implementing sustainable management of existing water resources (rivers, lakes, springs), fostering community involvement in the management and maintenance of clean water sources, advocating for efficient water usage, educating the public about water conservation and responsible water use, offering alternative clean water sources, controlling industrial and urban waste to prevent water source pollution, formulating emergency response plans for droughts and water-related natural disasters, fostering collaboration between local governments in clean water management, and supporting research and innovation in sustainable water management.
Waste	Promoting integrated waste management, conducting public awareness campaigns, minimizing the use of single-use plastic, overseeing the management of single-use plastic, handling organic waste, implementing zero waste practices, fostering collaboration with the private sector for active participation in waste management, enhancing waste management infrastructure, incorporating advanced technology in waste management, and enforcing relevant laws.

tial candidates. However, it is noteworthy that the presented mission and development agenda only partially offer solutions to Indonesia's current environmental problems.

Additionally, irrespective of the elected president and vice president for 2024–2029, it is imperative to undertake sustainable development initiatives. The DPR RI, par-

ticularly the pertinent commissions responsible for the environment, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure, energy, industry, disasters, and research, are invested in this matter. They engage in legislative functions, such as drafting a Bill on Climate Change Management, and perform oversight functions by urging the government to embark

on sustainable development efforts reinforced through budgetary measures. These collective efforts aim to foster a favorable living environment for both present and future generations.

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