



Indonesia's latest: Prabowo and Gibran 100 Days Quick Win Programs

PRABOWO AND GIBRAN CRUCIAL DAYS

The new elected President and Vice President of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto and Gibran Rakabuming Raka are seeking quick-win programs to hit the ground running in the upcoming months after their inauguration. They have the opportunity to fulfill their political campaign promises within the first 100 days in office, including a national free lunch program for students, free health care check-ups for vulnerable communities, and the establishment of new government agencies and ministries. While Prabowo appears to address targeted issues with clear intentions, effective allocation and utilization of the government budget will be crucial to achieving these ambitious quick-win programs.

The Quick Win Programs serve as the new administration's first impression to the Indonesian people. A similar approach was used by the newly appointed Thai government earlier in April, which has laid out its political targets for the first few months in office to demonstrate its capabilities and strong political will to bring about change. While both governments appear to believe that these moves will mostly boost their image, the public sees it differently. Quick Win Programs are positive; however, they are not deal-breakers. They can be viewed as formalities and a tool for the governments to demonstrate commitment, but the public is unlikely to take to the streets if these promises are not fulfilled. Eyebrows may be raised, and political will may be questioned, but this should not lead to a political crisis.

Public perception is crucial during a leadership transition, as it may shape political discourse both locally and internationally. Although the Quick Win Programs may not be the decisive factor for Indonesians and the Thailand people, they represent the effectiveness of the new government. With the ongoing discussions about Indonesia's and Thailand's BRICS membership, rising tensions in the Middle East, and continuous territorial disputes in the region, the public wants a strong foundational domestic economy to mitigate the impact of unpredictable geopolitical scenarios.

As many of the new administrations come off election and sit into cabinets, there is a common sense of urgency to show that action is taken to effect policy change that will have tangible outcomes to affect the public positively.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Health Care

Prabowo aims to conduct <u>free health care checkups</u> to approximately 50 million Indonesians in 2025. The free checkups are predicted as a preventive effort by Prabowo to reduce Tuberculosis cases as Indonesia holds the record as the second biggest Tuberculosis cases in the world. This prevention step will be supported by the improvement of health care services at the provincial and regional levels; ensuring that hospitals have adequate capabilities and resources.

Social Welfare

At the education front, Prabowo would like to expand the idea of <u>Integrated advanced school</u> where multilevel of education stages schools would be built in near proximity to each other on top of renovating schools in most needed areas. Prabowo would also keep the reach of social welfare assistance through various programs, especially those that deal with communities at the extreme-poverty line.





Tax Policies

One of the most polarizing policies of the Prabowo administration would be the change of Tax Ratio. First would be the increase of <u>Value Added Tax to 12 percent</u> and the decrease of <u>Corporate Income Tax to 20 percent</u>.

Food and Nutrition

<u>The Free Lunch program</u> for students is one of the most sought political promises of Prabowo. Questions have been raised on how President Prabowo would allocate government funds to the program. Addressing nutritional challenges is the overarching theme of the program with Prabowo also seek to provide additional supports for mothers and babies to have the necessary nutrition intake during their crucial months. Great supplies of food must be made to fulfill the demands, and Prabowo will aim to <u>maximize agricultural production</u> at the regional, provincial, and national levels.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Experts predict that the Prabowo Administration would absorb a great number of the State Budget as it needs to implement their political promises, namely the Free Lunch program. However, this opens door of opportunities for businesses to be involved in the quick win programs, as for instance the plan to have massive health care checks and improving the facilities at the regional hospitals – where there will be needs of medical devices and equipment.

There are several means to maximize agricultural products, with one of which is to open Food Estate, which would need the support of external investment. With the number of increasing Ministries and Agencies there could be different layers of bureaucracies that companies need to go through, which sometime could slow down engagement and policymaking process.

CLOSING

The first 100 days of the Prabowo Administration would be very crucial as it would show how the Administration seeks to implement massive political promises and whether it is live up to the public's expectation. There are also questions regarding the 'massive' cabinet size, whether it is going to be efficient or not.
