



63rd ANNIVERSARY OF INDONESIAN NATIONAL ARMY (TNI) REFLECTION

The Continuity of Reform towards TNI Being Questioned

The reformation agendas in 1998 are to separate the Indonesian National Army (TNI) from practices that are against the principles of a democratic state during Soeharto era's, to ask their legal accountability towards previous crimes and violations, and also to build a professional military, which is, *"trained and educated soldiers, well equipped, not involved in political practices, not involved in business, and secured welfare, also to abide the state's political policy within a democratic principle, civilian supremacies, human rights, national legal regulations and international laws which has been ratified"* (Law No. 34/2004 on TNI).

True, TNI institutionally quickly responded the reformations criticisms and demands pointed to them through paradigmatic concepts amendments of redefinition, repositioning and re-actualization of TNI roles. The government has also responded these criticism and demands by separating TNI and Indonesian National Police/Polri (through People's Consultative Assembly Decree No. VI/2000), regulated the functions of TNI and Polri (People's Consultative As-



sembly Decree No. VII/2000), also stated Law No. 3/2002 on State Defense and Law No. 34/2004 on TNI.

On public perception, the quick response towards paradigm changes in TNI and its legislations has not been optimally affected the cultural changes, the legal accountability, and even the professionalism of TNI. The follow up towards normative reformation of TNI by the government has also been perceived as lost in directions within the last several years, shown by the difficulty in formulating the continued reformative policy's or oversight and evaluation of implemented policies.

Within the 10 years of reformation and 63 years momentum of TNI Anniversary

in October 5, 2008, the highest civilian political authority has been perceived to have failed in separating between the needs of reformatting TNI and the needs of upholding TNI's 'political' support. The urgency of a defense functions of TNI being an argument to cover or to delay the opportunities to accomplish previous cases regarding human rights violation and TNI businesses.

Whereas, during the openness of TNI for their various internal reformation ideas, the government and House of Representatives can maximize their steps in completing TNI's reform within the legislation level, the effectiveness and efficiency of the organization posture also the cultural changes and TNI

mindset to support their professionalism.

The effectiveness of the strategic role from the Ministry of Defense as a representation of civilian political authority supremacy has also been questioned by the public. The psychological impact and military politics towards the Ministry of Defense is still perceived dominant, in terms of identifying threats, defense posture developments, mobilization, equipments and budgets also towards their response regarding legal process that has named various active and retired military officer to the court, resolving the military business and Military Court Bill.

Within this situation, the projection on continuity of TNI's reform must be in accordance with the demands of the 1998 reformation to avoid misperceptions of political camouflage in responding recent public pressure. The government, House of Representatives and TNI should be aware that reformation within the TNI will become a significant starting point towards the defense power development to enable the protection of the sovereignty, territory and the citizens of Unitary States of the Republic of Indonesia ahead.

Civil society communities also expected to put more pressure, regarding the evaluation of TNI's reform dynamic and the resistances developed inside the government and TNI itself towards reformation issues.

The practices of military business, corruptions as well as crime and democratic principles abuses must always be criticized, through publications and other advocacy forms. Without such efforts by civil society, TNI's reform will remain utopist, uncorrected and fail to come to strategic reformation. ■ ADVERTORIAL