

Jokowi selects a Cabinet fit for his agenda

Michael Gill

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has chosen a Cabinet lineup that aligns neatly with his preferences for a conservative reform agenda built on tangible economic and social outcomes.

Ignoring opposition within his own PDI-P, President Widodo brought the opposition Gerindra party into his Government, appointing as Defence Minister his direct Presidential opponent Prabowo Subianto. Notionally, 75 per cent of members of parliament are now supportive of the Government. Realistically, the options for building a majority coalition on any major issue are expanded to the extent that Gerindra is now committed.

Two central figures retained their roles. Sri Mulyani Indrawati is again Finance Minister, contrary to suggestions that she had been asked to take a “wider” role. Luhut Pandjaitan, personal ally and “fixer” for the President, retains his influential role as Co-ordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment.

New Ministers were installed in two portfolios where the President had been frustrated with a lack of progress. Arifin Tasrif, a former CEO of the national fertiliser enterprise, is recalled from Tokyo – where he had been Ambassador since 2017 – to take on the immense challenges as Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources. As Minister for State Owned Enterprises the President chose his campaign chief, Erick Thohir. Son of Teddy Thohir, former co-owner of the Astra group, Erick Thohir heads TNT Group which has interests in energy, food, property and media sectors.

Together with some other new appointments, the Cabinet’s composition is boosted in line with the President’s literal focus on outcomes in infrastructure building, bureaucratic reform and investment promotion.

Another primary reform focus is ‘human development’ – a goal largely related to improved skills, capabilities and innovation. Go-Jek founder Nadiem Makarim – who is known to have a strong interest in vocational training and education – is the new Culture and Education Minister. At the same time the recent merger of education in a super ministry is undone and Bambang Brodjonegoro is Research and Technology and Higher Education Minister. Minister Brodjonegoro is shifted from Bappenas, the National Development Planning Ministry and is a former Finance Minister and academic.

Tom Lembong, well known as head of BKPM, Indonesia’s investment promotion agency, leaves Cabinet and is replaced by Bahlil Lahadalia – a Papuan businessman who caught the President’s attention in his role as chairman of the national association of young entrepreneurs.

Given the flood of contentious legislation passed though parliament in the lead up to the President’s confirmation, the appointment of the former Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court, Mohammed Mahfud MD, may be seen as at least prudent. Mahfud was a candidate in Jokowi’s first election and is regarded as progressive.

Jokowi’s Indonesia Cabinet 2019-2024

1. Coordinating Political Legal and Security Affairs Minister Mahfud MD (former Constitutional Court chief justice)

Dragoman

2. Coordinating Economic Minister Airlangga Hartarto (former industry minister/Golkar Party chairman)
3. Coordinating Maritime Affairs and Investment Minister Luhut Pandjaitan (coordinating maritime affairs minister in Jokowi's first-term Cabinet)
4. Coordinating Human Development and Culture Minister Muhadjir Effendy (former culture and education minister)
5. Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto (Gerindra Party chairman)
6. State Secretary Pratikno (state secretary in Jokowi's first-term Cabinet)
7. Home Minister Tito Karnavian (former National Police chief)
8. Foreign Minister Retno LP Marsudi (foreign minister in Jokowi's first-term Cabinet)
9. Religious Affairs Minister Fachrul Razi (former Indonesian Military deputy commander)
10. Law and Human Rights Minister Yasonna H. Laoly (lawmaker/PDI-P politician)
11. Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati (finance minister in Jokowi's first-term Cabinet)
12. Culture and Education Minister Nadiem Makarim (GoJek founder)
13. Health Minister Terawan Agus Putranto (former Gatot Subroto Army Hospital (RSPAD) head)
14. Social Affairs Minister Juliari Batubara (PDI-P politician)
15. Manpower Minister Ida Fauziyah (PKB politician)
16. Industry Minister Agus Gumiwang Kartasasmita (Golkar politician)
17. Trade Minister Agus Suparmanto (PKB politician)
18. Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Arifin Tasrif (former Indonesian ambassador to Japan)
19. Public Works and Housing Minister Basuki Hadimuljono (public works and housing minister in Jokowi's first-term Cabinet)
20. Transportation Minister Budi Karya Sumadi (transportation minister in Jokowi's first-term Cabinet)
21. Communications and Information Minister Johny G. Plate (NasDem politician)
22. Agriculture Minister Syahrul Yasin Limpo (NasDem politician)
23. Environment and Forestry Minister Siti Nurbaya (environment and forestry minister in Jokowi's first-term Cabinet/NasDem politician)

Dragoman

24. Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Edhy Prabowo (Gerindra Party politician)
25. Villages, Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration Minister Abdul Halim Iskandar (PKB politician)
26. Agrarian and Spatial Planning Minister Sofyan Djalil (NasDem Party politician)
27. National Development Planning Minister/National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) Suharso Monoarfa (PPP acting chairman)
28. Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform Minister Tjahjo Kumolo (former home minister)
29. Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Teten Masduki (former expert staff under Jokowi)
30. State-Owned Enterprises Minister Erick Thohir (Jokowi's former campaign team chairman)
31. Tourism and Creative Economy Minister Wishnutama Kusubandio (NET TV cofounder)
32. Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Minister I Gusti Ayu Bintang Darmawati (the wife of former cooperatives and small and medium enterprises minister AAGN Puspayoga)
33. Research and Technology and Higher Education Minister Bambang Brodjonegoro (former national development planning minister)
34. Youth and Sports Minister Zainudin Amali (Golkar Party politician)
35. Presidential chief of Staff Moeldoko (presidential chief of staff in Jokowi's first-term Cabinet)
36. Cabinet Secretary Pramono Anung (cabinet secretary in Jokowi's first-term Cabinet)
37. Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) chief Bahlil Lahadalia (Indonesian Young Entrepreneurs Association (Hipmi) chairman)
38. Attorney General ST Burhanuddin (former deputy attorney general for civil and state administrative court affairs) (afr)



Michael Gill is Executive Counsellor and Director Asia of Dragoman. He has extensive regional experience over a long period and has managed a number of businesses in Asia. Michael has had a focus on Indonesia in recent years and is working currently on a number of related projects.