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Report Name: Prabowo Staffs New Administration Pledges Self-Sufficiency as Core Tenant

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Report Highlights:

On October 20, 2024, Prabowo Subianto was sworn in as the eighth president of Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy. During his inauguration, President Prabowo announced he would consolidate and marshal executive and legislative power to build early momentum on his priorities, in particular food self-sufficiency, energy sovereignty, a Free Nutritious Meal Program, and "commodities downstreaming." To fast-track his flagship Food Estate and school feeding programs, President Prabowo created a new Coordinating Ministry of Food Affairs. This report outlines key appointments within the Prabowo Administration and their priorities for background as imported products fall under increased scrutiny in Indonesia.

National Cabinet Balloons to the Largest in Indonesian History

President **Prabowo Subianto** served as the Minister of Defense under the previous Joko Widodo Administration and as a former special forces commander with a long history of involvement in Indonesia’s agricultural sector. This includes the controversial Food Estate program, defined as government-sponsored clearing of land for state-determined agricultural production, which he spearheaded while Defense Minister. In his inauguration speech, Prabowo expressed his aspiration for Indonesia to not only achieve food self-sufficiency in 4-5 years but become a global “food barn” with plenty of surplus stocks to export to countries in need. In addition, Prabowo emphasized the importance of energy self-sufficiency, mentioning the plentiful existence of local biofuel feedstocks such as palm oil, cassava, sugarcane, and corn.

A day after the inauguration, Prabowo announced a line-up of 109 new ministers and heads of agencies (referred to as the “Red and White Cabinet” for the colors of Indonesia’s flag). The creation of several new ministries and additional deputy minister positions makes this new administration the largest since Indonesia’s modern democratic era began in 1998.

Table 1. Prabowo's Coordinating Ministries for Food and Economic Affairs

Coordinating Ministry with Supervised Ministries, Agencies	Minister
Coordinating Ministry for Food Affairs (CMFA)*	Zulkifli Hasan±
Ministry of Agriculture	Andi Amran Sulaiman±
Ministry of Forestry*	Raja Juli Antoni±
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fishery	Sakti Wahyu Trenggono±
Ministry of Environment*	Hanif Faisol Nurofiq
National Food Agency	Arief Prasetyo Adi ∞
National Nutrition Agency*	Dadan Hindayana ∞
Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs (CMEA)	Airlangga Hartarto±
Ministry of Trade	Budi Santoso
Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources	Bahlil Lahadalia±
Ministry of Industry	Agus Gumiwang Kartasasmita±
Ministry of State-owned Enterprises	Erick Tohir±
Ministry of Investment	Rosan Roeslani±
Ministry of Tourism	Widiyanti Putri Wardhana
Ministry of Manpower	Yassierli

*: new or separated from another ministry
±: member of previous administration
∞: appointed before October 2024

Food and Energy Self-Sufficiency Top Priorities for Prabowo's Leadership Picks

Self-sufficiency in food and energy was a staple talking point during Prabowo’s campaign and during his advocacy as President-Elect. After assuming office, Prabowo established a new Coordinating

Ministry for Food Affairs (CMFA) and put several agriculture and food-related ministries and agencies under its supervision, including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Environment, the National Food Agency (Bapanas), the National Logistics Agency (Bulog), and the newly created National Nutrition Agency. The leadership roles of these key ministries and agencies are mostly filled with long-time food self-sufficiency advocates.

Table 2. New Leadership of Key Food and Agriculture-Related Ministries and Agencies

Position	Name	Notable Mention
Coordinating Minister for Food Affairs (CMFA)	Zulkifli Hasan	Previously Minister of Trade. Hasan has been historically pro-self-sufficiency in policy.
Minister of Agriculture	Amran Sulaiman	Incumbent since 2023 and served as in this role 2014-2019. Sulaiman has been historically pro-self-sufficiency in policy.
Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries	Sakti Wahyu Trenggono	Incumbent since December 2020. Besides fishermen welfare, his priority is to develop domestic aquaculture, particularly shrimp estates and fishing villages, as an economic resource and to support Indonesia's food self-sufficiency. Previously, Trenggono served as Deputy Minister of Defense under the Joko Widodo Administration and was assigned to carry out the Food Estate program.
Minister of Forestry	Raja Juli Antoni	Previously Deputy Minister of Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning. Outwardly, Antoni plans to improve forest governance to reduce forest destruction, but he will not stand in the way of deforestation conducted for food security purposes.
Minister of Environment	Hanif Faisol Nurofiq	Previously Director General of Forestry Planning and Environmental Management. Nurofiq is prioritizing ending waste imports, handling pollution, carbon credits, and reducing emissions as reflected in Indonesia's coming update to its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.
Head of National Food Agency (Bapanas)	Arief Prasetyo Adi	Prior to being the head of the NFA, Adi was the director for Indonesia's largest rice wholesale market and ID Food, a state-owned food holding company.
Head of National Logistics Agency (Bulog)	Wahyu Suparyono	Formerly Bulog's Operational Director and HR Director from 2015-2017. Suparyono was Director for insurance state-owned company for army and police members.
Head of National Nutrition Agency	Dadan Hindayana	Formerly an entomologist at Indonesia's top agricultural university IPB University. The NNA

Position	Name	Notable Mention
(NNA)		will be in charge of Free Nutritious Meals Program.

Potential Impact of Self-Sufficiency Policies

Senior politician and previous Minister of Trade, **Zulkifli Hasan**, was appointed to head the CMFA. During Hasan’s leadership at the Ministry of Trade (MOT), the issuance of import licenses for key U.S. exports to Indonesia such as beef and horticultural products was severely delayed, requiring high-level engagement from the U.S. Embassy. On November 5, 2024, the President issued Regulation No. 147 of 2024 which assigned CMFA to replace CMEA in overseeing and coordinating the implementation of the commodity balance¹ process for the following commodities: rice, corn, beef, salt, sugar, and fish. Minister Hasan is focused on supporting President Prabowo’s self-sufficiency goals:

“I have been entrusted by President Prabowo, and it is clear that the mission of the Red-and-White Cabinet is to assist in coordinating food affairs. The task is straightforward: within the next five years, we must achieve food self-sufficiency. This mission is explicit. Additionally, we must also ensure energy self-sufficiency.”

~ Zulkifli Hasan, Coordinating Minister for Food Affairs, October 21, 2024

On October 30, 2024, Hasan announced that the GOI allocated 139.4 trillion rupiah (\$8.9 billion) for food self-sufficiency efforts in 2025 through the CMFA. This budget will be used to support Indonesia’s food security strategy and will be disbursed to the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, the Ministry of Public Works, and to state-owned fertilizer companies. Commodities of focus include rice, corn, sugarcane, soybeans, coffee, and cocoa. The CMFA is targeting food self-sufficiency for corn and rice by 2028 through expanding agricultural land in the far eastern province of Papua.

The CMFA will oversee several of Prabowo’s flagship programs – highly publicized campaign promises – including the Free Nutritious Meals Program and Food Estates. The Free Nutritious Meals Program targets 82 million beneficiaries, including 44 million schoolchildren, 4 million high school students, 30 million toddlers, and 4 million pregnant or lactating women. The program is estimated to require 1.9 million metric tons (MT) of rice, 5.6 million MT of meat and eggs, 4.7 million MT of milk, 3.3 million MT of fruit, and 1.8 million MT of vegetables per year once the program is fully implemented in five years. The National Nutrition Agency will lead the Free Nutritious Meals Program under CMFA’s supervision.

The Food Estate program is expected to enjoy broad political support as President Prabowo has been publicly advocating for self-sufficiency for both food and energy for many years. During Jokowi’s term, Prabowo as Defense Minister was appointed to manage the Food Estate project in Central Kalimantan (see GAIN Report [ID2021-0021](#) for an overview of the previous Food Estate project). The previous

¹ See [Indonesia: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Annual Country Report](#) for more information on the Commodity Balance Policy.

Food Estate project was ultimately abandoned due to the soil being suboptimal for crop production and complications surrounding land acquisition involving communal tribal lands of indigenous Papuan communities. This new, more ambitious iteration of the Food Estates project will involve millennial farmers trained by Indonesia's agricultural universities.

Current Minister of Agriculture **Amran Sulaiman** also served as Minister of Agriculture under Jokowi from 2014-2019 and 2023-24. He has also historically been a strong proponent of food self-sufficiency and under his leadership the Ministry of Agriculture restricted import volumes of food and agricultural products and complicated imports.

Sulaiman is keen on achieving Indonesia's food self-sufficiency over the next 4-5 years by expanding beyond Java Island's resources. Over 60 percent of Indonesia's agriculture takes place on Java Island, mainly due to optimal soil and weather conditions. However, Java Island is also home to over half of Indonesia's 280 million people, making it one of the most densely populated areas in the world with 1,200 inhabitants per square kilometer. The mounting competitive pressure between urban and rural land needs on Java Island has been a major factor in the GOI's outward expansion into forestland on surrounding major islands to develop more agricultural land, particularly in the most eastern part of Indonesia in Papua Province. The day after Prabowo's inauguration, Sulaiman publicly indicated that Food Estate development was taking place in Merauke Regency and that Papua will be ramped up for key agricultural commodities. He noted, "The future for rice, sugar, and corn is in Papua. Now we are trying to develop the outline in Merauke."

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry has been separated into the Ministry of Forestry and the Ministry of Environment headed by Minister of Forestry **Raja Juli Antoni** and Minister of Environment **Hanif Faisol Nurofiq** respectively. The placement of the Ministry of Forestry under CMFA supervision will likely hasten the clearing of forestland per Ministry of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. 24/2020 on the Provision of Forest Areas for the Development of Food Estates. This regulation authorizes the conversion of designated forest area to agricultural land for food security purposes. The opening of new land for agricultural uses in Papua Province has been taking place rapidly, though no official project management authority has yet been established.

CMEA Retains Oversight of Import Licensing for Non-Food Commodities and Energy Self-Sufficiency

Prabowo retained seasoned and influential politician **Airlangga Hartarto** as Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs (CMEA). Hartarto assumed the position in 2019, as a senior politician from the Golkar Party, one of Indonesia's oldest political parties. CMEA now oversees trade, industry, and the energy sector. However, per Presidential Regulation No. 143 of 2024, CMEA no longer oversees the commodity balance process for food commodities but retains its lead on the commodity balance process for non-food commodities such as fuel, textiles, iron, steel, tires, plastic, cement, and footwear.

Budi Santoso, the former Director General (DG) of Foreign Trade, was appointed the new Trade Minister. He has extensive experience at the MOT and expertise on foreign trade policy, which is essential given Indonesia's complex import licensing process and the commodity balance process. This complex interministerial process is used to determine the upcoming year's authorized import volume for six agricultural commodities as well as several non-agricultural commodities.²

In addition to food self-sufficiency, the Prabowo Administration also aims to achieve fuel self-sufficiency by reducing fuel imports and increasing palm-based and sugarcane-based domestic biofuel production. Prabowo retained **Bahlil Lahadalia** as the Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources. Like Prabowo's other top picks, Lahadalia has been very vocal about self-sufficiency, most recently reaffirming his commitment to increasing domestic palm oil use by raising the mandated biodiesel blending rate beyond B35. In April 2024, Lahadalia was appointed to lead a task force for sugarcane expansion in Merauke, Papua aiming to boost production of sugarcane as the primary domestic bioethanol feedstock.

New Figure on Halal Authority

Haikal Hassan, a popular Islamic preacher, is the new Head of the Halal Product Assurance Organizing Agency (BPJPH). He has teamed up with former Vice Minister for Manpower **Afriansyah Noor** who was assigned as the Deputy Head of BPJPH. Haikal claimed in the first-100 days he will ensure concrete action to improve the operations of the halal product assurance system. Most food and beverage products will have to be halal certified by "no later than October 17, 2026." This was the result of an ambiguous extension from the previous deadline of October 17, 2024; FAS Jakarta expects imported products will receive a full two-year extension, although it could be shorter (see [ID2024-0039](#) for additional information).

BPJPH will undergo a reorganization to become a stand-alone entity that reports directly to the President (like the Indonesian Food and Drug Agency, the Indonesian Quarantine Authority, and the National Food Agency, which were also recently restructured to report directly to the President). As a first step in reorganizing this agency, Hassan appointed Muhammad Aqil Irham, the former Head of BPJPH, as Principal Secretary for continuity in the process of mandating halal certification for most food and beverage products and, in the future, even non-food products such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, and cosmetics.

Attachments:

No Attachments.

² See [Indonesia: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Annual Country Report](#) for more information on the Commodity Balance Policy.