

Habis Badi Gelap Pasti Terbit-^Plah ^tTerang Berlalu¹

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¹ Translatable to: “After the darkness of storm light is born will surely pass.” It is a mash-up of Marga T.’s 1974 novel Badai Pasti Berlalu (The Storm Will Surely Pass, holding similar meaning with “every cloud has a silver lining”) with Habis Gelap Terbitlah Terang (After Darkness, Light is Born). The first was adapted into a film by Teguh Karya in 1977 with a soundtrack hit with the same title by Chrisye, which Erwin Gutawa restaged into a live orchestra recording in 1999, then into a 26-episode soap opera series in 1996, and finally re-made by Teddy Soeriaatmadja in 2007. The latter is a book composed by J.H. Abendanon using letters by Kartini, first published in 1911 with the title Door Duisternis Tot Licht. It was first translated in an abridged format to Malay in 1922 by Armijn Pane, with a different title and order.

The following lexicon is an effort to clarify how Indonesian politics is naturalized. The Indonesian language—historically a melting-pot of outside influences—mixes Malay, Sanskrit, Indian, Portuguese, Dutch, Arabic, and increasingly English. For the purpose of this piece, the original Indonesian is kept with my English translation.

I started by selecting terms that either portray the naval and/or oceanic hegemony increasingly grasping the national imagination, and those that are metaphorically utilized by the most popular national media to render anything political also natural. Quotes are taken from the naval historian Adrian B. Lapien's 2009 book, Orang Laut-Bajak Laut-Raja Laut: Sejarah Kawasan Laut Sulawesi Abad XIX, and three media outlets: Kompas, a daily newspaper with more than two million readers, as well as its online citizen journalism portal, Kompasiana, and Tempo, a weekly magazine with more than 600,000 readers. The temporal window of the collected excerpts below is from early 2009 to late 2014. They were selected because they represent either the latest or the simplest usage of the respective terms.

The naturalization processes represented here aim to pacify the masses through narrative. As in the recent understanding of Jakarta's yearly flood (up until 2012, flood was still perceived as a series of *disasters* happening once every five years), these grand narratives insist that both inundation and state political process are inevitable—and, like weather, cyclical. Political impacts, then, are there for everyone to absorb, suppressing our desire and potential for change—not only in the reading of what has passed but also the course of future episodes. These processes occur not only through national media outlets and official public statements, but also combine with rumour, scandals, and other tittle-tattles to create a robust myth-making machine.

Archipelago

“Derived from the Greek arch (major, main) and pelagos (sea). So an archipelagic state should be understood as a ‘major sea state’ scattered by islands, as opposed to island states surrounded by seas.”

Arus (stream)

w e a t h e r
“Putu mengungkapkan, arus dukungan terhadap SBY untuk kembali memimpin partai yang selama 10 tahun itu cukup kuat.”

“Putu stated that there was a stream of support for SBY to keep on leading the 10-year party.”

Awan (cloud)

“Elektabilitas Jokowi Tergerus Awan Panas Sinabung...”

“Jokowi’s Electability Eroded by Sinabung’s Hot Clouds...”

Badai (storm)

“Presiden PKS: Kapal Kita Tak Tenggelam dalam Badai”

“President of PKS: Our Ship Does Not Sink in a Storm”

Bahari (maritime)

“The term maritime in this understanding is interpreted as a synonym for ‘ancient’ or ‘primordial’ time.”

Banjir (flood)

“Siaga Satu, Banjir Janji Politik!”

“Red Alert, Flood of Political Promises!”

Barat (west)

“Siapa tahu, angin dapat membawa kita ke Barat.”

“Who knows, the wind could bring us Westward.”

Basah (wet)

“Banyak Hujan di Golkar, tapi Tanah Tak Basah”

“There Are Plenty of Rains in Golkar, but the Ground Is Not Wet”

Becek (puddle)

“Mahfud: Indonesia ‘Becek’ Korupsi”

“Mahfud: Indonesia is ‘Puddled’ with Corruption”

Bencana (disaster)

“Bukan Bencana Demokrasi, Tetapi Bencana Nasional”

“Not Democratic Disaster, but National Disaster”

Cuaca (climate)

“Cuaca Politik di Akhir 2013”

“Political Climate at the End of 2013”

Dimensi (dimension)

“CIDES: Ekonomi 2013 Sarat Dimensi Politik”

“CIDES: 2013 Economy Loaded with Political Dimensions”

Dingin (cold)

“Panas-Dingin Australia dan Indonesia”

“The Hot-Cold of Australia and Indonesia”

Estetika (aesthetics)

“Ada Rasa Keindahan yang hilang di Demokrat. Lagu pelangi dimatamu yang mengalun merdu dimasa awal awal perjuangan berganti judul ‘alamat palsu’.” [sic]

“There is a lost sense of beauty in Demokrat. The song rainbow in your eyes melodiously heard at the beginning of the struggle has changed its title to ‘false address’.” [sic]

Gempa (quake)

“JSI: Ridwan Kamil Menang karena Gempa Politik”

“JSI: Ridwan Kamil Won because of Political Quake”

Gunung (mountain)

“Sesepuh Golkar Diminta ‘Turun Gunung’ Paksa Kedua Kubu Gelar Munas Rekonsiliasi”

“Golkar Elders Asked to (Go) ‘Down the Mountain’ to Force the Two Opposing Forces to Hold National Reconciliation Conference”

Hijau (green)

“Pilpres 2014: ABRI Merah Putih–ABRI Hijau Warisi Politik Pencitraan SBY”

“Presidential Election 2014: Red White Army–Green Army Inherit SBY’s Political Imagineering”

Hilir-hulu (upstream-downstream)

“Atasi Banjir: Berantas Korupsi dari Hulu Sampai Hilir”

“Facing Flood: Eradicating Corruption from Up to Downstream”

Iklim (climate)

“Pemerintah Jamin Masalah Politik Tak Ganggu Iklim Ekonomi”

“Government Guarantees Political Problems Will Not Disturb Economic Climate”

Kandas (aground)

“Perpu Pilkada: 99% Kandas”

“Local Election Bill: 99% Aground”

Karam (wreck)

“Disebut ‘Kapal Karam,’ SBY: Saya Panglima Tertinggi”

“Being Called ‘Shipwreck,’ SBY: I Am the Commander-in-Chief”

Kering (dry)

“Donor Politik Kering, Kontribusi Pemilu ke Pertumbuhan Ekonomi Minim”

“Political Donors Drying (Up), Election’s Contribution to Economic Growth Is Minimal”

Kiamat (doomsday)

“Waspada Kiamat Politik 2011”

“2011: Political Doomsday Alert”

Laut (sea)

“Menteri Susi: Terlalu Lama Kita Memunggungi Laut”

“Minister Susi: We’ve Turned Our Back Against the Sea for Too Long”

Maling(sia) (thief-Malaysia)

“Halah! Malingsia jd maling ikan juga, tidak cuma kebudayaan yang dicuri!”

“Boo! Malingsia is also stealing fish, not only culture!”

Mengapung (floating)

“Capres 2014 yang Mengapung, Sebuah Telaahan dari Old Soldier”

“Floating Presidential Candidate 2014, a Study from (an) Old Soldier”

Musim (season)

“Kolom Politik: Musim Tandingan”

“Political Column: Season of Counters”

w Oleng (unsteady)

e “Boediono: Ada Badai, Kapal Indonesia
a Jangan Oleng”

t “Boediono: Storm Ahead, Keep the
h Indonesian Ship Steady”

e Ombak (wave)

r “Jokowi Diterjang Seribu Ombak...”

“Jokowi Hit by One Thousand Waves...”

Paceklik (famine)

“Ancaman Paceklik di Lumbung Politik”

s “Famine Threat in Political (Rice)
c Granary”

a Panas (hot)

p “SBY: Dua Arena Politik Memanas Jelang
e Pemilu”

g “SBY: Two Political Arenas Heat Up
o Ahead of Election”

a Pancaroba (transition period)

8 “Pancaroba Demokrasi”

“Transitional Period for Democracy”

Peta (map)

“Pertemuan Jokowi-SBY Diprediksi
Politisi PDI-P Akan Ubah Peta Politik”

*“Jokowi-SBY Meeting Will Change
Political Map, PDI-P Politicians Predict”*

Polusi (pollution)

“Karena jargon politik tersebut tak lebih sebagai muslihat manipulatif untuk ‘mempolusi’ akal sehat dan nurani rakyat.”

“Because the political jargon is nothing but a manipulative trick to ‘pollute’ people’s common sense and conscience.”

Polutan (pollutant)

“Kepemimpinan Resisten di Tengah Polutan”

“Resistant Leadership in the Middle of Pollutant”

Rekayasa (maneuver)

“Demokrat ‘Walkout,’ PDI-P Tuding Ada Rekayasa Politik”

“Demokrat’s ‘Walkout’ a Political Maneuver, PDI-P Accuses”

Rimba (jungle)

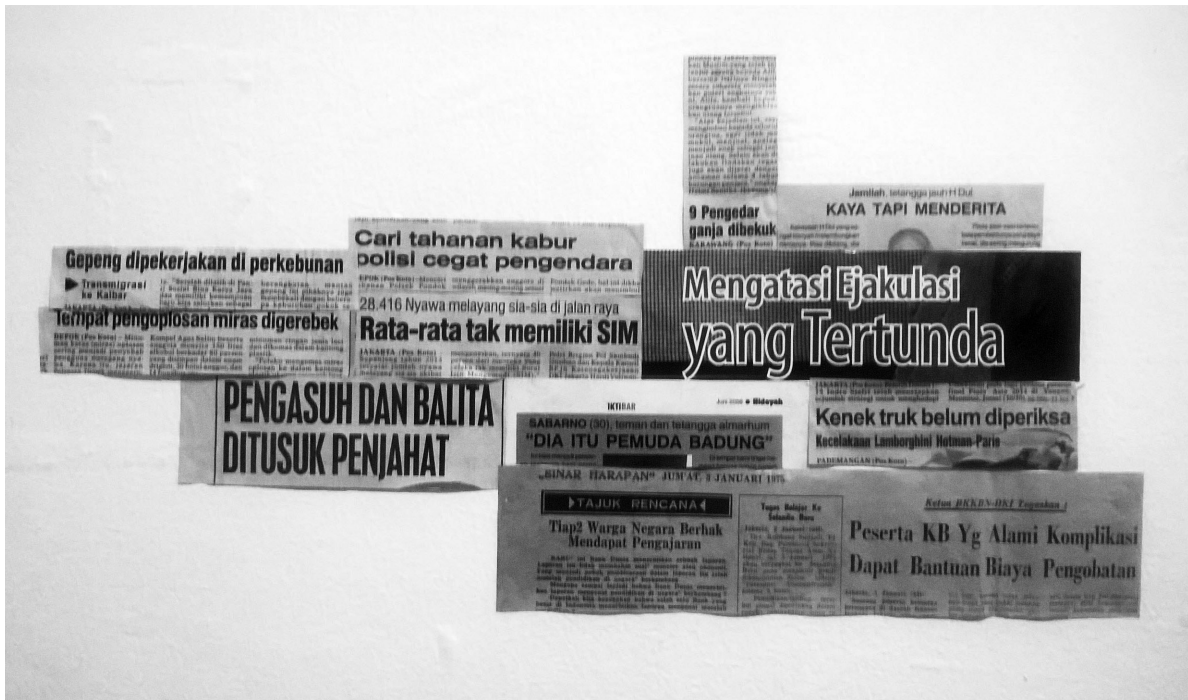
“Indonesia Itu Negara Hukum Rimba! (Sayang SBY Bukan Raja Rimba)”

“Indonesia Is a Jungle Law State! (Alas, SBY Is no King of the Jungle)”

Suhu (temperature)

“Suhu Politik Panas, Merapi Ikut Panas”

“Political Temperature Heats Up, Merapi Follows Suit”



Cuts of yellow paper headlines, part of Kesedihan (Sadness).
Cut and Rescue's solo show at RURU Gallery, 2014

