

Udumak

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Crisis in the Government

Parliament rejected the end of compulsory military service

Purikali - The Prime Minister faces another setback, after the *Haimauman* rejecting a bill to eliminate the compulsory military service. The proposal was part of a plan coordinated by the new minister of defence – Wasahi Aramduhun – to reduce costs and modernise the forces. The idea is that current compulsory one-year conscription withdraws 74% of 17-year old youngsters – totalling 21,500 men per year – from productive activities of the country and requires constant training costs. To compensate that, Minister Aramduhun proposed an addition of 9,500 permanent and professional soldiers as part of the defence contingent. Despite that, 30 senators – including those of PT and PW of the government coalition – voted against the bill, which had 26 votes of PM and PDK in favour and 31 abstentions. After the speech of Aramduhun supporting the change, General Yoang Hawakeng (RKaA), head of the Directorate of Military Analyses, spoke to the Parliament against the proposal, arguing that this reduction would weaken the national security. Hawakeng pointed out, as an

example of the risks for the country's sovereignty, the decades of exhaustive negotiation with Indonesia about the claim of 65-mile limit for the economic exclusive zone in the sea, so far without agreement.

Given the large number of abstentions, a new proposal is being discussed in the Parliament to change the current conscription process: Not only men, but women would equally be recruited to the service, following a volunteer enlistment. Furthermore, there would be an option of civilian and unarmed services for conscientious and religious objectors.

The Crisis

The defeat opened a crisis in the government, seven months before the legislative election, especially after PT and PW menacing to leave the coalition. There are rumours of a possible resignation of the Prime Minister. Wisnumatan's team is struggling to improve the economy of Kaupelan, but until now was unable to surpass the average yearly growth in Ruikawahi's term, around 6.5%.



The king of Amargo visited Kaupelan

Purikali - King Edward Mendes de Pinto of the Kingdom of Amargo finished yesterday the 2-day visit to Kaupelan. On Monday, His Majesty was received by King Kira and Queen Saramdi at *Kèratun Weru* where a banquet was offered to the guests. Even with the crisis in her government, Prime Minister Wisnumatan and Foreign Minister Elisbet Yemsawa accompanied the royal entourage on a tour through the capital and, by the end of the day, King Edward spoke to *Haimauman*, the Kaupelanese Parliament. Yesterday morning, both kings inaugurated the Sports Centre in the north of the city that will be used to the FICT Games in June. A commemorative plaque was placed there.

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