

ARSIP AS NATIONAL IDENTITY : CASE OF INDONESIA

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I. INTRODUCTION

Arsip is an Indonesian term for records and archives (USA), *rekod and arkib* (Malaysia), *archieff* (the Netherlands), and archives (France). It can be singular or plural. The term *arsip* derived from the Dutch, i.e. *archieff*, likewise *arsip dinamis* from *dinamisch archief* (records) and *arsip statis* from *statisch archief* (archives), *therefore it can be arsip dinamis* (records, both current (active) and semi current (inactive) and/or *arsip statis* (archives).

The terms *arsip*, *arsip dinamis*, and *arsip statis* have been officially and widely used in Indonesia after the issuance of the Law No. 7 of 1971 on Basic Archival Provisions (*Ketentuan-Ketentuan Pokok Kearsipan*) . (The law has been replaced by the new Law No. 43 of 2009 on “*Kearsipan*” (Archival). According to Law No. 43 of 2009 on *Kearsipan* (Archival), *arsip* is

“recorded activity or event, regardless of form or medium in accordance with the development of information, communication, and technology, made and received by state agency, regional government, education agency, company, political organization, social organization, and individual person in the conduct of their activity in society, nation, and state.”

As recorded activity (Indonesian Law No. 43 of 2009) or recorded information (Walne (ed.), 1988), *arsip* also depict and reflect the identities of the nation.

Arsip are extremely vital for the good conduct of national life and proper execution of the government activities. *Arsip* become indispensable in implementation of a solid and transparent government and most certainly in conducting good governance and creating clean government, accountable, and democratic. As national identity, *arsip* must be well administered and preserved throughout all generation.

The term *arsip* has already known long before the issuance of the acts, i.e. after the Indonesian independence in 1945. Therefore, in this paper I prefer to use *arsip* term rather than records and archives terms. However, sometimes the use term “ records and archives” are unavoidable.

Indonesia is a country that consists of more than 726 ethnic groups (Tilaar, 2007: 203) living in the world’s largest archipelago. Each of these ethnic groups is very unique, with its

own culture, tradition, language, and history. Despite their differences and through their historical experiences over many centuries, they did in the end agree to unite as one nation, nation Indonesia. In this regards, Garet Evans has difficulty explaining how this archipelago of thousands of islands and hundreds of ethnic groups hangs together as a nation.¹

Every nation or sovereign state has own identity. It is called **national identity** or national symbol. National identity is condition in which a mass of people have made the same identification with national symbols – have internalized the symbols of the nation (Bloom, 1990, 52). National identity is a type of collective identity that gives allegiance to the nation (Cinpoes, 2008, 12). According to Anderson (1991: 6) nation is imagined political community. National identity of each state or country is very unique, differ from one state or country to others. Each sovereign state or country has at least three identities or symbols, i.e. 1) coat of arms, 2) national flag, and 3) national anthem.. In this regards, Indonesia has six national identities, i.e. : 1) Coat of arms “*Garuda Pancasila*” (Pancasila Eagle), 2) National Flag “*Sang Merah Putih*” (Red and White), 3) National anthem “*Indonesia Raya*” (Great Indonesia), 4) National language “*Bahasa Indonesia*” (Indonesian Language), and 5) National Currency “Rupiah”.

The national identities of Indonesia are identities that represents *Negara Kesatuan Republik Indonesia* (Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia) and enforces through the 1945 Indonesian Constitution and Indonesian laws.

The draft and the amendment of the 1945 Indonesian Constitution had already been kept at *Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia (ANRI)* (National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia). The amendment of the constitution were transferred to ANRI on 7th September 2009 by Dr. Nurwahid, the Chairman of the *Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat* (The People’s Consultative Assembly) when I was the Director General of the ANRI. It should be noted that the draft of the Constitution already became *arsip statis* (archives) and the amendment of the Constitution are still as *arsip dinamis* (records). Therefore, these once again, the reason why I prefer to use the term “arsip” rather than records and archives as already mentioned above.

The national identities are very important for the Indonesian nation which with plural society and heterogeneous cultural background because they are functional as an integrative symbols and unifying force of the nation. Therefore, ANRI established Diorama “*Sejarah Perjalanan Bangsa*” (History of the Nation), which depicted the identities of the nation of Indonesia. The diorama was officiated by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr. Yudhoyono on 31st August 2009.

It should be informed that the nationalist movement succeeded in developing Indonesian nation and Indonesian identity, especially on 28 October 1928 when the “*Sumpah Pemuda*” (Youth Pledge) was proclaimed. The interesting thing was that the proclamation or the pledge was in Indonesian language (Riau Malay), was not in other languages such as Javanese or Dutch. The pledge translated in English as follows:

“Firstly

We the sons and daughters of Indonesia acknowledge, one motherland, Indonesia.

Secondly

We the sons and daughters of Indonesia, acknowledge one nation, the nation of Indonesia.

Thirdly

We the sons and daughters of Indonesia, uphold the language of unity, Indonesian language.”²

These formed the basis for Indonesian nationalism and gave the impetus to the fledgling independence movement.

This was a milestone in building Indonesia as one nation that was officially formed later in 1945. On 1 June 1945 two months before the proclamation of Indonesia’s independence Soekarno stated about Indonesian Nation as follows :

“ ... Indonesian Nation is not merely a group of individuals of all the human who, having le desir d’etre ensemble..., but the Indonesian Nation is the totality of all the human beings who, according to the geopolitics ordained by God Almighty, live throughout the unity of the entire Indonesian archipelago from the northern tip of Sumatra to Irian.”(Sekretariat Negara, 1995: 74)

On 17 August 1945 Soekarno and Hatta on behalf of Indonesian people declared the Proclamation of Indonesia’s Independence, and on the following day, 18 August 1945 Soekarno and Hatta were appointed as President and Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia and the draft of the 1945 Indonesian Constitution was enacted.

Through the development of Indonesian identity could the desperate people of Indonesian archipelago unite to overthrow colonial oppression and established their own independence state. Indonesian identity transcended ethnic, cultural, racial, and religious difference, uniting the people from difference racial, ethnic and religious background in common struggle for independence and the creation of new independence nation state.

Arsip should be seen and discussed in broader context, so people know how important of *arsip* for society, nation, and state. It was the reason why I wrote a paper entitled “***Arsip* as national Identity : Case of Indonesia.**

This paper divides into three parts, i.e 1. Introduction, 2. Identity of the Nation, which will discuss : a. coat of arms, b. national flag, c. national anthem, d. national language, e. national

currency, and 3. Conclusion. Introduction (I) and the coat of arms (II B) will be discussed more details than the other.

II. IDENTITY OF THE NATION

It has been mentioned before that there are five identities of the Indonesian nation which will be discussed here, i.e. : 1) coat of arms “*Garuda Pancasila*”, 2) national flag “*Sang Merah Putih*”, 3) national anthem “*Indonesia Raya*”, 4) national language “*Bahasa Indonesia*”, and 5) national currency “Rupiah”

A. Coat of Arms “*Garuda Pancasila*” (Pancasila Eagle)

Every sovereign state or country has a coat of arms (sometimes called emblem) as identity of its state or country. The term “coat of arms” used by majority of countries in the world, such as Australia, Argentina, Colombia, Timor Leste, Egypt, Germany, **Indonesia**, Iraq, Malta, Netherlands, the Philipinnes, Rusia, Switzerland, Yemen, and Zambia. Some countries, such as Afganistan, France, Greece, India, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Thailand, USA, and Vietnam use term “emblem” instead of coat of arms. US emblem also called seal or great seal.

At least 13 countries use “eagle” as identities or symbols, i.e.: Egypt, **Indonesia**, Iraq, Moldova, Poland, Rumania, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, and Yemen. However, every country has own unique eagle which differ from one to others.

The national Coat of Arms of Indonesia is “*Garuda Pancasila*” with the motto “**Bhinneka Tunggal Ika**”. It was regulated by 1945 Indonesian Constitution article 36A and Indonesian Law No. 24 of 2009 articles 46-57. It has been mentioned before that the original documents of 1945 Indonesian Constitution and Indonesian laws are *arsip*. *Garuda Pancasila* is a golden eagle with a shield on its chest and scroll gripped by its leg bears the national motto “**Bhinneka Tunggal Ika**” (Diversity in Unity, different but still in one), (see picture, bellow on the left hand side) which is similar to US motto “***E Pluribus Unum***” (Out of many, One).* The motto used to describe the unity and integrity of the nation of Indonesia which is made up of diverse cultures, local language, race, ethnicity, religion and belief. The diversity should be maintained smartly because the Indonesia’s ultimate strength lies in its diversity. In the concept of Indonesia, every individual, every community, every ethnic group become stake holder of Indonesia. This means the smallest group is equal to the largest ethnic group. According to Yudhoyono this means building a democracy of freedom and

tolerance, not freedom versus tolerance. It also means that Indonesia would not be Islamic state based on Islamic laws, despite the fact that there are more muslim in Indonesia than in the entire Middle- East. (Yudhoyono, 2006: 164)

The Garuda has 17 feathers of each wing, 8 pieces of fur on the tail, 19 strands of hair under the shield (on the base of the tail), and 45 strands of hair on neck; all symbolize the date of **the declaration of the Indonesia's independence, 17 – 8 – 1945 (17th August 1945)**. The Garuda also symbolizes the greatness and glory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

The shield is martial symbol, standing for defense of the country. The shield represents *Pancasila*, the five principles of Indonesian philosophy.(see picture, bellow on the right hand side). The first principle **“Belief in One Supreme God”** is symbolized by “the golden star” in center of the shield. The second principle **“Just and Civilized Humanity”** is symbolized by “the chain” in the bottom right quarter. The third principle **“The Unity of Indonesia”** is symbolized by” the Banyan tree” in the upper right quarter . The fourth principle **“Democracy guided by wisdom in the Consultative/Representative”** symbolized by “the head of the Indonesian wild bull” in the upper left quarter. The fifth principle **“Social Justice for the entire People of Indonesia”** symbolized by “the Rice and Cotton” in lower left quarter. The Rice and cotton represents also sustenance and livelihood.

In the middle of the shield there is a thick black line lies horizontally across the shield, symbolizing the equator stretching from east (Merauke (Papua) to west (Sabang (Aceh)).



**State of Arms “Garuda Pancasila”
With the motto “Bhinneka Tunggal Ika”**



The Shield of the “Garuda Pancasila”

Regarding on Pancasila, President Yudhoyono made a statement as follows:

”Pancasila is the principle, the foundation of the state, a living ideology, not a dogma that is static and frightening. We place Pancasila respectfully. As I have mentioned, it becomes the source of enlightenment, the source of inspiration and at the same time the sources of solutions for our problem...All of us recognize and acknowledge Pancasila as the national ideology of the Indonesian people, the basis of the Republic of Indonesia, the philosophy of the nation: welthanschaung, way of life, national identity, unifier of the nation.”(Yudhoyono, 2006: 49).

The formation of the the Pancasila which described above was officially recognized by the Committee for the Preparation of Indonesian Independence on 18 August 1945. The draft was formulated by the Committee of Nine on 22 June 1945 which known as Jakarta Charter. This was the second draft of Pancasila. The formulation of the first principle of the draft was “*Ketuhanan dengan kewajiban menjalankan syariat Islam bagi pemeluknya*” (Belief in God with obligation for its Muslim adherents to carry out the Islamic law/ Syariah). This formulation made the non muslim people as minority unhappy. Therefore, for guaranteeing religious freedom, the Committee on 18 August 1945 decided **to remove** the words “*dengan kewajiban menjalankan syariah Islam bagi para pemeluknya*”(with obligation for its Muslim adherents to carry out the Islamic law/Syariah) and **to add** the words “*Yang Maha Esa*” after “*Ketuhanan*”, so the formulation became “*Ketuhanan Yang Maha Esa*” (Belief in One Supreme God).

It should be noted that the first draft of Pancasila was formulated by Soekarno (later became the first President of the Republic of Indonesia) and it presented on 1 June 1945 to the Investigating Committee for the Preparation of Independence.

Many foreigners, including President Obama was very amazed at “Bhinneka Tunggal Ika” and Pancasila. This can be seen on his speech at University of Indonesia on 10th November 2010. Let me quote his statement :

*“But even as this land of my youth has changed in so many ways, those things that I learned to love about Indonesia – that spirit of tolerance that is written into your Constitution; symbolized in your mosques and churches and temples; and embodied in your people – still lives on. Bhinneka Tunggal Ika – unity in diversity. This is the foundation Indonesia’s example to the world, and this is why Indonesia will play such important role in the 21st century.”*³

It should be noted that a national identity, the Coat of arms “Garuda Pancasila” should be displayed at the Indonesian Embassies and Consulate Generals offices.

B. National Flag

Every sovereign state or country has a national flag as a national identity. Therefore, national flag of each state is unique and differ from one to others. The national flag of Indonesia is “*Sang Merah Putih*” (The Red and White Flag). The red stand for courage, while the white stands for purity. There are 19 state or countries, including Indonesia using red and white for their flags, i.e. : Austria, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, England, Georgia, Greenland, Indonesia, Japan, Latvia, Monaco, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Singapore, Switzerland, Tonga, and Turkey.⁴

The design of the Indonesian flag “ Sang Merah Putih” is very simple with two equal horizontal bands, red (top) and white (bottom) with overall ratio 2:3. It was stipulated by the 1945 Indonesian Constitution article 35 and Indonesian Law No. 24 of 2009 articles 4 – 24. It has already mentioned before that the original documents of the 1945 Indonesian Constitution and Indonesian laws are *arsip*.

The flag of Indonesia is identical to the flag of Monaco but the proportion is different. The proportion of the flag of Indonesia is 2:3 and the proportion of the flag of Monaco is 4:5.



**The Flag of Indonesia
Proportion 2 : 3**



**The Flag of Monaco
Proportion 4 : 5**

The Red and white flag was hoisted for the first time on 17 August 1945 in front of Soekarno’s house at Pegangsaan Timur 56 Jakarta.

As a national identity, the national flag should be hoisted at the Indonesian Embassies and Consulate Generals offices.

C. National Anthem

One of identities of the nation is a national anthem. As a sovereign state, each country has own national anthem, for examples : Australia (*Advance Australia Fair*), Britain (*God Save the Queen*), Japan (*Kimigayo*), Malaysia (*Negaraku* =My country), Monaco (*Monegasque*), Netherlands (*Het Wilhelmus*), Singapore (*Majulah Singapura*=Singapore Ontward), Suriname (*God Zij Met Ons Suriname*=God be with Our Suriname), and United States of America (*The Star-Spangled Banner*).⁵

The national anthem of Indonesia is *Indonesia Raya* (Great Indonesia). The song was introduced by its composer , Wage Rudolp Supratman on 28 October 1928 during the Second Youth Congress in Batavia (now Jakarta). The song marked the birth of all archipelago nationalist movement in Indonesia that supported the idea of one single Indonesia as successor to the Dutch East India. The *Indonesia Raya* was chosen as the nationl anthem when Indonesia proclaim its independence on 17 August 1945.

The Indonesia Raya as the national anthem was regulated by 1945 Indonesian Constitution article 36B and Indonesian Law No. 24 of 2009 articles 58-64. It already

mentioned before that original documents of the 1945 Indonesian constitution and laws are *arsip*. *Arsip* also depict and reflect the identity of the nation. As national identity, the national anthem “*Indonesia Raya*” is also be sung in the world championship.

D. National Language

Not every sovereign state or country has own national language. Some of them do not have own language for official language, eg. Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Libanon, Libya, Mauritania, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen, so they use Arabic for their officials language. Others languages, such as English, French, Spain, German, Portuguese, and Russian used as official languages by some countries.⁶

Indonesia has own national language, i.e. *Bahasa Indonesia* (Indonesian language) or Indonesian. On 28 October 1928 the Indonesian language was declared as the language of unity. One of the most important in the acceptance of Indonesian language as a national language was its function as a language of unity, giving Indonesian sense of identity and symbol and the vehicle of that unity. According to Pauw (2009: 2) Indonesia virtually alone among post colonial nation has been successful at promoting idigenous language as it national language.

Indonesian language as national language is regulated by 1945 Indonesian Constitution article 36 and Law No. 24 of 2009 articles 25-45. Original documents of the 1945 Indonesian Constitution and Indonesian laws are *arsip*. *Arsip* depict and reflect identity of the nation.

E. National Currency

One of the identities or symbols of the sovereign state is the currency. However, not every sovereign state or country has own currency, namely member State of the European Union (EU). There are 27 EU member states, but only afew still has currency, namely Great Britain which still has pound currency. The ISO 4217 is currencies code of the world. Each country has own ISO 4217 code which represents by three capital letters, eg. Australian Dollar is AUD, Brunei Dollar is BND, Cambodian Riel is KHR , Canadian Dollar is CAD, Malaysian Ringgit is MYR, New Zealand Dollar is NZD, and Singapore Dollar is SGD.

The national currency of Indonesia is rupiah, and the currency code is IDR. Rupiah also used as legal tender in the activities national economy in order to achieve social welfare for all people of Indonesia.

Rupiah as a national currency is regulated by the 1945 Indonesian Constitution Article 23B and Indonesian Law No. 7 of 2011 on Currency. The original documents of the 1945 Indonesian Constitution and Indonesian Law No. 7 of 2011 are *arsip*. *Arsip* depict and reflect identity of the nation.

III. CONCLUSION

Every country has own national identity. The identity is unique which different from one to other. Each county usually has 3 identities, i.e.: coat of arms, national flag, and national anthem. Indonesia was very lucky because Indonesia has five identities, i.e. coat of arms, national flag, national anthem, national language, and national currency. The national identities of Indonesia regulated by the 1945 Indonesian Constitution and Indonesian law. The 1945 Indonesian Constitution and Indonesian law are *arsip*. There is no doubt that *arsip* depict and reflect the national identities. Therefore can be safely concluded that *arsip* as national identity of the natio.

NOTES

¹Thang D. Nguyen and Frank-Jurgen Richter, *Indonesia Matters: Diversity, Unity and Stability in Fragile Times.* (Singapore: Time Edition. 2003), p. xiv.

²http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth_Pledge

³www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/united-states-president-barack-obamas-full-speech-from-the-university-of-indonesia/405898

⁴http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_colors_of_national_flags

⁵http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national-anthem

⁶http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_official_languages

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