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Prabowo's nephew to remain in government after transition

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Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati has signalled that her deputy Thomas "Tommy" Djiwandono will likely remain in the ministry after president-elect Prabowo Subianto takes office on Oct. 20.

In her closing statement for a meeting on Wednesday with the House of Representatives' Commission XI, which oversees financial affairs, Sri Mulyani pointed her right elbow at Tommy and said: "Please look after my deputy minister *Pak*, he's the one who will carry on," with an air of playfulness.

However, she refrained from elaborating on what she exactly meant by that—whether Tommy would continue as the deputy minister or take up the mantle in the next administration.

Tommy is Prabowo's nephew. He is the son of Soedradjad Djiwandono, who married Prabowo's sister Biantiningsih Miderawati Djiwandono. His father was a central bank governor in the 1990s during the New Order era and is currently the general treasurer of Prabowo's own Gerindra Party.

Tommy was sworn in to his post on July 18 and said in his inaugural speech that his appointment "showed the continuity" between the outgoing and incoming governments.

Dolfie Othniel Frederic Palit, deputy chair of House Commission XI answered with an equal light-heartedness: "*Bu* Minister's closing [statement] is as if

we're not going to have another meeting with *Bu* Minister".

Dolfie who is also an Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) politician continued, "We still have two more meetings [together]", and the room was filled with laughter.

Sri Mulyani was also accompanied by another deputy minister, Suahasil Nazara, and their subordinates. She opened her statement by introducing Tommy to the lawmakers given that it was his first meeting with the House as deputy minister.

"[House Commission XI members] will get familiar with *Pak* Tommy. We call him Tommy even though his name is Thomas," said the minister during the meeting.

Sri Mulyani said separately on July 18 that Tommy would focus on formulating the upcoming 2025 state budget proposal, which is to be Prabowo's first state budget as president.

"With *Mas* Thomas around, everything is easier because communication is automatically established," said Sri Mulyani.

In July, President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo also swore in Sudaryono, Prabowo's former aide, as deputy agriculture minister.

As both Thomas and Sudaryono have close ties to Prabowo, some viewed their appointments as a lean into nepotism and cronyism.

Jokowi made similar moves by recruiting Rosan Roeslani as investment minister and Bahlil Lahadalia as energy and mineral resources minister, mere weeks from the power transition in October.