



**Judul** : House to hold confirmation hearings for top KPK picks  
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# House to hold confirmation hearings for top KPK picks

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The House of Representatives is to start holding confirmation hearings on Monday to select the new leaders of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) as well as members of the KPK supervisory council, with observers urging lawmakers involved in the process to pick the best individuals to restore public trust in the anti-graft body.

House Commission III, which oversees law enforcement, is to finalize the selection of five KPK leaders and five council members from a short list of 10 names each during the hearings, a process that President Prabowo Subianto green-lit last week.

Prabowo sent a letter to the House on Nov. 4 to convey his approval of the short-listed

figures and ordered lawmakers to proceed with the confirmation hearings.

The short list was compiled by his predecessor Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and submitted to the legislature in October, just days before he stepped down from office.

*Continued on **page 11***



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Continued from page 1

"It will be a gradual process that lasts until Thursday, with around four to five candidates heard each day," Commission III chairman Habiburrahman, who hails from the Gerindra Party, said on Friday after a coordination meeting with the House leadership to discuss the short list.

He added that each candidate would be allotted up to 1.5 hours to respond to lawmakers' questions, longer than the usual hour-long interview, which would allow for further discussions if necessary.

"We want to fully dig into the visions and goals of the candidates," he said.

The KPK commissionership candidates include former heads of state institutions, such as Agus Joko Pramono, a former deputy chair of the Supreme Audit Agency (BPK), and Ahmad Alamsyah Saragih, a former member of the Indonesian Ombudsman.

The short list also includes several law enforcement officials, including incumbent KPK Deputy Chairperson Johanis Tanak, Supreme Court Justice Ibnu Basuki Widodo and South

Kalimantan Police chief Insp. Gen. Djoko Poerwanto.

Following the confirmation hearings, the final selection of five KPK commissioners and five KPK supervisory council members are to be installed in their new positions by the year-end.

### Integrity and courage

As the KPK leadership selection enters its final phase, observers have urged lawmakers to pick the right candidates that would fight a good fight against corruption for the next five years.

"We know that since the revision of the KPK Law, the commission has been castrated and become very soft and compromising in handling corruption cases," said Ujang Komanudin, a political analyst at Jakarta's Al-Azhar University.

Critics have lambasted the 2019 KPK Law revision, which they said had defanged the anti-graft body.

A recent survey by pollster Indikator Politik Indonesia showed that public trust in the KPK, along with other state institutions, had continued to plummet.

Ujang said the confirmation hearings should focus on a can-

didate's integrity and courage as crucial values, seeing how members of the last leadership, including former chair Firli Bahuri, created both legal and ethical problems.

Firli was named as a graft suspect for allegedly extorting money from former agriculture minister Syahrul Yasin Limpo, who has been convicted of bribery for soliciting illegal gratuities during his tenure.

Kennedy Muslim, a political analyst at Indikator Politik Indonesia, said the selection process handled by the new House was vital to Prabowo fulfilling his campaign promise to eradicate corruption as part of a strategy to achieve his ambitious goal of achieving 8 percent economic growth.

### Jokowi's influence?

Prabowo's decision to greenlight the short list compiled by Jokowi has raised questions about whether the former president still held sway over the new government.

Following his inauguration on Oct. 20, Prabowo had the prerogative to select the people he believed had a good track record and the integrity to lead the KPK,

Kennedy said, without the former president's influence.

"But it seems that he still wants to show the public that he respects [Jokowi's decision], and is reluctant to revise the short list Jokowi submitted," said Kennedy.

Jokowi told reporters he had signed and sent a letter containing the short list of candidates for the KPK leadership and supervisory council to the House on Oct. 15, five days before the transition of power.

But the newly installed House did not initiate a confirmation hearing for the KPK candidates immediately, saying that doing so for a short list from the former president might lead to public protest, Commission III member Sarifuddin Sudding said on Nov. 10, *Tempo.co* reported.

Meanwhile, Kennedy has urged the public to continue pressuring the legislature to select the best individuals to lead the KPK, since the short list included questionable candidates.

"The track records of all final candidates for KPK commissioners must be scrutinized regardless, to ensure that we can restore the dignity of the anti-corruption commission," he said.