

Minister of Industry Said Industrial Growth Is Not Affected by Presidential Election

Contributed by Maizer
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Industry Minister Airlangga Hartarto said industrial growth would not be affected by the Presidential Election (Pilpres) which will be held in April this year.

"For the industry, whether there are elections, holidays or holidays there is no effect. The industry is not waiting for the presidential election," he said at the 2019 Indonesia Economic and Investment Outlook in Jakarta. Airlangga said he was optimistic that industrial investment in 2019 would increase compared to 2018. Because, even though last year it was hit by economic turbulence with fluctuations in the rupiah exchange rate and trade war, this year will start entering a number of new investments. "We can see that the main projects such as in petrochemicals, steel, are starting to enter again. So like yesterday's Lotte 'groundbreaking' will be completed in 2022, that is an additional 1 million plastic products and derivatives. Then we also plan to build 10 tons of Krakatau Steel until 2022," he said. According to Airlangga, the industrial expansion carried out was a plan that had stalled for almost two decades. "Right now everything is starting to move back so that what we call the 'confident' (trust) of the industry players is getting higher," he said. Head of the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) Thomas Lembong, on the same occasion, also said 2019 would be more optimistic. The reason, he said, was that there was a natural pattern in which investment would improve after the presidential election. Menteri Perindustrian Airlangga Hartarto mengatakan pertumbuhan industri tidak akan terpengaruh dengan Pemilihan Presiden (Pilpres) yang akan digelar pada April tahun ini. "Bagi industri, baik ada pemilihan, hari-hari besar atau hari libur itu tidak ada pengaruhnya. Industri tidak menunggu Pilpres," katanya dalam acara Outlook Ekonomi dan Investasi Indonesia 2019 di Jakarta. Airlangga mengaku optimistis investasi industri pada 2019 akan meningkat dibandingkan tahun 2018. Pasalnya, meski tahun lalu dihantam turbulensi ekonomi dengan fluktuasi nilai tukar rupiah dan perang dagang, tahun ini akan mulai masuk sejumlah investasi-investasi baru. "Kita bisa lihat bahwa proyek-proyek utama seperti di petrokimia, baja, itu mulai masuk lagi. Jadi seperti Lotte kemarin 'groundbreaking'; itu akan selesai di 2022, itu tambahan 1 juta produk plastik dan turunannya. Kemudian juga di Krakatau Steel kita rencanakan 10 ton sampai 2022," ungkapnya. Menurut Airlangga, ekspansi industri yang dilakukan itu merupakan rencana yang sempat terhenti hampir dua dekade. "Sekarang ini semua mulai bergerak kembali sehingga apa yang kita sebut sebagai 'confident' (kepercayaan) pelaku industri itu sudah semakin tinggi," katanya. Kepala Badan Koordinasi Penanaman Modal (BKPM) Thomas Lembong, dalam kesempatan yang sama, juga mengatakan 2019 akan lebih optimistis. Pasalnya, ia menyebut ada pola alami di mana investasi akan membaik setelah Pilpres.