

has been changing with respect to the old divisions between Islamic and nationalist. And I don't want to say it was because of fear, but very rarely did you hear candidates talking about the issues of religion. This was the second year since the Bali bombing, and a week before the election there was another bombing in Jakarta. But the candidates didn't discuss the issue. The people, also. When the Bali bombing occurred, there was for many weeks a great feeling of sadness and anger, a great reaction, sometimes an overreaction to the event. But for this most recent bombing, right before the election, there was no overreaction. Even the market went down for only one or two days and then stabilized and went up again. We are used to this problem perhaps. Perhaps we have grown and become more mature because of the problem. Because of the conflict and because of the challenges, we have grown stronger. This is how I read it. It doesn't mean we are now less serious in tackling the issues of terrorism. I think SBY is going to be more decisive in this sense because he has a perfect background for dealing with this problem. But Indonesian society as a whole is no longer surprised and does not overreact in the event of the recent bombing. So this was good. Gender and religion play no role whatsoever in the election. The choice between Megawati and SBY was not an ideological choice, and that was good. It was rational, in the sense that they were both from the same background. After all, SBY was one of Megawati's best ministers. There were two sides of the same coin. People did not have to choose between two extremes. They were choosing different personalities, yes, but not different ideologies, not different religions, and not different genders. It is a fact of life but it's not a political fact.

- Q: Regarding the nature of the minority government, the directly elected president will have a stronger mandate than the Parliament, while the Parliament was not directly chosen by the people but through the parties. So any possibility of impeachment is very low, especially because the Parliament is so fragmented. So, I would like to know your opinion: what are the prospects for this minority presidency vis-a-vis the Parliament?
- A: This is a very good question. We know that SBY won by 60%. This is a strong mandate - very strong for the first time our president was directly elected. But he has to work with the Parliament, and it is true that unlike previously, the Parliament