

## Prabowo to involve Jokowi in forming new cabinet, says aide

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A senior campaign aide to Prabowo Subianto on Thursday claimed that the likely winner of the Feb. 14 presidential election would involve outgoing President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo in the selection process for members of his cabinet in the incoming administration.

Economist Drajad Wibowo of the Prabowo-Gibran Raka-buming Raka campaign team told *Kompas* daily on Thursday that with his vast experience in dealing with multiple economic challenges in the past 10 years, outgoing President Jokowi could help select the most credible candidates, especially for the economic team.

"Those who will be in charge of forming the cabinet will include Pak Jokowi, he is the transitional president and also he is leader of the coalition. And of course there's Pak Prabowo and Mas Gibran, as well as leaders of the political parties [in the coalition]," Drajad said.

Drajad added that the selection process for the incoming cabinet would be based on a merit-based system.

"It will be based on merit. Yet, there will be allocation for political parties and non-political parties. That's for sure," he said.

Earlier this week, the campaign team of the Prabowo-Gibran ticket issued a statement to quash speculation that the new cabinet line-up for the incoming administration had been finalized.

In recent days, a chart circulated widely on social media purporting to give details of individuals taking positions as ministers under a Prabowo presidency.

Names included in the chart were incumbent State-Owned Enterprises Minister Erick Tohir

taking up the role of a coordinating minister overseeing energy, investment and the environment, and current Coordinating Economic Minister Airlangga Hartarto and Investment Minister Bahlil Lahadalia retaining their positions.

Other figures listed in the chart were former West Java governor Ridwan Kamil serving as public works minister and executive of Indika Energy Wishnu Wardhana as finance minister.

The Prabowo campaign team has dismissed the chart as a hoax. Gerindra Party secretary-general Ahmad Muzani said that Prabowo would only begin making moves to form his cabinet after the General Elections Commission (KPU) announced the official tally of the Feb. 14 election on March 20.

Another strong indication that Jokowi may want to keep his appointed ministers in Prabowo's future administration was that he conducted another cabinet reshuffle by appointing Democratic Party chairman Agus Harimurti Yudhoyono as the new agrarian and spatial planning minister, replacing Hadi Tjahjanto, who has been appointed as the new coordinating minister for political, legal and security affairs.

The senior security affairs ministerial position had become vacant after Mahfud MD resigned to focus on campaigning as running mate for presidential candidate Ganjar Pranowo. That presidential ticket was nominated by the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P).

With the likely victory of Prabowo-Gibran, the PDI-P has said it is ready to go into opposition, which means that the ministerial positions currently held by its party representatives will also become future considerations for Prabowo.