

## **EMPOWERMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE IN REALIZING THE FULFILLMENT OF THE MINIMUM ESSENCE FORCE (MEF) OF THE TNI ALUTSIST BY THE DOMESTIC DEFENSE INDUSTRY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*. In writing this paper, the author gives the title Empowerment of National Defense in Realizing the Fulfillment of Basic Minimum Force Requirements (MEF) by the Domestic Defense Industry, where this writing will briefly discuss how to take advantage of challenges and opportunities in efforts to empower the state and the defense industry to meet the defense equipment target. The superiority of the TNI MEF is In line with the need for military weapons. The purpose of writing this paper is to provide benefits in the form of contributing ideas to the leadership of the Indonesian Navy from an educative, inspirational, and instructive perspective, as well as material for consideration for the leadership of the Indonesian Navy to build by encouraging, motivating and raising awareness of its potential and trying to develop it, so that it can support empowering national defense in realizing the fulfillment of the Minimum Essence Force (MEF) of the Indonesian Armed Forces, especially the Navy, by the domestic defense industry. In writing this group paper, we use a descriptive historical analysis method conducted comprehensively. The approach used in writing this paper uses a literature study approach, theoretical, juridical, and empirical assignment. In the discussion of writing this paper, to be able to find out the achievements of the Minimum Essence Forces (MEF) posture, to know the condition of the defense industry, and to know the challenges and solutions for the Indonesian Defense Industry to face these challenges is a strong commitment and systematic planning in strengthening the synergy between ministries and institutions. The conclusion in writing this paper is that the empowerment of the national defense industry in supporting the needs of national defense requires a long process, and its implementation requires continuity.*

*Keywords: Empowerment of National Defense, Minimum Essence Forces (MEF) and the Defense Industry.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Indonesia still needs to fully implement the minimum efforts to fulfill the national defense force at the basic level of minimal force. Developing new national defense forces and capabilities results in a state defense posture with limited strength (under Standard Deterrence). (Montratama, 2018) Structuring strategic and defense industries in several countries faces three main issues: first, developing defense technology that depends on two schemes, strengthening research and development of the defense industry, and offset and technology transfer schemes. (Ball & Leitenberg, 2021).

The Defense Industry is one of the vital components of defense capabilities. A strong defense industry has two main effects: a direct effect on the development of defense capabilities and an effect on national economic and technological development. In defense

capability development, a solid Indian guarantees the supply of defense equipment needs and means of defense sustainably. Availability of the central weapon system (defense equipment) on an ongoing basis is an absolute prerequisite for the flexibility and certainty to draw up plans for developing defense capabilities in the long term without worrying about political and economic factors, such as embargoes or restrictions. (Apergis, Bonato, Gupta & Kyei, 2018).

Indonesia currently realizes its commitment to building defense capabilities by setting main long-term targets to build the independence of the defense industry. In addition to issuing Law no. 16 of 2012 concerning the Defense Industry, the government also established the Defense Industry Policy Committee, tasked with realizing the independence of the defense industry by bridging the needs of the military and the development of the domestic strategic industry. Furthermore, the military embargo imposed by the United States from 1995-2005 has made the Indonesian government aware of the importance of the independence of strategic industries for the defense system.

One of the 7 (seven) development agendas in the National Medium Term Development Plan IV 2020-2024 document, namely strengthening political stability, law, defense, security, and the transformation of public services through increasing security, strengthening capabilities, including defense and defense industry. The defense industry is one of the crucial things in supporting the national defense system. A strong defense industry is reflected in guaranteed supplies of defense equipment needs and means of defense sustainably. However, Indonesia's defense industry still needs to be more optimal. For some types of defense, equipment relies on foreign products. Indonesia is also in 17th position as the largest importing country for defense equipment.

The independence of the defense industry or the ability to produce its military equipment without relying on other countries is one of the targets of the Indonesian government in the defense sector. However, there are still some challenges in balancing military needs with the defense industry's capacity. Therefore, commission I of the DPR RI has made the development of the defense industry and the modernization of the Main Equipment of the Indonesian Armed Forces Weapon System one of the focuses of attention, especially in achieving the fulfillment of the Minimum Essence Force (MEF) target. (Aida, 2021)

At the inaugural working meeting with the Minister of Defense on 12 November 2019, Commission I of the Indonesian House of Representatives emphasized the fulfillment of the MEF target in 2024 and the independence of the defense industry as the central homework for the next five years (voice.com, 13 November 2019). Commission I of the DPR RI is also committed to fulfilling defense equipment needs with budget support through an increase in the 2020 defense budget of Rp. 131 trillion. In addition, this commitment also followed up with a series of specific visits by Commission I of the DPR RI to several defense industries such as PT. PAL Indonesia (Persero), PT. Pindad (Persero), and PT. Len Industri (Persero) on November 14-15 2019.

Based on the description above, this paper will discuss how to take advantage of the challenges and opportunities to empower the national defense industry in meeting the MEF

target for the TNI's defense equipment which is in line with the needs of the TNI's defense equipment.

## **METHOD**

The writing of this paper uses a descriptive historical analysis method carried out comprehensively. The approach used in writing this work uses a literature study approach, theoretical, juridical, and assignment methods. The writing of this paper is limited to a discussion of the empowerment of national defense in realizing the fulfillment of the minimum essence force (MEF) of the TNI's defense equipment by the domestic defense industry.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Result**

Results The writing of this paper in this case study can provide benefits in the form of a contribution of thoughts to the leadership of the Navy from several aspects, namely:

#### **1. Educational Aspect**

This aspect provides an overview of taking advantage of the value of the empowerment of national defense in realizing the fulfillment of the minimum essential strength (MEF) of the TNI's defense equipment by the domestic defense industry as a lesson to develop science and knowledge. Therefore, achieve the Minimum Essence Forces (MEF) posture, knowing the condition of the defense industry. as well as knowing the challenges and solutions of the Indonesian Defense Industry for the advancement of the Navy's organization, especially in the future. (Prasetyo & Berantas, 2018)

#### **2. Inspirational Aspect**

In this aspect, it provides an overview of how to extract the value of benefits in empowering national defense in realizing the fulfillment of the minimum essential strength (MEF) of the TNI's primary defense equipment by the domestic defense industry in the form of thoughts or opinions that can inspire or inspire. Something new as a step for the advancement of the Indonesian Navy in particular. in the future.

#### **3. Instructive Aspect**

This aspect will provide an overview of how to utilize state defense empowerment in realizing the fulfillment of the TNI's minimum fundamental strength (MEF) by the domestic defense industry to be used as material in giving orders or instructions in carrying out the duties of the Indonesian Navy, especially in efforts to build, encourage, motivate and raise awareness. Therefore, it is the potential to develop, to support the empowerment of national defense in realizing the fulfillment of the Minimum Essential Rights (MEF) for the TNI's primary defense equipment, especially the Navy, by the domestic defense industry.

### **Discussion**

#### **1. Minimum Essence Forces (MEF) Posture Achievement**

The Minimum Essence Forces (MEF) is a process of modernizing Indonesian defense equipment launched by the government in 2007. This program not only develops defense equipment through procurement but also through the empowerment of the defense industry to build self-reliance. Currently, MEF has entered the end of strategic plan II to develop the minimum posture strength of defense equipment. Indonesia applies the concept of capability-based defense in planning the development of defense forces as implemented in the MEF program. Capability-based defense is the development of military strength, including procuring defense equipment based on identifying threats based on budgetary capabilities (Fitri & Sanur, 2019). The data above shows the achievement of the TNI's defense equipment development in the MEF program from a strategic plan I to strategic plan II for the strength of the three defense dimensions, which also shows Indonesia's defense equipment strength.

The data in Table 1 shows that fulfilling the TNI's defense equipment still needs to meet the MEF achievement target fully. In the ground dimension, the fulfillment of the MEF strategic plan-II target reached 74.2%, and the fulfillment of light weapons and cannons/rockets/missiles had met the target and experienced a significant increase compared to strategic plan-I, but not for Kanpur and aircraft. In the marine dimension, fulfillment of the KRI, submarines, and airplanes has almost met the achievement target, although the fulfillment of marines has yet to reach a target. The marine dimension itself reached 68.72% of the MEF target. The air dimension in strategic plan-II reached 44.40% of the MEF target. The fulfillment of defense equipment in strategic plan II still needs to reach the specified target. This strategic plan still needs to fulfill the procurement of radar, missiles, and air attack deterrents. The current condition of the defense equipment for the three TNI dimensions shows that Indonesia still needs to work on fulfilling the defense equipment to support the country's defense system.

**Tabel 1**  
**Data on the Achievement of the Physical Aspects of Alutsist 2010-2024**

NO	URAIAN	KONDISI SEBELUM MEF	MEF-I 2010-2014		MEF-II 2015-2019				MEF-III 2020-2024				POSTUR IDEAL			
			JUMLAH	%	JUMLAH		%	JUMLAH		%	JML	% (8/15)				
			s.d. MEF-I (4/12)	s.d. MEF-I (4/12)	RENC	CAPAI	s.d. MEF-II 11 Des 2018 (4+7)	s.d. MEF-II 11 Des 2018 (8/12)	RENC	CAPAI	s.d. MEF-III	CAPAI	s.d. MEF-III			
1-	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
<b>1</b>	<b>TNI AD</b>			<b>84,89%</b>				<b>74,62%</b>								<b>49,33%</b>
a.	Senjata Ringan	92.155	613.043	84,73%	128.417	36.019	649.062	89,70%			723.564				783.462	82,85%
b.	Menam / Roket / Rudal	962	1.144	84,49%	3.035	227	1.371	101,26%			1.354				2.162	63,41%
c.	Ranpur	1.321	1.641	43,90%	730	359	2.000	53,50%			3.738				4.858	41,17%
d.	Pesawat Terbang	67	104	46,43%	77	17	121	54,02%			224				1.224	9,89%
<b>2</b>	<b>TNI AL</b>			<b>65,56%</b>				<b>68,72%</b>								<b>45,47%</b>
a.	KRI	144	146	80,22%	46	35	161	88,46%			182				262	61,45%
b.	Kapal Selam	2	2	25,00%	3	2	4	50,00%			8				12	33,33%
c.	Pesawat Udara	62	72	72,00%	16	13	85	85,00%			100				160	53,13%
d.	Ranpur Marinir	413	440	44,96%	46	0	503	51,43%			978				1.481	33,96%
<b>3</b>	<b>TNI AU</b>			<b>43,97%</b>				<b>44,40%</b>								<b>32,64%</b>
a.	Pesawat	211	261	75,87%	301	6	267	77,62%			344				489	56,93%
b.	Radar	17	20	62,50%	27	0	20	62,50%			32				32	62,50%
c.	Rudal	0	0	0,00%	18	0	0	0,00%			72				96	0,00%
d.	PSU	20	24	37,50%	36	0	24	37,50%			64				216	11,11%
	<b>Prosentase</b>		<b>41,92%</b>		<b>54,80%</b>			<b>62,58%</b>								<b>42,48%</b>

Source: Directorate General of Defense Ministry of Defense (2018)

## **2. Condition of Defense Industry**

The data in Table 1 shows that fulfilling the TNI's defense equipment still needs to meet the MEF achievement target fully. In the ground dimension, the fulfillment of the MEF strategic plan-II target reached 74.2%, and the fulfillment of light weapons and cannons/rockets/missiles Essence Force (MEF) by 2024, as well as achieving independence in procurement. Defense equipment in 2029, as stated in the defense industry master plan. As stated in the 2020-2024 RPJMN, the defense industry could be more optimal. As stated in MEF, the contribution of the defense industry in the fourth quarter of 2018 was only 35.9% of the target set at 49%. However, the domestic defense industry has met some of the defense and security equipment needs.

Meanwhile, strategic defense equipment such as fighter aircraft, destroyers, rockets, missiles, Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAV), and radar rely on imports. Based on data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) (2020), during 2015-2019, on average, Indonesia ranked 17th as the most significant defense equipment importer country, which is 1.8% of the world's total. On the other hand, America dominates the national defense equipment suppliers at 20%, the Netherlands at 18%, and South Korea at 16% of the total defense equipment imports.

## **3. Indonesian Defense Industry Challenges and Solution**

Countries with a well-established defense industry have a strategic advantage in the global order. However, technological capabilities and the defense industry are subject to political control that affects relations with foreign parties through exports and transfers of weapons technology for defense purposes (Ball & Leitenberg, 2021). Therefore, the defense industry is one of the spearheads of developing a defense system independently to meet the quality and quantity of defense equipment following regional characteristics and potential threats faced, as well as to build a deterrence effect on other countries.

Indonesia has several strategic industries in the defense sector, which have assembled and produced a few defense types of equipment for the TNI. The defense equipment produced by the national defense industry includes; a Medium Tank (Joint venture of PT PINDAD and Turkey's FNSS), CN235-220 MPA Maritime Patrol Aircraft (PT Dirgantara Indonesia), and 60m Fast Missile Ship (PT PAL). However, some challenges still exist in empowering the national defense industry, which is a familiar problem. There are at least three main problems in developing the defense industry to support Indonesia's defense needs. (Rachmat, 2014)

First, the need for more funding for research and development makes it difficult for Indonesia to develop technology capable of producing high-tech prototype defense equipment products of strategic value. Consequently, the production of defense equipment still relies on raw materials from abroad, so the results achieved are high-cost defense equipment.

Second is the problem of procurement cooperation with other countries. The government is cooperating with various countries to meet the needs of the TNI's defense

equipment. Ideally, referring to Presidential Decree No. 54 of 2010 concerning the Procurement of Goods/Services, foreign procurement needs to be accompanied by cooperation in the form of technology transfer (offset). Defense offset (offset) is an agreement between the government and foreign defense equipment providers to return a portion of the value advantage to the buying country as a precondition for buying and selling. However, in practice, this cooperation only sometimes brings benefits. For example, the cooperation project for developing KFX/IFX fighter aircraft with South Korea did not work because of problems with licensing technology from the United States. In addition, there are other problems related to the agreement between Indonesia and Russia regarding the delivery of 11 Sukhoi-35 fighter jets, which should have arrived in early 2019. However, until now, there has been no clarity due to the implementation of the US law (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Countering America Adversaries Through Sanctions Act) which imposes sanctions on countries buying weapons from Russia, North Korea, and Iran.

Third, the problem of transparency in the procurement of defense equipment is one of the challenges amid a limited defense budget. The defense sector has long been prone to corruption, marked by rampant corruption cases in Indonesia's procurement of defense equipment. For example, in the procurement of Agusta Westland helicopters for the Indonesian Air Force in 2017 and the arrest of the president director of PT PAL for corruption in the sale of the Strategic Reality Vessel to the Philippines. That happened because the KPK's room was closed to investigate corruption cases, especially those involving elements of the TNI. Then, the involvement of third parties in the procurement of defense equipment and the lack of transparency and accountability in the defense equipment procurement process also contributes to corruption in this sector.

Overall, the government's efforts to encourage the empowerment of the national defense industry in meeting defense needs, especially in meeting the MEF target for the TNI's defense equipment, still need to be improved. (Fitri & Sanur, 2019) The defense industry still has a limited production capacity and mastery of military technology. Therefore, a strong commitment and systematic planning are needed to strengthen the synergy between ministries and institutions to achieve the MEF fulfillment target by empowering national strategic industries. (Kurç & Bitzinger, 2018)

Based on the above, the commitment of the DPR RI to encouraging the achievement of the MEF target through the empowerment of the defense industry needs to observe as an opportunity to increase partiality and build the government's political will in maximizing the use of domestic defense equipment production. Furthermore, this commitment also needs to strengthen Indonesia's position in various defense cooperation with other countries. In this case, Commission I of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia assessed the overall production of defense equipment for the national defense industry, both for the domestic and foreign markets, as quite reasonable. Therefore, Commission I of the DPR RI needs to continue encouraging the government to be optimal in using domestic products so that the production of the nation's children must be the host in their own country.

## CONCLUSION

Empowerment of the national defense industry in supporting national defense needs requires a long process and continuity in its implementation. However, until now, the process is still constrained by various challenges, such as insufficient funding for research and development of military technology and problems in defense cooperation to transparency in the procurement of defense equipment. Moreover, the development of the independence of the defense industry requires good political will from the government, followed by an increase in the professionalism of the defense industry itself. For this reason, the DPR RI plays a key role through its supervisory and budgetary roles, especially in aligning the defense industry's empowerment with national defense needs.

Through the supervisory function of Commission I of the DPR RI, it is necessary to continue encouraging the government to fulfill the MEF effectively. For example, encourage the use of domestic products, carry out modernization of defense equipment through research and development programs for military weapons, and strengthen transparency and accountability in the defense equipment procurement process. In addition, they carry out various defense cooperation with other countries

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