

## INTERVIEW SESSION WITH REGINA VIANNEY AYUDYA (20 MINS)

**Date** : 19 January 2024 (Friday)

**Time** : 4.00 pm

**Venue** : Studio Tingkat 10, Wisma MCA

### 1. Candidate Background

As a start, could you share some information on your background for people to get to know about you?

My name is Regina Vianney Ayudya, the Legislative Candidate for the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia for the Special Election District of the Capital City of Jakarta. My area is called Jakarta II which consists of South Jakarta, Central Jakarta, and all Indonesians who live overseas. Currently, I am the Chairman of Foreign Affairs DPP BMI and in charge of connecting and engaging the young wing of political parties in other countries.

Today, I am contesting for the member of representative because I want to make a contribution to other people and to serve the community so they can give back to the country. Throughout my campaign session in Kuala Lumpur, I visited the Indonesians here who are eligible to vote during the General elections which are scheduled to be held on 14 February 2024 soon.

In brief, what sparked you to get involved in politics and what are the things that motivated or drove your commitment to stay in politics, eventually leading to becoming an MP candidate?

I joined the PDI-Perjuangan 6 years ago. The reason I am joining politics is not because looking for a position, having any authority, or whatever it is, but because I am here to help others. I believe that when we do something, we need to become a blessing for others too.

So, that is my anchor. I want to make a positive difference and impact in everything we do. Also, that is the main reason why I chose PDI-Perjuangan as my party and my political career. PDI-P supported the young leaders to become successors and through PDI-P, we have the chance to directly touch the marginal people in Indonesia as there are a lot of middle and low-class people here who want to improve their lives.

Also, when involved in politics, I have a very broad mindset about how things work out. Before joining politics, my life was about family, friends, business, and study only, but with politics, my networking has broadened. I have so many friends from other countries especially when I am in charge as chairman of the foreign affairs department at DPP BMI as we always meet them during international forums, conferences, and so on.

As we all know politics is not an easy path, how does it feel to become a woman candidate, moreover contesting in urban areas?

I am honored to become one of the woman candidates in this Pemilu and currently in Indonesia, we have the regulation that 30 percent of women should be in the Parliament. This is the main factor why Indonesia is encouraging women to actively participate in national politics.

However, I think the challenge in becoming the female candidate comes from the party itself because PDI-P is one of the biggest parties in Indonesia and we have so many talented leaders to push forward, and we have to be best to become the candidate for the party itself. So, I am glad to become a candidate for the PDI-P and to contest in Jakarta II which is an urban area is how I challenge myself to be mature as a young politician.

Also, what motivates me as a female candidate is the President of my party is a woman. Ibu Megawati Soekarnoputri is Indonesia's first and to date, the only female president and the fifth woman to lead a Muslim-majority country. Thus, this is super critical for us to improve the role of women in Indonesia's politics and that is why my motto for the campaign is "Inspiration Regeneration" which is the Inspiration inspired by our Ibu Megawati while Regeneration is about what we need it for the women or otherwise we gonna stuck in the same area or level forever.

## 2. Campaign aspirations

To get the trust and votes from the people, what are your main offers or manifesto for this election?

It is quite related to why are we campaigning in Malaysia recently. We were focusing on helping our people abroad that are working and studying here. For instance, based on the data that I received, there are more than 4 million Indonesians here in Malaysia and most of them do not have legal documents. So, here I am for this campaigning session to focus on this issue and help the migrants who work in Malaysia in getting the legal documents as this is also part of our mission and manifesto.

Other than that, we also focus on helping out small and medium enterprises through various upskilling and reskilling programs and activities for them. For BMI itself, we also organize a lot of workshops to teach people how to make their products and improve the business, whether it is a physical or online store, and so on. This kind of offer will make a concrete impact on them in the future. I want to help them as much as I can with all the networking I have and I hope I will get the chance if I win the election.

## 3. Key factors for winning an election

Certainly, every candidate that decides to compete must have confidence in winning the seat that they contesting, thus what are the key factors that you possess as an advantage to win the election?

I think the advantage here for me is I have a broad network among the youth especially in Jakarta where I contested in this election. I have a lot of "happening" friends known as Anak Jaksel there who live in the community in Jakarta and I used to have some coffee sessions with them talking about various range of topics.

Being a youth candidate in this election also could possess an advantage since I am the youngest of all seven candidates from my party and with almost 55 percent of voters out there are the youth, we were ready to beat the "dinosaur" in this coming election.

What are the challenges you've encountered and how have you been managing them so far?

Personally, the biggest challenge so far during the campaign is how you fight the "dinosaur" in politics. Among all the provinces in Indonesia, my area Jakarta II is known as Dapil Neraka. Everyone is super famous here and also the population in this area is very huge. When I said about "dinosaur" politics, it is not only from my party, but all the parties there. The candidates are all the heavyweights and big fish. From artist, businessman, conglomerate, and also got a minister who also contested. Some of

them are already in Parliament for 2-3 periods, 15 years. They have a lot of funds to campaign compared to me.

During the campaign, some people still asked me how much money I would give to them so they would vote for me. I am not here for money politics, so I told them I don't have money and don't vote for me. This is my principle. I am doing this without any pressure because I intend to serve what is best for my society.

Another challenge in my career is I am still junior in my party. It is not an easy job if you want to do something and I need to learn from the seniors. However, some of them considered me as their threats and kept asking me, "Who are you?", "Why is she able to do that?", "How can she easily get the highlights?". I did not bother with that but to tell that is the challenge I had to face and I just want to contribute to my country.

#### 4. Overall party campaign strategies

Regarding your party, the Indonesian Democratic Party or Partai Demokrasi Indonesia-Perjuangan (PDI-P), can you elaborate on the general strategies of your party in this election?

For the PDI-P strategy, we always have this kind of method as what we call "Blusukan". Blusukan is an impromptu visit or the latter's preferred method of overseeing developments and communicating with the people. We are not only focusing on social media or riding on popularity through the television, radio, or any media platform, but we come by ourselves. We come to the society, we come to the people and give what the best for them.

We are not creating any gimmick only for social media because, for me, popularity in social media or any media platform compared to your popularity on the ground is not an apple-to-apple comparison. So, even though you are very famous in the media, does not guarantee you are going to win the election. You need to touch the voters' hearts in order to win their votes and that's what PDI-P does. And this approach is applied uniformly across the whole country for us in PDI-P.

In addition, my strategy to attract young voters is to engage them through soft campaigning in numerous activities such as music, sports, and e-sports as it was conducted by the Banteng Muda Indonesia. In this way, youth will notice us and get along with us. That's what we do right now.

What is your hope in this general election?

I have great hope for the 113 million youths in Indonesia to boost a great impact in this coming election. We are the next generation of our country and we are going to have Indonesia Emas in 2045 since we will be commemorated 100 years of independence. So, we need to focus on improving our education, healthcare, social welfare, and also a human being. 2045 is only about 20 years from now and definitely, we are not going to mess it up.

I also hope that with my campaign slogan – Inspiration Regeneration, which is made up of my name Regina, I will be able to inspire people to contribute more to the country and I am here to do my best for my beloved country too.