

Dita Sari's and the support to the Kalla-Wiranto presidential bid in Indonesia

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Dita Sari's reasons for supporting the Kalla-Wiranto presidential bid

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Up until now, Dita Indah Sari has been known as a labour activist, while Vice President Jusuf Kalla is known as a business person. Sari however has formed the Courageous Volunteers for Resurrecting Self-Sufficiency (Relawan Berani Bangkit Mandiri, Relawan BBM), which represent a group of volunteers who will campaign for the Jusuf Kalla and Wiranto presidential bid. So what are Sari's reasons for giving her support to Kalla?

"We feel comfortable with his ideas of self-sufficiency and a people's economy", said Sari prior to the declaration of Relawan BBM at the Panti Trisula Perwari Building in Central Jakarta on Saturday June 6.

Up until now, said Sri, Kalla's vision and mission is seen as supporting workers' welfare. Moreover according to Sari, Kalla has promised to safeguard domestic industries and is concerned about labour problems. "So that workers will not be dismissed in large numbers", said the Chairperson of the Indonesian National Front for Labour Struggle (FNPBI).

Dita also believes that Kalla is the type of leader who can communicate in a simple language. In addition to this, Kalla is also considered to be prepared to act quickly. "We're tired of leaders who are indecisive, normative and impractical", said the former Chairperson of the People's Democratic Party (PRD).

Kalla and Wiranto's diverse backgrounds have also not been lost on Sari. "Because this is a 'pilpres' [presidential election], not a 'pilres' or residence election [sic], that only covers Pacitan, Madiun,

and surrounding areas,” said Dita.

Source: Ismoko Widjaya, Bayu Galih - VIVAnews

Dita Sari: Kalla-Wiranto presidential ticket connects with workers

Kompas.com - June 6, 2009

Caroline Damanik, Jakarta — Labour activist Dita Indah Sari believes that presidential and vice presidential candidates Jusuf Kalla and Wiranto (JK-Win) are the partnership that most connects with workers. It is because of this that workers and youths who have joined the Courageous Volunteers for Resurrecting Self-Sufficiency (Relawan Berani Bangkit Mandiri, Relawan BBM) and are ready to support the pair’s victory in the coming presidential elections.

“We feel compatible with their [idea of] economic self-sufficiency. To the degree that their concepts very much connect [with us]”, said Sari prior to the declaration of Relawan BBM at the Panti Trisula Perwari Building in Menteng, Central Jakarta on Saturday June 6, which was attended by Jusuf Kalla.

The concept of economic self-sufficiency being offered by the JK-Win ticket, according to Dita, satisfies the points that up until now have been longed for by workers, including among other those related to the JK-Win program to protect domestic industry and to introduce outsourcing and contract labour systems that truly side with workers.

In addition to this, Sari believes that Kalla is the type of leader who is prepared to take a stand, does not get caught up in communication formalities with the people and is quick to act. “[They] suit us. We are tired, right, with leaders that are so often pragmatic and [only] talk about general issues”, said Sari.

Another element of Kalla’s leadership that Sari considers to be positive is the practical solutions that are often offered by Kalla to respond to the ordinary people’s problems related to the economy. Kalla’s background as a businessperson is not a

problem for Sari.

“What’s important is the system. Although he is from business circles, he has a good system. How he oversees the system to regulate himself as a government official and a businessperson. [Even] if there conflict of interests, right, this could arise in any kind of profession”, said Sari.

During the declaration today, workers will present a political contract to JK-Win, covering guarantees of protection to domestic industry, improvements to outsourcing systems and contract labour, along with a commitment to develop political communication that is egalitarian and open to the people.

Relawan BBM will be declared in 25 cities including Solo, Semarang, Banten Tangerang and Yogyakarta. As the coordinator of Relawan BBM, Sari is positive that workers throughout the archipelago will be able to be brought in to support a JK-Win victory.

Dita Sari: Workers support Kalla-Wiranto presidential ticket

Tempo Interactive - June 7, 2009

Kurniasih Budi, Jakarta — A group of workers who have declared themselves as a voluntary team to support Jusuf Kalla and Wiranto believe that Kalla’s performance has been better than the other presidential candidates.

“I feel comfortable with JK (Kalla’s) style of working, which is quick to act, quick to find solutions and dynamic. In addition to this, he has the courage to be himself and has his own way of resolving problems”, said labour activist Dita Indah Sari following the declaration of the Courageous Volunteers for Resurrecting Self-Sufficiency (Relawan Berani Bangkit Mandiri, Relawan BBM) at the Perwari Building in Jakarta on Saturday June 6.

Hundreds of workers took part in declaring themselves as a volunteer team to support the Kalla-Wiranto presidential bid. Dita said that the political stand taken by the labour group supporting Kalla represents a positive step. “Increasingly

large numbers of workers are becoming involved in politics so political policies will be pro-worker”, she said.

Sari is also optimistic that Kalla will not break his promises because his concepts are the same as those of the working class. Moreover Kalla will prioritise the development of small- and medium-scale enterprises by keeping down interest rates on credit for small businesses. In addition to this, the Kalla-Wiranto ticket has a program to develop the agricultural sector. These two programs, said Sari, will support those economic sectors that absorb large amounts of labour. “If lots of people have jobs then purchasing power will increase,” she said.

Labour representative Adam Syah Wahab said, “We are ready to ensure the victory of Pak (Mr) JK as president.”

Kalla and Wiranto, who have the backing of the Golkar Party and the People’s Conscience Party (Hanura), will be competing with candidates championed by the Democrat Party and several other political parties, incumbent President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and former Central Bank governor Boediono, and the candidates put up by the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) and the Greater Indonesia Movement Party (Gerindra), Megawati Sukarnoputri and Prabowo Subianto in the July 8 presidential elections.

P.S.

* Translated by James Balowski.