

Indonesia Watch

BI Review: Holding on

No change to policy rate & neutral tone

BI kept its policy rate at 6% for the 4th straight month, as widely expected. There wasn't much major changes of note compared to the <u>previous month</u> (see report), with BI still sounding neutral, and expecting Fed rate cuts to only commence from 2H24.

Key highlights from BI statement/briefing

#1: Greater comfort with inflation. BI said that it is "confident" that its 2024 inflation target (1.5-3.5%) can be met. Reference to this term was last seen in Sep '23.

#2: Fed rate path expectations still conservative: As with Jan, BI forecasts 75bp of cuts in 2H24, slightly later vs. our expectations for Fed cut to commence in Jun.

#3: Signs of pick-up in real activities? Loan growth picked up to 11.8% yoy in Jan (4Q23: 9.6%) - fastest since Feb '19 (12%). BI also noted that banks have started shifting their liquidity away from securities and towards lending.

#4: BI remains hopeful that the IDR will strengthen in time, supported by BI's intervention and inflows via. instruments such as SRBI (Exhibit 1, Exhibit 2 & Exhibit 3).

#5: Increase in BI's government bond purchase - BI's government bond holdings rose by around IDR26tn YTD to IDR1,389tn as of 20th Feb '24. BI attributed this to its broader efforts to stabilize the IDR and anchor price stability – perhaps a reference to BI's efforts to sterilize its FX intervention (i.e. influencing FX rate without changing the monetary base).

IDR key consideration for policy rate cuts

With inflation less of a concern, BI's current focus remains squarely on the IDR. Despite a clear political result with first round victory, the reaction to the currency has been underwhelming (see also EM Alpha: Indonesia / Philippines – Close long IDR vs PHP). We expect BI to commence quarterly rate cuts from Jun (see report) – in line with our forecasted Fed rate cut trajectory. This brings our end-24 and end-25 BI rate forecast to 5.25% and 4.75% respectively. Of note as well it that BI's 20th Jun meeting (only Thurs this year) comes one week after the Fed meeting, with provides BI with some time to assess the market impact post-Fed.

Post-elections: Legislative election results mixed

Although results of presidential elections seem conclusive (see report), the results for the legislative elections seem less clear. Quick counts show (1) Pro-Prabowo coalition is likely to fall just short of a simple majority (Exhibit 4) and (2) PDI-P (not from Prabowo's coalition) likely to emerge as the biggest party, and thus in the strongest position to take up the Speaker's role (whom in turn sets the legislative agenda). We keep a close eye on (a) Prabowo's efforts to court the support of other parties; and (b) any clues on future policy agenda (see report), including discussions on potential reforms to energy subsidies. We estimate that every 10% increase in prices of electricity [subsidized petrol] affecting 10% of households [motorists] would raise inflation by 4.9bp [3.7bp] on a full year basis (Exhibit 5 & Exhibit 6).

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GEM Economics Asia | Indonesia

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Glossary

BI: Bank Indonesia

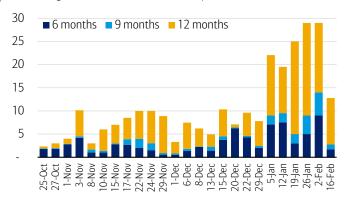
SRBI: Rupiah Securities of Bank

Indonesia

YTD: Year-to-date

Exhibit 1: SRBI auction results (IDRtn)

Outstanding balance since SRBI started in Sep is at IDR391.8tn

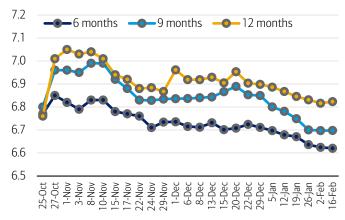


Source: BofA Global Research, BI, Haver

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Exhibit 3: SRBI awarded interest rates (%)

Awarded interest rates have creeped downwards



Source: BofA Global Research, BI, Haver

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Exhibit 5: Potential impact on full-year headline CPI from electricity subsidy reforms (ppt)

The potential impact depends on the timing, subsidy coverage & re-pricing of electricity prices

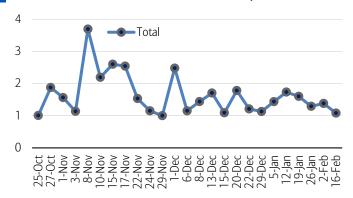
Increase in	% of households affe					ected		
electricity prices vs. current levels	100%	90%	80%	70%	60%	40%	20%	10%
10%	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.049
20%	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.1
40%	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.2
60%	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.0	1.8	1.2	0.6	0.3
80%	3.9	3.5	3.1	2.7	2.3	1.6	0.8	0.4
100%	4.9	4.4	3.9	3.4	2.9	2.0	1.0	0.5

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, Haver Note: Electricity accounts for 4.88% of CPI basket

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Exhibit 2: SRBI bid-to-award ratio

Bid-to-award ratio on a broad downtrend since start of Jan



Source: BofA Global Research, BI, Haver

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Exhibit 4: Opinion polling for legislative elections (% of votes)

Pro-Prabowo coalition (43% of vote counts) likely to fall short of simple majority, even after proportion distribution of votes (12%) from parties that do not meet the minimum threshold to qualify for a seat is factored in

	Coalition		Share of votes (%)	Coalition		Share of votes (%)	
T		Golkar	14.8		PDI-P	16.6	
	Duahausa	Gerinda	13.4		PKB	10.7	
	Prabowo (Gerinda)	Demokrat	7.4	Others	Nasdem	9.4	
	(Geririda)	PAN	6.9		PKS	8.4	
		Sub-total	42.6				

Source: BofA Global Research, Detik Note: (1) We only include parties with at least 4% of national votes (minimum required to qualify for a parliamentary seat; Vote shares from the remaining parties will be proportionately distributed, and (2) Counts above based on average of 6 independent pollsters – Kompas, Indikator, LSI, Charta Politika, Polltracking and Politika Research & Consulting

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Exhibit 6: Potential impact on full-year headline CPI from petrol subsidy reforms (ppt)

The potential impact depends on the timing, subsidy coverage $\&\, \text{re-pricing}$ of petrol

Increase	% of motorists (by petrol consumption) affected							
in prices vs. current levels	100%	90%	80%	60%	40%	20%	10%	
10%	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.037	
20%	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	
40%	1.5	1.3	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.1	
60%	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.3	0.9	0.4	0.2	
80%	2.9	2.6	2.4	1.8	1.2	0.6	0.3	
100%	3.7	3.3	2.9	2.2	1.5	0.7	0.4	

Source: BofA Global Research estimates, Haver Note: Petrol accounts for 4.43% of CPI basket; We assume that subsidized petrol accounts for 83% of petrol consumption

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