

## **NEW ENERGY MINISTER HIGHLIGHTS FOUR PRIORITIZED PROGRAMS**

Acknowledging his zero experience in the energy sector, newly appointed Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Ignasius Jonan has said he would 'walk the talk' in carrying out at least four of the sector's strategic programs.

The 35 gigawatt (GW) power plant project will be on the top of the list of prioritized programs, alongside solving problems in the oil and gas and mining sectors, Jonan said during his handover ceremony at the ministry's office in Jakarta on Monday.

"I believe in walk the talk. Among the priorities is the 35 GW mega project, which aims to increase electricity coverage from around 85 percent currently to 95 percent. This is a very important focus," he said.

In the oil and gas sector, Jonan continued, the fate of the East Natuna and Masela blocks are also prioritized, as is the upcoming revision of the 2010 government regulation on cost recovery.

"The coordinating [maritime affairs] minister has instructed that the cost recovery must be equitable," he went on.

Meanwhile, the main challenge in the mining sector would be in proceeding with the government's plan to temporarily relax the ban on partially processed mineral exports, including copper, nickel, zinc and bauxite ore, to prop up the economy, Jonan added.