

Labor as a Political Force in Indonesia

My essay argues that laborers can be considered as a political force in Indonesia despite being the bottom of the social ladder. Workers play a big role in the country both politically and economically, but in this case, I will focus my essay on the political power laborers held while using their role in economy to support my argument for their political strength. While there are many who has yet to realize the true power laborers hold, in reality, there are few who does and used them in politics. This paper will explain more about the laborers in Indonesia and how they affect politics in Indonesia.

Laborers or workers, as we all know, are people who contributed to the society through manual or skill work. Basically, they are the foundation of the society as they make up more than 50% of the population. Workers can be classified into two colored groups: white and collar worker. Blue-collar worker is defined by manual or physical labor is a type of labor that relies on strength. Skills or intelligence are rarely needed as it mostly requires manpower thus the pay is usually lower than skilled labor.

However, there are exceptions like workers in the petroleum field with higher wage since they work in hazardous environment and requires an expertise on the field.

Many factories also requires the workers to be skilled as few of the jobs may involve operating computerized machines and usually needs some special training.

Sometimes, manual labor can be dangerous to the physical health condition of the workers which is why they are usually required to take safety precautions as stated in the law². On the other hand, white-collar workers are office employees who worked in a more delicate environment³. They are paid for their ability to provide company with the necessary talent and brainwork. Their job involves spending long hours in the office, doing paperwork and computing thus why their job requirement includes a

¹ "Blue Collar Definition," *Investopedia*, accessed May 19, 2015, <http://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/bluecollar.asp>.

² "UU No.1 Thn 1970 - Keselamatan Kerja," accessed May 19, 2015, http://hukum.unsrat.ac.id/uu/uu_1_70.htm.

³ "White Collar Definition," *Investopedia*, accessed May 19, 2015, <http://www.investopedia.com/terms/w/whitecollar.asp>.