

HE Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan

Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs

Luhut was born in North Sumatra on Sept 1947 (70 y.o). Luhut is a 1970's best graduate of the National Military Academy and earned a master's degree in public administration from George Washington University, US, in 1991.

Luhut had a solid military career. He spent most of military career in the Kopassus (Army's Special Forces); participated in Indonesia's Garuda contingent serving under United Nations in Port Suez, Egypt (1973-74), founder and first commander of the Kopassus 81st anti-terrorist detachment (1981), ended military service as Commander of the Army's Education and Training as Lieutenant General in 1999; and received the rank of Honorary General in 2000. He was also involved in the army's special operations in Kalimantan, East Timor (now the nation of Timor Leste) and Irian Jaya (now Papua).

After he retired, he was appointed as the Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore in 1999. He then appointed as the Trade and Industry Minister in the administration of Abdurrahman "Gus Dur" Wahid in 2000. Luhut is known to have a close relationship with Jokowi. The two formed a joint venture in 2009 in Jokowi's hometown in Solo, producing furniture for export markets.

He resigned from his position in the Golkar Party to join Jokowi's presidential campaign team. After Jokowi became president, Luhut was appointed as the chief of staff of the Presidential office (2014-2015), Coordinating Minister for Political, Law, and Security Affairs (2015-2016), and Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs (2016 – present) with portfolio in marine affairs and fisheries, transportation, energy and mineral resources, and tourism. He becomes one of President's most trusted men and earns reputation as a can-do official in the

cabinet, often tasked to lead special task force to solve emerging problems in the government and often acts as President's effective envoy to the military and political parties.

The father-of-four is also involved in sports and business. He became the Chairman of the Indonesian Karate-Do Federation (FORKI) in 2001. In 2004 he founded Toba Sejahtera Group, a fast growing conglomerate with business portfolio in natural resources (oil and gas, coal mining), power generation, plantation and forestry, property, infrastructure, and industrial equipment. One of his companies owns a majority stake in 8,633 hectares palm oil plantation in East Kalimantan and minority stake (partnering with Wilmar) in a 12,000 hectare plantation and palm oil processing industry also in East Kalimantan.

Luhut is also chairman of DEL Foundation that is active in education, including establishing DEL Institute of Technology in his home town near Lake Toba in North Sumatera. In 2011 Pandjaitan received Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the Social Development category.