

Jakarta grid modernization

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To get smart, Indonesia's capital needs to be smart about its leadership choices and grid modernization.

Recently, Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan visited Washington, D.C. to shed light on the progress he has made in Indonesia's capital city. He dubbed the developments under his administration as the "New Face of Jakarta," conveying his intentions to build an equal, prosperous, modern, dynamic, sustainable, and united city.

The governor's goals for transforming Jakarta into a 4.0 city where there is dynamic collaboration between city government and residents emphasized his vision for a smart city. However, the question remains unanswered as to whether Jakarta is ready to become a "smart city."

The latest citywide blackout, for instance, illuminates the challenges of Jakarta's aspirations of becoming a fully functional smart city.

The concept of smart cities encompasses six different categories: smart governance, smart people, smart living, smart mobility, smart economy, and smart environment. The use of technology is pivotal to realize these six goals.

Without reliable energy, smart cities' backbone & technology & crumbles.

To become a smart and sustainable city, there needs to be consistent and resilient energy systems. In the case of Jakarta, state electricity company PLN's role in supplying reliable electricity to its residents is imperative.

The problem of electricity disruption, such as a blackout in Jakarta, has a domino effect, including in the digital economy and national security.

As Jakarta rapidly develops its digital economy under its smart city initiative, a consistent electricity supply is fundamental. Frequent blackouts in the city could greatly affect Indonesia's digital economy growth. In a blackout, digital payment systems, banking, and e-commerce will be brought to a temporary but significant halt and negatively impact the community and the economy.

Researchers, including in a report by Allianz, have looked into the economic losses caused by blackouts. In the United States alone, electricity disruption has resulted in the loss of approximately \$104 to \$164 billion annually.



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Furthermore, when a city experiences frequent blackouts, the phenomenon poses profound risk to the country's national security. The disruption of power makes it difficult for governments to monitor extremist channels of communication or potential threats that may emerge in the city. A prolonged power outage may also greatly affect critical government facilities in the area, particularly military bases.

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