The chairman of the Indonesian police Watch or IPW, Neta S Pane, has expressed his appreciation of Kapolri (the Indonesian National Police Chief) General Tito Karnavian’s decision to set up Satgas Anti Politik Uang di Pilkada 2018 or the police’s Detachment anti-money politics squad for 2018 regional elections. He said Thursday (on 11 January) that it would help creating clean safe democratic elections.

According to him, KPK or the Corruption Eradication Commission, Attorney General, and Polri [the National Indonesian Police] have been used to keeping silence on the issues of money politics in regional elections. As a result, there have been many regional leaders getting caught in corruption cases. They try to regain the money politics they have spent during the elections.

He also hoped that the anti-money politics squad would help reducing the corruption cases taking place before, during, and after the regional elections.

Mentioning that the squad could start monitoring the so-called candidates’ bride prize submitted to the political parties, he said that such a case was a concrete example of money politics. He further said that the squad could make use of many different laws such as Tipikor [Law on corruption], Law on Elections (UU Pemilu), Law on Political Parties (UU Parpol), and the Criminal Code to charge those perpetrators of money politics.