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ANALYSIS OF THE WEAKENING STATUS OF THE INDONESIAN PASSPORT FROM AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE AND ITS IMPACT ON INDONESIAN CITIZENS**Rizki Rivaldi Hidayat¹ , M. Naufal Araf² , Rizky Hidayat³**^{1,2,3} **Immigration and Correctional Services Polytechnic****Correspondence email: rizkirivaldi@gmail.com****Abstract**

A passport is a crucial instrument in international relations that reflects a country's standing in the eyes of the world. In recent years, the ranking of the Indonesian passport has declined in various global passport indices, such as the Henley Passport Index and the Passport Index. This decline has impacted the mobility of Indonesian citizens (WNI), particularly in terms of international travel, education, business, and migrant labour. This study aims to analyse the factors contributing to the weakening of the Indonesian passport's standing from an international perspective, as well as its impact on Indonesian citizens. The research method employed is a qualitative approach with a descriptive focus, utilising a literature review of various academic sources, international reports, and global immigration policy data. The findings indicate that document security, issues of illegal migration, international diplomacy, economic and political stability, and the visa policies of other countries are the primary causes of the weakening of the Indonesian passport's standing. The impacts include increased travel restrictions, higher visa processing fees, and a decline in the global competitiveness of Indonesian citizens. Therefore, strengthening international diplomacy, improving the quality of the immigration system, and enhancing Indonesia's global image are necessary to reinforce the standing of the Indonesian passport.

Keywords: *Indonesian passport, international relations, visa, global mobility, Indonesian citizens***Abstract**

Paspor merupakan salah satu instrumen penting dalam hubungan internasional yang mencerminkan tingkat kepercayaan suatu negara di mata dunia. Dalam beberapa tahun terakhir, posisi paspor Indonesia mengalami penurunan dalam berbagai indeks paspor global, seperti Henley Passport Index dan Passport Index. Penurunan ini berdampak pada mobilitas warga negara Indonesia (WNI), terutama dalam aspek perjalanan internasional, pendidikan, bisnis, hingga tenaga kerja migran. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis faktor-faktor penyebab melemahnya posisi paspor Indonesia dalam perspektif internasional serta dampaknya bagi WNI. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan deskriptif melalui studi pustaka terhadap berbagai sumber ilmiah, laporan internasional, dan data kebijakan imigrasi global. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa faktor keamanan dokumen, isu migrasi ilegal, diplomasi internasional, stabilitas ekonomi-politik, serta kebijakan visa negara lain menjadi penyebab utama melemahnya posisi paspor Indonesia. Dampaknya meliputi meningkatnya pembatasan perjalanan, biaya administrasi visa yang lebih tinggi, serta berkurangnya daya saing global WNI. Oleh karena itu, diperlukan penguatan diplomasi internasional, peningkatan kualitas sistem imigrasi, serta perbaikan citra Indonesia di tingkat global guna memperkuat posisi paspor Indonesia.

Kata Kunci: *paspor Indonesia, hubungan internasional, visa, mobilitas global, WNI*

Introduction

In the modern era of globalisation, cross-border human mobility has increased significantly. Advances in transport technology, global economic development, and growing demands for international education, business, and tourism have made cross-border human movement an integral part of modern society. In this context, a passport serves not only as an official travel document but also as a symbol of the level of international trust in a country. The strength of a country's passport is generally measured by the number of destination countries that can be accessed visa-free or via visa-on-arrival facilities. The more visa-free access a country possesses, the higher its standing and influence within the international relations system. (Pratama 2023)

A country's passport ranking is now a key indicator for assessing the quality of its diplomacy, national stability, document security, and international image. Countries with advanced economies, stable governments, and extensive diplomatic networks tend to have stronger passports than developing nations. For example, passports from Singapore, Japan, and several European countries consistently rank at the top of various global passport indices because their holders can enter many countries without complex visa procedures. Conversely, countries facing political conflicts, security issues, or high levels of illegal migration tend to have more limited international access. (Syahrin and Imigrasi 2018)

Indonesia, as a developing country with the world's fourth-largest population, has seen its level of international mobility increase steadily each year. Many Indonesian citizens (WNI) travel abroad for various purposes, such as education, work, religious pilgrimage, tourism, investment, and international trade. However, the standing of the Indonesian passport in recent years has shown a less competitive position compared to several other countries in the Southeast Asian region. According to data from the Henley Passport Index and the Global Passport Index Ranking, the Indonesian passport remains in the middle tier and has tended to decline compared to neighbouring countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, and even Thailand. This indicates that the visa-free access enjoyed by Indonesian citizens remains relatively limited from an international perspective. (Riyadi 2025)

The weakening position of the Indonesian passport is a critical issue requiring examination as it is directly linked to national interests and the lives of Indonesian citizens in the global era. A weak passport ranking means Indonesian citizens face various administrative hurdles when seeking to travel internationally. Many developed nations still impose strict visa requirements on Indonesian passport holders, including interview procedures, financial document verification, and complex travel history checks. These conditions not only create difficulties for the general public but also impact Indonesian students, businesspeople, migrant workers, and investors who require swift and efficient international mobility.

There are various factors influencing the weakening of the Indonesian passport's standing in the international arena. One of the main factors is the concerns held by a number of countries regarding the potential for illegal migration and the misuse of residence permits by foreign nationals, including Indonesian citizens. In some cases, there have been instances of Indonesian nationals overstaying their visas or working illegally in the host country, thereby affecting other nations' level of trust

in Indonesia. Furthermore, the security of travel documents is a key concern in international relations. Although the Indonesian government has implemented an electronic passport system, some countries still consider it necessary to enhance data security and immigration controls to prevent document forgery and identity misuse.(Marsya 2023)

On the other hand, the quality of international diplomacy also plays a crucial role in determining a passport's strength. Countries with strong bilateral ties and active international cooperation tend to find it easier to secure visa-free agreements with other nations. In this context, Indonesia is deemed to still need to enhance the effectiveness of its international diplomacy, particularly in expanding visa-free access for Indonesian citizens. Furthermore, conditions regarding political stability, national security, law enforcement, and corruption levels also influence Indonesia's image in the eyes of the international community. Destination countries typically consider these various aspects before granting entry facilitation to foreign nationals.(MUDHAKIROH 2024)

The weakening of the Indonesian passport's standing also has significant economic and social implications. In the economic sphere, limited visa-free access can hinder international trade and investment activities, as Indonesian business operators face more complex travel administrative procedures compared to businesspeople from other nations. In the field of education, Indonesian students wishing to pursue further studies abroad often have to face lengthy visa application processes that incur significant costs. Meanwhile, in the labour sector, Indonesian migrant workers may face stricter checks in their destination countries due to the low level of trust in the Indonesian passport(Helistiawan and Sartika 2025) .

Beyond its impact on individuals, the weak standing of the passport also affects Indonesia's national image in international relations. A passport is essentially a representation of a nation's identity in the eyes of the world. When a country possesses a strong passport, it is perceived as having stability, security, and sound diplomatic standing. Conversely, a weak passport may reflect the persistence of domestic or international issues that affect the level of global trust in that country. Therefore, strengthening the standing of the Indonesian passport is not only the responsibility of immigration institutions but also requires synergy between the government, the public, and Indonesia's foreign policy as a whole.

Given these circumstances, research analysing the weakening of the Indonesian passport's standing in the international arena is essential. This study aims to identify the factors contributing to the weakening of the Indonesian passport's standing and to analyse its impact on Indonesian citizens. Furthermore, this study is also expected to provide strategic recommendations for the government to strengthen the position of the Indonesian passport through enhanced international diplomacy, reform of the immigration system, and the enhancement of Indonesia's global image. Consequently, it is hoped that Indonesia will be able to improve its international competitiveness and facilitate global mobility for all its citizens.(Syahrin 2025)

Research Method

This study employs a qualitative research method with a descriptive approach to analyse the weakening of the Indonesian passport's standing from an international perspective and its impact on Indonesian citizens (WNI). The qualitative approach was chosen because this study aims to gain a deep understanding of social and political

phenomena through the interpretation of data and facts occurring within international relations. Meanwhile, a descriptive approach is used to depict the actual conditions regarding the status of the Indonesian passport based on international data, global visa policies, and their influence on the mobility of Indonesian society across various sectors. This study does not employ in-depth statistical calculations but focuses on the analysis of information, policies, and phenomena related to the strength of the Indonesian passport at the global level. (Rachman 2018)

The data sources for this study are derived from secondary data obtained through library research. Data was collected from various references such as scientific journals, books, academic articles, international reports, official government documents, and data from global passport ranking institutions such as the Henley Passport Index and the Passport Index. Furthermore, this study utilised information from the official website of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia, the Directorate General of Immigration, as well as various national and international news sources relevant to visa policies, international migration, and Indonesia's diplomatic relations. Data collection techniques involved reading, noting, identifying, and classifying information related to the factors causing the weakening of the Indonesian passport's standing and its impact on Indonesian citizens.

Data analysis was carried out through the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. In the data reduction stage, the researcher selected and simplified information relevant to the research focus. Subsequently, the data obtained was presented in the form of descriptive analysis to make it easier to understand and analyse. The final stage involves drawing conclusions based on the relationship between the factors causing the weakening of the Indonesian passport's standing and the resulting impact on the international mobility of Indonesian citizens. Through this method, the study is expected to provide a clear and comprehensive picture of the status of the Indonesian passport from an international perspective and to offer strategic solutions to strengthen Indonesia's position in the eyes of the world. (Rukminingsih and Latief 2020)

Findings and Discussion

Factors Contributing to the Weakening of the Indonesian Passport's Standing

A country's passport ranking in an international context essentially reflects the global community's level of trust in that country's political, security, and economic conditions, as well as the quality of its diplomatic relations. A passport is not merely a travel document, but also a symbol of a nation's legitimacy and international reputation. In recent years, the ranking of the Indonesian passport has fluctuated and has tended to lag behind that of several other countries in the Southeast Asian region, such as Singapore, Malaysia, and Brunei Darussalam. According to various global passport indices, visa-free access for Indonesian passport holders remains relatively limited compared to countries with stronger diplomatic ties and greater national stability. This situation is influenced by a range of interrelated internal and external factors. (Ziliwu 2025)

One of the main factors contributing to the weakening of the Indonesian passport's standing is the high level of concern among a number of countries regarding the potential for illegal migration and the misuse of residence permits by Indonesian citizens abroad. In some cases, Indonesian citizens have overstayed or remained beyond the permitted duration of their stay in the host country. Furthermore, some Indonesian citizens have been found working illegally without official documentation or using tourist visas for work purposes. This phenomenon has led a number of countries to step up surveillance of Indonesian passport holders, as they are considered to pose a relatively high risk of immigration violations. Consequently, some countries have implemented stricter visa procedures for Indonesian citizens, such as checks on financial documents, travel history, and even face-to-face interviews before a visa is granted. The high incidence of such immigration violations indirectly affects the level of international trust in Indonesia.

In addition to the issue of illegal migration, the security of travel documents is another factor contributing to the weakening of the Indonesian passport's standing. In modern international relations, document security is a crucial aspect as it relates to transnational crime, terrorism, human trafficking, and identity fraud. The Indonesian government has, in fact, undertaken modernisation through the implementation of electronic passports (e-passports) equipped with biometric chips to enhance the security of passport holders' data. However, there remain a number of challenges in the implementation of this system, such as limited access to e-passports in various regions, as well as ongoing cases of document forgery and identity misuse. Developed nations generally place great emphasis on the quality of document security before granting visa-free access to a country. Consequently, if a country's document security system is deemed suboptimal, other nations tend to exercise caution when granting ease of international travel for Indonesian passport holders. (Bawono 2018)

Another factor contributing to the weak standing of the Indonesian passport is the state of political stability and national security. From an international perspective, a country's political stability is a key determinant of the global community's level of trust in its citizens. Countries with prolonged political conflicts, high levels of corruption, or domestic security threats typically face greater restrictions on international access. Indonesia, as the largest democracy in Southeast Asia, is indeed relatively stable compared to some other developing nations, yet it still faces various challenges such as corruption, radicalism, social conflict, and economic inequality. These issues can affect Indonesia's international image, thereby impacting the visa policies applied by other nations towards Indonesian citizens. (Salsabila, Kamila, and ... 2026)

In addition to domestic factors, the quality of Indonesia's international diplomacy is also a key factor in determining the strength of the Indonesian passport. In the practice of international relations, visa-free access is generally obtained through bilateral or multilateral cooperation between nations. Countries that actively foster strategic diplomatic relations usually find it easier to secure visa-free facilities from other nations. Indonesia actually holds a fairly strategic geopolitical position and plays

an active role in various international organisations such as ASEAN, the G20, and the United Nations (UN). However, Indonesia's diplomacy in the field of international mobility is considered to be less than optimal compared to neighbouring countries such as Singapore or Malaysia, which enjoy broader visa-free access. This indicates the need to strengthen bilateral diplomacy, particularly in negotiations regarding visa-free policies and international immigration cooperation.

Economic factors also have a significant influence on the standing of the Indonesian passport within the international system. Countries with advanced economies generally possess stronger passports, as their citizens are perceived to have good financial capacity and a low risk of illegal migration. Conversely, developing countries often face restrictions on international travel because their citizens are seen as potentially seeking illegal employment or settling permanently in the destination country. As a developing country with a still relatively high level of economic inequality, Indonesia faces challenges in building international trust regarding the mobility of its citizens. Many developed nations apply strict visa policies towards Indonesian citizens due to economic considerations and the potential for overstaying. Consequently, the national economic situation also indirectly influences the strength of the Indonesian passport.

Furthermore, changes in the global situation following the COVID-19 pandemic have also impacted the standing of the Indonesian passport. The pandemic led many countries to tighten border policies and implement stricter international health standards for international travellers. Countries have begun to consider health, security, and human mobility control factors in their visa policies. Indonesia previously faced a significant rise in COVID-19 cases, leading some countries to impose travel restrictions on Indonesian citizens. Although the global situation is now beginning to improve, the pandemic's impact still influences international travel policies and other nations' confidence in Indonesia's health surveillance and travel security systems. (Pambudi, Febrianto, and ... 2025)

On the other hand, the low level of awareness among some members of the Indonesian public regarding international regulations is also a factor affecting the image of the Indonesian passport. There are still Indonesian citizens who violate immigration regulations, labour laws, or social norms in other countries, thereby creating negative stereotypes about Indonesians. Such individual actions can ultimately impact international perceptions of all Indonesian passport holders. Therefore, strengthening public education regarding compliance with international law and travel ethics is a crucial step towards enhancing Indonesia's image in the eyes of the world.

Based on the above, it is clear that the weakening of the Indonesian passport's standing is due to a range of multidimensional factors, ranging from issues of illegal migration, document security, political and economic conditions, the quality of international diplomacy, to the image of the Indonesian people abroad. These factors are interlinked and influence the level of international trust in Indonesia. Therefore,

efforts to strengthen the standing of the Indonesian passport require a comprehensive strategy through improving the quality of diplomacy, strengthening the immigration system, ensuring national stability, and enhancing the quality of Indonesia's human resources so that the country can compete and be trusted within the international system.(Wiradirja 2015)

The Impact of the Weakening Position of the Indonesian Passport on Indonesian Citizens

The weakening of the Indonesian passport's standing in the international arena has a significant impact on the lives of Indonesian citizens (WNI), particularly in terms of global mobility. A passport is essentially a country's official identity document that determines the ease with which an individual can enter the territory of another country. The stronger a country's passport ranking, the greater the visa-free access enjoyed by its passport holders. Conversely, when a passport's standing weakens, the public faces various administrative hurdles and restrictions on international travel. In the Indonesian context, limited visa-free access means that Indonesian citizens must undergo a more complicated process compared to citizens of other countries with stronger passports, such as Singapore, Japan, or South Korea. This situation impacts various sectors of life, ranging from education, business, and tourism to international employment.(Sulaksono 2016)

One of the most tangible consequences of the weakening status of the Indonesian passport is the difficulty Indonesian citizens face in international mobility. Many developed nations, such as the United States, European Union member states, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia, still require visas for holders of Indonesian passports. The visa application process often takes a long time and involves quite complex requirements, such as proof of financial means, employment letters, travel tickets, hotel reservations, and even face-to-face interviews at the embassy. It is not uncommon for Indonesian citizens to have their visa applications rejected despite having met all the administrative requirements. This naturally poses difficulties for those with urgent needs to travel abroad, whether for work, education, business, or family reasons. Furthermore, the lengthy bureaucratic process also leads to uncertainty in planning international travel.(RAI n.d.)

A further consequence is the rising cost of international travel for Indonesian citizens. When a country requires a visa, applicants must incur significant additional costs. These include visa administration fees, document translation services, travel insurance, interview fees, and transport costs to the embassy or visa application centre. In some cases, the cost of processing a visa is even higher than the cost of the travel ticket itself. This situation undoubtedly places an additional economic burden on the Indonesian public, particularly on students, workers, and tourists with lower to middle-income levels. Unlike citizens holding strong passports who can travel visa-free, Indonesian citizens must allocate a larger budget simply to obtain entry permission to their destination country.

In the field of education, the weakening status of the Indonesian passport also has a significant impact on Indonesian students wishing to pursue further studies abroad. Many Indonesian students face a complex and time-consuming student visa process. In addition to demonstrating academic ability, students are also required to prove sufficient financial means to support themselves in the destination country. Some countries even impose strict checks on students from developing nations due to concerns about the potential misuse of student visas for illegal work or permanent settlement. Consequently, a significant number of Indonesian students experience delayed departures, administrative difficulties, or even visa refusals despite having been accepted by overseas educational institutions. This can hinder Indonesians' access to international education and reduce the global competitiveness of Indonesia's human resources. (Giary, Sinambela, and ... 2025)

In the economic and business sectors, the weak standing of the Indonesian passport also impacts the limited mobility of Indonesian businesspeople and investors. Modern businesspeople require ease of international travel to attend business meetings, trade fairs, investment collaborations, and global market expansion. However, the lack of visa-free access means Indonesian businesspeople often face time and administrative hurdles when travelling internationally. In a highly competitive business world, travel delays caused by visa processes can result in the loss of cooperation and investment opportunities. Compared to businesspeople from countries with stronger passports, Indonesian businesspeople are less flexible in establishing international business relationships. This situation indirectly affects the national economy's competitiveness in the global market. (Syahrin, Mirwanto, and Gea 2023)

In addition to the education and economic sectors, Indonesian migrant workers are also the group most affected by the weakening status of the Indonesian passport. Many Indonesian migrant workers employed abroad face strict checks at airports and immigration authorities in their destination countries. This occurs due to negative stereotypes towards migrant workers from developing countries, including Indonesia. In some cases, Indonesian citizens even experience discriminatory treatment or excessive suspicion whilst travelling internationally. Such conditions can cause discomfort and affect the image of Indonesian society abroad. Furthermore, the weak standing of the passport also makes migrant workers more vulnerable to exploitation and the abuse of labour rights, as their bargaining position in the host country is weakened.

In the tourism sector, limited visa-free access also hinders Indonesians' interest in travelling abroad. Many Indonesian tourists must plan their trips well in advance because the visa application process takes a considerable amount of time. It is not uncommon for people to ultimately cancel their trips due to administrative difficulties or visa refusals. This situation contrasts with tourists from countries with strong passports, who can travel spontaneously without having to go through lengthy

bureaucratic processes. These obstacles demonstrate that the strength of a passport has a significant influence on individual freedom of movement in the era of globalisation. (Mansur and Antomarta 2021)

Beyond practical implications, the weakening of Indonesia's passport ranking also impacts the nation's international image. A passport represents a country's identity and reputation in the eyes of the world. When a country possesses a strong passport, it is perceived as having political, economic, and security stability, as well as high-quality human resources. Conversely, a weak passport is often associated with a low level of international trust in that country. This situation can influence the world's perception of Indonesia, whether in diplomatic, economic, or socio-cultural terms. Therefore, the status of a passport is not merely a matter of travel administration, but also reflects the quality and competitiveness of a nation on a global scale.

Overall, the weakening of Indonesia's passport ranking has a multidimensional impact on Indonesian citizens, ranging from barriers to international mobility, increased travel costs, difficulties in education and business, to a decline in Indonesia's national image. These conditions demonstrate that the strength of a passport is closely linked to the quality of diplomacy, national stability, and the level of international trust in a country. Consequently, serious efforts are required from both the government and the public to strengthen the position of the Indonesian passport through improvements in the quality of international diplomacy, reform of the immigration system, and the enhancement of Indonesia's image and the quality of its human resources in the eyes of the world. (Nainggolan 2016)

Efforts to Strengthen the Position of the Indonesian Passport

Strengthening the position of the Indonesian passport is a crucial step in enhancing the nation's competitiveness at the international level. A passport serves not only as a travel document but also as a symbol of the world's level of trust in a country. The stronger a country's passport position, the greater the ease of international mobility its citizens can enjoy. In the context of modern globalisation, ease of access to international travel is a key factor in supporting the education, economic, investment, tourism, and diplomatic sectors between nations. Therefore, the Indonesian government needs to undertake various strategic and sustainable efforts to strengthen the position of the Indonesian passport so that it can compete with other nations, particularly within the Southeast Asian region and the international community. (Ilaina and Nugraha 2025)

One of the key efforts that needs to be undertaken is to strengthen international diplomacy, particularly bilateral diplomacy with strategic partner nations. In the practice of international relations, visa-free access is generally obtained through bilateral cooperation agreements based on the principles of mutual trust and good diplomatic relations. Countries with strong political and economic ties usually find it easier to secure visa-free facilities for their citizens. Therefore, Indonesia needs to increase the intensity of diplomatic cooperation with the main destinations for

Indonesian citizens' travel, such as European Union countries, the United States, Australia, Japan, and South Korea. The government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, can engage in active negotiations to expand visa-free arrangements and visa-on-arrival schemes for Indonesian citizens. Furthermore, Indonesia also needs to strengthen its role in international organisations and global forums to enhance its bargaining position in international diplomatic relations. (Rahman 2020)

In addition to strengthening diplomatic ties, the modernisation of the immigration system is also a key step in enhancing the status of the Indonesian passport. Developed nations generally grant easier travel access to countries with robust document security and immigration control systems. In recent years, Indonesia has implemented an electronic passport system, or e-passport, equipped with a biometric chip as part of the modernisation of travel documents. However, the implementation of this system still needs to be rolled out more evenly across all regions of Indonesia. The government needs to expand the use of e-passports and improve the quality of document security technology to meet international standards. Furthermore, surveillance against document forgery, identity trafficking, and passport misuse must be tightened through cooperation between the Directorate General of Immigration, security agencies, and relevant international bodies. With a modern and secure immigration system, international confidence in the Indonesian passport can increase significantly. (Apriansyah 2018)

The next step is to enhance Indonesia's quality and image in the eyes of the international community. The strength of a nation's passport is not determined solely by immigration administrative factors, but is also influenced by the country's political, economic, security, and social conditions. Nations with good political and economic stability are generally more trusted within the international system. Therefore, the Indonesian government must continue to strengthen national stability, improve law enforcement, eradicate corruption, and maintain domestic security. Furthermore, improving the quality of Indonesia's human resources is also a key factor in building a positive national image in the eyes of the world. When the Indonesian public is recognised for having a high standard of education, a high level of professionalism, and adherence to international law, other nations' trust in Indonesian citizens will also increase. (Nurhadianto, Hasanah, and ... 2026)

Furthermore, the government needs to raise public awareness regarding the importance of maintaining Indonesia's image abroad. One factor contributing to the weak standing of the Indonesian passport is the occurrence of immigration rule violations by some Indonesian citizens, such as overstaying, working illegally, or visa abuse. Such actions can lead to negative stereotypes against all Indonesian passport holders in the international community. Therefore, the government needs to provide awareness campaigns and education to the public regarding international travel regulations, etiquette for travelling abroad, and the importance of complying with the laws of the destination country. This education can be delivered via social media,

educational institutions, or training programmes for Indonesian migrant workers and students preparing to travel abroad. As public awareness increases, the international image of Indonesian citizens can become more positive. (Abdussamad 2020)

Improving the quality of protection and oversight for Indonesian migrant workers is also a crucial step in strengthening the standing of the Indonesian passport. To date, some countries still view migrant workers from developing nations as a group vulnerable to legal violations and the misuse of residence permits. Therefore, the Indonesian government must ensure that all migrant workers depart legally, possess official documentation, and receive adequate training before working abroad. Furthermore, oversight of illegal labour agencies must be tightened to prevent human trafficking and the exploitation of migrant workers. With a robust labour protection system, Indonesia can enhance its international reputation as a country that takes responsibility for its citizens.

In the economic sphere, strengthening the Indonesian passport can also be achieved by enhancing national economic competitiveness. Countries with strong economies typically enjoy higher levels of international trust, as their citizens are perceived to have sound financial capabilities and a low risk of illegal migration. Consequently, the government must promote economic growth, create jobs, and reduce social inequality to prevent Indonesian citizens from being driven to migrate illegally abroad. Improving public welfare can also enhance Indonesia's image as a stable and progressive developing nation. Consequently, other countries will be more open to granting visa-free access to Indonesian citizens. (Pratama 2023)

In addition to government efforts, the public also plays a vital role in strengthening the standing of the Indonesian passport. Every citizen undertaking international travel must demonstrate discipline, respect the laws of the destination country, and uphold Indonesia's good name. The actions of individual Indonesian citizens abroad can influence the global perception of the entire Indonesian population. Consequently, a collective awareness of safeguarding the nation's reputation must become an integral part of Indonesian society's culture in the era of globalisation.

Overall, strengthening the standing of the Indonesian passport requires a comprehensive strategy involving various stakeholders, both the government and the public. Strengthening international diplomacy, modernising the immigration system, enhancing national stability, public education, protecting migrant workers, and boosting economic competitiveness are crucial steps that must be undertaken on an ongoing basis. Through synergy between government policy and public awareness, Indonesia has a significant opportunity to improve its passport's standing on the international stage, thereby enabling Indonesian citizens to enjoy greater global mobility and enhancing the nation's competitiveness in the modern era of globalisation. (Anggara 2025)

Conclusion

The weakening of Indonesia's passport ranking in the international context is an issue that relates not only to travel documents but also reflects the world's level of trust in Indonesia's political, economic, and security conditions, as well as the quality of its diplomacy. Based on the discussion, there are various factors causing Indonesia's passport to remain in the middle category globally, such as high concerns regarding illegal migration, visa abuse, travel document security, and the lack of optimal international diplomatic cooperation in the area of visa-free travel. Furthermore, national stability, Indonesia's global image, and the quality of human resources also influence other countries' policies towards Indonesian passport holders. These factors indicate that the strength of a passport is not solely determined by the immigration system but is closely linked to the overall quality of the country's governance.

The weakening position of the Indonesian passport has far-reaching implications for Indonesian citizens (WNI), particularly regarding international mobility. WNI face various administrative hurdles such as lengthy visa application processes, higher travel costs, and stricter checks in various destination countries. This situation impacts sectors ranging from education and business to tourism and international employment. Indonesian students face difficulties in the educational visa process, business operators face limitations on global business mobility, and Indonesian migrant workers are more vulnerable to negative stereotypes and discrimination abroad. Furthermore, the weak standing of the Indonesian passport may also affect Indonesia's national image in international relations, as a passport represents a country's identity and reputation in the eyes of the world.

Therefore, comprehensive and sustained efforts are required to strengthen the standing of the Indonesian passport at the international level. The government needs to enhance the quality of bilateral and multilateral diplomacy to expand visa-free access for Indonesian citizens, strengthen security systems and modernise immigration procedures, and improve national stability and Indonesia's economic competitiveness. On the other hand, the Indonesian public also bears a responsibility to uphold the nation's image by adhering to international regulations and maintaining proper conduct whilst abroad. Through synergy between the government and the public, Indonesia has a significant opportunity to enhance international trust and strengthen the position of its passport in the future, thereby facilitating global mobility and boosting the nation's competitiveness in the era of globalisation.

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