

# ARSIP AS NATIONAL IDENTITY: IDENTITY OF INDONESIA\*

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## Abstract

*Arsip* merupakan istilah dalam Bahasa Indonesia dari arsip dinamis dan arsip statis. Arsip merekam, menggambarkan dan mencerminkan identitas nasional. Setiap negara atau negara yang berdaulat memiliki identitas sendiri. Identitas ini disebut sebagai identitas nasional atau symbol nasional. Identitas nasional setiap bangsa atau negara sangat unik, saling berbeda-beda dari negara yang satu dengan yang lainnya. Tulisan ini menggambarkan 5 (lima) identitas Indonesia, yaitu: lambang negara “Garuda Pancasila”, bendera Nasional “Sang Merah Putih”, Lagu Kebangsaan “Indonesia Raya”, bahasa Nasional “Bahasa Indonesia”, dan Mata Uang Nasional “Rupiah”. Identitas-identitas nasional Indonesia tersebut diatur dalam Undang-Undang Dasar dan Peraturan Indonesia.

**Keyword:** *Arsip, national identity, coat of arms, national flag, national anthem, national language, and national currency.*

## A. Introduction

*Arsip* is an Indonesian term for records and archives (USA), *rekod and arkib* (Malaysia), *archieff* (the Netherlands), and archives (France). It can be **singular** or **plural**. The term *arsip* derived from the Dutch term *archieff*. Likewise, the term *arsip dinamis* (records) from the Dutch term *dinamis archieff* and *arsip statis* (archives) from the Dutch term *statisch*

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*archieff*. It seems to me, these because Indonesia was colonized by the Netherlands.

The terms *arsip*, *arsip dinamis*, and *arsip statis* have been officially and widely used in

Indonesia after the issuance of the Law No. 7 of 1971 on *Ketentuan-Ketentuan Pokok Kearsipan* (Basic Archival Provisions) .The law has been replaced by the new Law No. 43 of 2009 on “*Kearsipan*” (Archival). According to the Law No. 43 of 2009 on *Kearsipan*, *arsip* is

“*recorded activity or event, regardless of form or medium in accordance with the development of information, communication, and technology, made and received by state agency, regional government, education agency, company, political organization, social organization, and individual person in the conduct of their activity in society, nation, and state.*”

As recorded activity or recorded event (Indonesian Law No. 43 of 2009) or recorded information (Walne (ed.), 1988), *arsip* also depicts and reflects the identities of the nation. *Arsip* not only consists of **structure** and **content**, but also **context**, and it should be noted that the most important of *arsip* is context.

*Arsip* are extremely vital for the good conduct of national life and proper execution of the government activities. *Arsip* become indispensable in implementation of a solid and transparent government and most certainly in conducting good governance and creating clean government, accountable, and democratic. As national identity, *arsip* must be well administered and preserved throughout all generation. In this opportunity, allow me to quote some statements about the importance of *arsip* (records and archives), as follows:

“*A nation without **arsip** would get an amnesia ollective syndrome and will be trapped in the present situation which will full of uncertainty. Therefore, it is not mistaken if it is said that archival condition of a*

*nation can be seen as an indicator of their sturdiness of the spirit of nationalism.”* (Moerdiono, Minister/State Secretary of Indonesia, 1996).

*”Archive is skeleton of memory of humanity. It is containing not only the factual information but also the information of the concept in which other element of live, for example occupation and religion, war and discovery, ....”*(Joan van Albada, Secretary General of ICA, 2001)

*“Past events . . . have no objective existence, but survive only in written records and in human memories. The past is whatever the records and the memories agree upon.”* (George Orwell, 1984).

The term *arsip* has already known in Indonesia long before the issuance of those laws (Law no. 7 of 1971 and Law no. 43 of 2009). Therefore, in this paper I prefer to use the term *arsip* rather than records and archives. However, sometimes the use terms of records and archives are unavoidable.

The term **Indonesia** was first used in 1850 by the British anthropologist J.R. Logan. For Logan Indonesia did not designate a political unit but a cultural unit and acultural entity. After the declaration of Indonesia independence 17 August 1945, Indonesia became a political body. Indonesia is the world’s largest archipelago state (Cribb and Ford, 2009 : 1), consisting of 18.108 islands, strung over 5,200 kilometres, situated astride the equator between Australia and mainland Asia, with population more than 240 million people. Indonesia is a country that consists of more than 726 ethnic groups (Tilaar, 2007: 203) living in the world’s largest archipelago. Each of these ethnic groups is very unique, with its own culture, tradition, language, and history. Despite their differences and through their historical experiences over many centuries, they did in the end agree to unite as one nation, nation Indonesia. In this regards, Garet Evans has difficulty explaining how this archipelago of

thousands of islands and hundreds of ethnic groups hangs together as a nation.<sup>1</sup>

Every nation or sovereign state has own identity. It is called **national identity** or national symbol. National identity is condition in which a mass of people have made the same identification with national symbols – have internalized the symbols of the nation (Bloom, 1990, 52). National identity is a type of collective identity that gives allegiance to the nation (Cinpoes, 2008, 12). According to Anderson (1991: 6 ), **nation** is imagined political community. In this paper I do not discuss more about nation, and I will focuss on national identity. **National** is “relating to an entire nation or country (Merriam Webster’s, 2008). **National identity** of each state or country is very unique, differ from one state or country to others. Each sovereign state or country has at least three identities or symbols , i.e. 1) coat of arms, 2) national flag, and 3) national anthem. In this regards, Indonesia has 5 (five) national identities, i.e. : 1) Coat of arms “*Garuda Pancasila*” (Pancasila Eagle), 2) National Flag “*Sang Merah Putih*” (Red and White), 3) National anthem “*Indonesia Raya*” (Great Indonesia), 4) National language “*Bahasa Indonesia*” (Indonesian Language), and 5) National Currency “*Rupiah*” . .

The national identities of Indonesia are identities that represent *Negara Kesatuan Republik Indonesia* (Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia) and enforce through the 1945 Indonesian Constitution and Indonesian laws.

The draft and the amendment of the 1945 Indonesian Constitution had already been kept at *Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia (ANRI)* (National Archives of the Republic of Indonesia). The amendment of the constitution were transferred to ANRI on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 by Dr. Nurwahid, the Chairman of the *Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat* (The

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<sup>1</sup> Thang D. Nguyen and Frank-Jurgen Richter, *Indonesia Matters: Diversity, Unity and Stability in Fragile Times.*( Singapore: Time Edition. 2003), p. xiv.

People's Consultative Assembly) when I was the Director General of the ANRI. It should be noted that the draft of the Constitution already became *arsip statis* (archives) and the amendment of the Constitution are still as *arsip dinamis* (records).

The national identities are very important for the Indonesian nation which with plural society and heterogeneous cultural background because they are functional as an integrative symbols and unifying force of the nation. It should be noted that *arsip* and the ANRI are very important to the nation. How important *arsip* to the nation can be seen the statement of Moerdiono (1996), Minister/State Secretary of the Republic of Indonesia as follows:

*“A nation without arsip would get an amnesia collective syndrome and will be trapped in the present which is full of uncertainty. Therefore, it is not mistaken if it is said that the archival condition of the nation can be seen as indicator of the spirit of nationalism.”*

It should be informed that the nationalist movement succeeded in developing Indonesian nation and Indonesian identity, especially on 28 October 1928 when the “*Sumpah Pemuda*” (Youth Pledge) was proclaimed. This formed the basis for Indonesian nationalism and gave the impetus to the fledgling independence movement.

This was a milestone in building Indonesia as one nation that was officially formed later in 1945. On 1 June 1945 two months before the proclamation of Indonesia's independence Soekarno stated about Indonesian Nation as follows:

*“ ... Indonesian Nation is not merely a group of individuals of all the human who, having le desir d’etre ensemble..., but the Indonesian Nation is the totality of all the human beings who, according to the geopolitics ordained by God Almighty, live throughout the unity of the entire Indonesian archipelago from the northern tip of Sumatra to Irian.”*(Sekretariat Negara, 1995: 74)

On 17 August 1945 Soekarno and Hatta on behalf of Indonesian people declared the Proclamation of Indonesia's Independence. On the following day, 18 August 1945 Soekarno and Hatta were appointed as the first President and Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia and the Indonesian Constitution was enacted.

Through the development of Indonesian identity could the desperate people of Indonesian archipelago unite to overthrow colonial oppression and established their own independence state. Indonesian identity transcended ethnic, cultural, racial, and religious difference, uniting the people from difference racial, ethnic and religious background in common struggle for independence and the creation of new independence nation-state.

*Arsip* should be seen and discussed in broader context, so people know how important of *arsip* for society, nation, and state. It was the reason why I wrote a paper entitled "***Arsip* as national Identity: Indonesia Identity**". This paper divided into three parts, i.e. 1. Introduction, 2. Identity of the Nation, which will discuss: a. Coat of Arms, b. National flag, c. National anthem, d. National language, and e. National currency, and 3. Conclusion.

## **B. Identity Of The Nation**

It has been mentioned before that there are five identities of the Indonesian nation which will be discussed here, i.e. : 1) Coat of arms "*Garuda Pancasila*", 2) National flag "*Sang Merah Putih*", 3) National anthem "*Indonesia Raya*", 4) National language "*Bahasa Indonesia*", and 5) National currency "*Rupiah*"

### **1. Coat of Arms "*Garuda Pancasila*" (*Pancasila* Eagle)**

Every sovereign state or country has a coat of arms (sometimes called emblem) as identity of its state or country. The term "coat of arms" used by majority of countries in the world, such as Australia, Argentina, Colombia, Timor Leste, Egypt, Germany, **Indonesia**, Iraq, Malta, Netherlands, the Philippines, Russia, Switzerland, Yemen, and

Zambia. Some countries, such as Afghanistan, France, Greece, India, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Thailand, USA, and Vietnam use term “emblem” instead of coat of arms. US emblem also called seal or great seal.

At least 13 countries use “eagle” as identities or symbols, i.e.: Egypt, **Indonesia**, Iraq, Moldova, Poland, Rumania, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, and Yemen. However, every country has own unique eagle which differ from one to others.

The national Coat of Arms of Indonesia is “*Garuda Pancasila*” with the motto “**Bhinneka Tunggal Ika**” (Diversity in Unity, different but still in one). It was regulated by 1945 Indonesian Constitution article 36A and Indonesian Law No. 24 of 2009 articles 46-57. It has been mentioned before that the original documents of 1945 Indonesian Constitution and Indonesian laws are *arsip*. (It has been mentioned above that 1945 Indonesian Constitution and its amendment have been transferred to the National Archives of Indonesia). *Garuda Pancasila* is a golden eagle with a shield on its chest and scroll gripped by its leg bears the national motto “**Bhinneka Tunggal Ika**” (see picture, bellow on the left hand side) which is similar to US motto “*E Pluribus Unum*” (Out of many, One). The motto *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* used to describe the unity and integrity of the nation of Indonesia which is made up of diverse cultures, local language, race, ethnicity, religion and belief. The diversity should be maintained smartly because the Indonesia’s ultimate strength lies in its diversity. In the concept of Indonesia, every individual, every community, every ethnic group become stake holder of Indonesia. This means the smallest group is equal to the largest ethnic group. According to Yudhoyono this means building a democracy of freedom and tolerance, not freedom versus tolerance. It also means that Indonesia would not be Islamic state based on Islamic laws, despite the fact that there are more

Muslim in Indonesia than in the entire Middle- East. (Yudhoyono, 2006: 164)

The Garuda has 17 feathers of each wing, 8 pieces of fur on the tail, 19 strands of hair under the shield (on the base of the tail), and 45 strands of hair on neck; all symbolize the date of **the declaration of the Indonesia's independence, 17 – 8 – 1945 (17<sup>th</sup> August 1945)**. The Garuda also symbolizes the greatness and glory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

The shield is martial symbol, standing for defense of the country. The shield represents *Pancasila*, the five principles of Indonesian philosophy.(see picture, bellow on the right hand side). The first principle **“Belief in One Supreme God”** is symbolized by **“the golden star”** in center of the shield. The second principle **“Just and Civilized Humanity”** is symbolized by **“the chain”** in the bottom right quarter. The third principle **“The Unity of Indonesia”** is symbolized by **“the banyan tree”** in the upper right quarter . The fourth principle **“Democracy guided by wisdom in the Consultative/Representative”** symbolized by **“the head of the Indonesian wild bull”** in the upper left quarter. The fifth principle **“Social Justice for the entire People of Indonesia”** symbolized by **“the rice and cotton”** in lower left quarter. The rice and cotton represents also sustenance and livelihood.

In the middle of the shield there is a thick black line lies horizontally across the shield, symbolizing the equator stretching from east (Merauke (Papua) to west (Sabang (Aceh)).



**Coat of Arms**  
**“Garuda Pancasila”**



**The Shield of the**  
**“Garuda Pancasila”**



With the motto “*Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*”

## **Pancasila (18 August 1945)**



**Belief in One Supreme God**



**Just and Civilized Humanity**



**The Unity of Indonesia**



**Democracy guided by wisdom in the Consultative/Representative**



**Social Justice for the Entire People of Indonesia**

Regarding on Pancasila, President Yudhoyono made a statement as follows:

*”Pancasila is the principle, the foundation of the state, a living ideology, not a dogma that is static and frightening. We place Pancasila respectfully. As I have mentioned, it becomes the source of enlightenment, the source of inspiration and at the same time the sources of solutions for our problem...All of us recognize and acknowledge Pancasila as the national ideology of the Indonesian people, the basis of the Republic of Indonesia, the philosophy of the nation: weltanschauung, way of life, national identity, unifier of the nation.”*(Yudhoyono, 2006: 49).

The formation of the the *Pancasila* which described above was officially recognized by the Committee for the Preparation of

Indonesian Independence on **18 August 1945**. The draft was formulated by the Committee of Nine on **22 June 1945** which known as *Piagam Jakarta (Jakarta Charter)*. This was the second draft of Pancasila. The formulation of the first principle of the draft was “*Ketuhanan dengan kewajiban menjalankan syariat Islam bagi pemeluknya*” (Belief in God with obligation for its Muslim adherents to carry out the Islamic law/ Syariah). This formulation made the non muslim people as minority unhappy. Therefore, for guaranteeing religious freedom, the Committee on 18 August 1945 decided to **remove** the words “*dengan kewajiban menjalankan syariah Islam bagi para pemeluknya*”(with obligation for its Muslim adherents to carry out the Islamic law/Syariah) and **to add** the words “*Yang Maha Esa*” after “*Ketuhanan*”, so the formulation became “*Ketuhanan Yang Maha Esa*” (Belief in One Supreme God).

It should be noted that the first draft of *Pancasila* was formulated by Soekarno (later became the first President of the Republic of Indonesia) and it presented on 1 June 1945 to the Investigating Committee for the Preparation of Independence (*Badan Penyelidik Usaha-Usaha Periapan Kemerdekaan Indonesia (BPUPKI)*) (*Dokuritzu Zyunbi Cosakai*).

Many foreigners, including President Obama was very amazed of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* and *Pancasila*. This can be seen on his speech at the University of Indonesia on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Let me quote his statement:

*“But even as this land of my youth has changed in so many ways, those things that I learned to love about Indonesia – that spirit of tolerance that is written into your Constitution; symbolized in your mosques and churches and temples; and embodied in your people – still lives on. **Bhinneka Tunggal Ika** – unity in diversity. This is the*

*foundation Indonesia's example to the world, and this is why Indonesia will play such important role in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*"<sup>2</sup>

According to the Act No. 24 of 2009 article 51, the Coat of arms ***Garuda Pancasila*** should be displayed or used:

- a. Inside and outside of the building/office and palace of the President and Vice President;
- b. Inside and outside of the buildings/offices and official residences of the Indonesian Ambassadors;
- c. Inside and outside of the buildings/offices and official residences of the governors, regents, majors, and head of subdistricts;
- d. Inside of the buildings or offices of the state agencies and government offices;
- e. Letterheads and stamps of the President and Vice President;
- f. Letterhead and stamp of the People's Consultative Assembly;
- g. Letterheads and stamps of the Supreme Court and Court Agencies;
- h. Letterhead and stamp of the State Audit Board;
- i. Letterheads and stamps of the ministers;
- j. Letterheads and stamps of the Indonesian Ambassadors, Consul-Generals, and Charge d'affaires;
- k. Letterheads and stamps of the governors, regents, and majors;
- l. Letterheads and stamps of the notaries.

## **2. National Flag**

Every sovereign state or country has a national flag as a national identity. Therefore, national flag of each state is unique and differ from one to others. The national flag of Indonesia is known "***Sang Merah Putih***" or ***Bendera Merah Putih*** (The Red- and- White Flag) or sometimes referred to as "***Sang Dwiwarna***" (The Bicolor). The red stand for courage, while the white stands for purity.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/united-states-president-barack-obamas-full-speech-from-the-university-of-indonesia/405898](http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/united-states-president-barack-obamas-full-speech-from-the-university-of-indonesia/405898)

There are 19 state or countries, including Indonesia using red and white colors for their flags, i.e.: Austria, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, England, Georgia, Greenland, Indonesia, Japan, Latvia, Monaco, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Singapore, Switzerland, Tonga, and Turkey.<sup>3</sup>

The national flag of Indonesia is identical to the flag of Monaco but the proportion is different. The proportion of the flag of Indonesia is 2 : 3 and the proportion of the flag of Monaco is 4 : 5.



**The National Flag of Indonesia**  
**Proportion 2 : 3**



**The National Flag of Monaco**  
**Proportion 4 : 5**

The first Indonesian Flag “*Sang Merah Putih*” (The Red and white flag) was sewn by Fatmawati, Soekarno wife. It was raised and hosted for the first time on a short bamboo staff on 17 August 1945 in front of Soekarno’s house at Pegangsaan Timur 56 Jakarta after Soekarno<sup>4</sup> read the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence. After the end of the war with the Dutch (1949), the “*Bendera Pusaka*” (Heritage Flag) is the original flag was raised once a year in front of the Presidential Palace Jakarta during Independence Day celebration. The *Bendera Pusaka* was flown for the last time on 17 August 1968. Since then, it was preserved and replaced by a replica because the original flag was deemed to be too fragile.<sup>5</sup>

The national flag of Indonesia is stipulated by the 1945 Indonesian Constitution and Indonesian Law No. 24 of 2009. According to the Law

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<sup>3</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_countries\\_by\\_colors\\_of\\_national\\_flags](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_colors_of_national_flags)

<sup>4</sup> Soekarno was appointed as the first President of the Republic of Indonesia

<sup>5</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag\\_of\\_Indonesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Indonesia)

No. 24 of 2009 Article 4, state flag are made of fabric and color does not fade with the provisions size:

- a. 200 cm x 300 cm for use in the field of the presidential palace;
- b. 120 cm x 180 cm for the use in the public square;
- c. 100 cm x 150 cm for the use in the room;
- d. 36 cm x 54 cm for the use in the car of the President and Vice President;
- e. 30 cm x 45 cm for the use in the car of state officials;
- f. 100 cm x 150 cm for the use in ships;
- g. 100 cm x 150 cm for the use on the trains;
- h. 30 cm x 45 cm for the use in aircrafts;
- i. 20 cm x 30 cm for the use in public transports;
- j. 10cm x 15 cm for the use at the table.

According to the Law of 24 of 2009 article 9, State flag shall be flown everyday at:

- a. Presidential & Vice Presidential Palaces and officials residences of the President & Vice President;
- b. Buildings or offices of the state institutions;
- c. Buildings or offices of the government agencies, both central and local Governments;
- d. Buildings or offices of the Indonesian embassies;
- e. Officials residences of the chairman of the state institutions;
- f. Officials residences of governors, regents, majors, and subdistricts heads;
- g. Buildings or offices or other officials residences;
- h. Border post and the outer islands within the territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia;
- i. Environment of the Indonesian National Army and the State Police;
- j. Garden tombs of the national heroes.

### 3. National Anthem

One of identities of the nation is a national anthem. As a sovereign state, each country has own an national anthem. For eg., Australia (Advance Australia Fair), Britain (God Save the Queen), Brunei (*Allah Peliharakan Sultan* = God Bless the Sultan), Cambodia (*Nokor Reach* = Royal Kingdom), France (*Le Marseillaise*), India (*Jana Gana Mana* = Hall the ruler of all minds), Japan (Kimigayo), Laos (*Phenk Xat Lao*), Malaysia (*Negaraku* = My Country), Monaco (*Monegasque*), Myanmar (*Kaba Ma Kyei* = Till the End of the World) Netherlands (*Het Wilhelmus*), New Zealand (God Defend New Zealand), Palestine (*Biladi* = My Country), The Phillipines (*Lupang Hinirang* = Chosen Land), Singapore (*Majulah Singapura* = Singapore Onwards), Suriname (*God Zij Met Ons Suriname* = God be with Our Suriname), Thailand (*Phleng Chat*), Timor Leste (*Patria* = Fatherland), United States of America (The Star-Spangled Banner), and Vietnam (*Tien Quan Ca* = The March to the Front ).<sup>6</sup>

The national anthem of Indonesia is ***Indonesia Raya*** (**Great Indonesia**). The song was introduced by its composer , Wage Rudolf Supratman on 28 October 1928 during the Second Youth Congress in Batavia (now Jakarta). The song marked the birth of all archipelago nationalist movement in Indonesia that supported the idea of one single Indonesia as successor to the Dutch East India. The *Indonesia Raya* was chosen as the national anthem when Indonesia proclaimed its independence on 17 August 1945. Jozep Cleber, a Dutch composer, created Indonesia Raya arrangement for philharmonic orchestra in 1950. Since then. this arrangement has been widely used for formal and informal purposes.<sup>7</sup>

The ***Indonesia Raya*** as the national anthem was regulated by 1945 Indonesian Constitution article 36B and Indonesian Law No. 24 of 2009

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<sup>6</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_official\\_languages](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_official_languages)

<sup>7</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia\\_Raya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesia_Raya)

articles 58-64. It already mentioned before that original documents of the 1945 Indonesian constitution and laws are *arsip*. *Arsip* also depict and reflect the identity of the nation. According to the Act No. 24 of 2009, article 59 the national anthem “*Indonesia Raya*” should be sung for:

- 1) Respecting the President and the Vice President of Indonesia;
- 2) Respecting to Presidents/Prime Ministers for their state visit;
- 3) In the opening plenary session of the parliament;
- 4) In the special events conducted by Government;
- 5) International sports championships;

#### 4. National Language

Not every sovereign state or country has own national language. Some of them do not have own language for official language, eg. Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. They use Arabic for their officials language. Others languages, such as English, French, Spain, German, Portuguese, and Russian used as official languages by some countries.<sup>8</sup> In Southeast Asia, Singapore uses English as official language and Timor Leste uses Portuguese as official language.

Indonesia has own national language, i.e. ***Bahasa Indonesia*** (Indonesian language) or Indonesian. The ***Bahasa Indonesia*** is national identity of Indonesia. One of the most important in the acceptance of Indonesian language as a national language was its function as a language of unity, giving Indonesian sense of identity and symbol and the vehicle of that unity. It should be informed that the nationalist movement succeeded in developing Indonesian nation and Indonesian identity, especially on 28 October 1928 when the “*Sumpah Pemuda*” (Youth Pledge) was proclaimed during Second Youth Congress. The interesting thing was that the proclamation or the pledge was in Indonesian language

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<sup>8</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_national-anthem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national-anthem)

(Riau Malay language) and was not in Dutch (the official language) or in Javanese (the majority of the congresses were Javanese). The pledge translated in English as follows:

*“Firstly*

*We the sons and daughters of Indonesia acknowledge, one motherland, Indonesia.*

*Secondly*

*We the sons and daughters of Indonesia, acknowledge one nation, the nation of Indonesia.*

*Thirdly*

*We the sons and daughters of Indonesia, uphold the language of unity, Indonesian language<sup>9</sup>*

These formed the basis for Indonesian nationalism and gave the impetus to the fledgling independence movement. According to Pauw (2009: 2) Indonesia virtually alone among post colonial nation has been successful at promoting indigenous language as its national language.

Indonesian language as national language is regulated by 1945 Indonesian Constitution article 36 and Law No. 24 of 2009 articles 25-45. Indonesian language as a unity language developed in accordance with the dynamic of the Indonesian civilization. Indonesian language functions as official language, national identity, national pride, unity of ethnic groups, means of communication amongs regions and cultures, transaction and trade documentation, and for developing science, technology, art, and mass media languages.<sup>10</sup> Indonesian language shall be used in laws and regulations, official documents, officials speeches of the President, Vice President, and other state officials.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, Indonesian language shall be used in memoranda of understanding and agreements involving state institutions, government agencies of the

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<sup>9</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth\\_Pledge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth_Pledge)

<sup>10</sup> Law No. 24 of 2009 article 25

<sup>11</sup> Law No. 24 of 2009 articles 26 – 28



Republic of Indonesia. Indonesia's private institutions or individual Indonesian citizens.

Original documents of the 1945 Indonesian Constitution and Indonesian laws are *arsip*. *Arsip* depict and reflect identity of the nation.

## 5. National Currency

One of the identities or symbols of the sovereign state is the currency. However, not every sovereign state or country has own currency, namely member State of the European Union (EU). There are 27 EU member states and their currency is EURO. Only a few member of EU still has own currency, namely Great Britain which still has poundsterling currency.

It should be noted that each currency has own code, i.e. **the ISO 4217 Code**, which represented by three capital letters, eg. Australian Dollar is AUD, Brunei Dollar is BND, Cambodian riel is KHR, Canadian Dollar is CAD, **Indonesian rupiah is IDR**, Japanese yen is JPY, Lao kip is LAK, Malaysian Ringgit is MYR, Myamar kyat is MMK, New Zealand dollar is NZD, Phillipine peso is PHP, Singapore dollar is SGD, Thai bath is THB, United States dollar is USD, Vietnamese dong is VND.<sup>12</sup>

As sovereign state, Indonesia has own national currency, i.e. ***rupiah* (ISO 4217 IDR)**, is **not rupee**. There are 5 (five) countries which their currencies are rupees, i.e. India (Indian rupee is INR), Pakistan (Pakistani rupee is PKR), Nepal (Nepalese rupee is NKR), Seychelles (Sechellois rupee is SCR), and Sri Lanka (Sri Lankan rupee is LKR).<sup>13</sup>

***Rupiah*** also used as legal tender in the activities national economy in order to achieve social welfare for all people of Indonesia. Indonesian

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<sup>12</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO\\_4217](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_4217)

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

Currency “*Rupiah*” consists of two, i.e. bank notes and coin. The images of the currency can be seen below:

#### Currency Rupiah : Bank Notes



#### Currency Rupiah : Coin



*Rupiah* as a national currency is regulated by the 1945 Indonesian Constitution Article 23B and Indonesian Law No. 7 of 2011 on Currency. The original documents of the 1945 Indonesian Constitution and Indonesian Law No. 7 of 2011 are *arsip*. *Arsip* depict and reflect identity of the nation.

### C. Conclusion

National identity is very important and it is needed by sovereign state or by each country. National identity of each state is very unique and differ from one state to other. There are at least 5 (five) national identities of Indonesia, i.e. Coat of arms “*Garuda Pancasila*”, National Flag “*Sang Merah Putih*”, National anthem “*Indonesia Raya*”, National language “*Bahasa Indonesia*”, and National Currency “*Rupiah*”. These national identities regulated by the 1945 Indonesian Constitution and Indonesian laws No. 24 of 2009 and No. 7 of 2011. The original constitution and the laws are *arsip*. *Arsip* record, depict and, replect the national identities,

therefore it can be safely concluded that arsip as national identity. The Indonesian identity transcended ethnic, cultural, racial, and religious background in common struggle for independence and the creation of new independence nation state.

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