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# The Legal 500 Country Comparative Guides

## Indonesia

### REAL ESTATE

#### Contributing firm

Walalangi & Partners in association  
with Nishimura & Asahi



#### Mr. Luky I. Walalangi

Managing Partner | [lwalalangi@wplaws.com](mailto:lwalalangi@wplaws.com)

#### Mr. Hans Adiputra Kurniawan

Partner | [hadiputra@wplaws.com](mailto:hadiputra@wplaws.com)

#### Ms. Siti Kemala Nuraida

Senior Associate | [snuraida@wplaws.com](mailto:snuraida@wplaws.com)

#### Mr. Andhika Indrapraja

Associate | [aindrapraja@wplaws.com](mailto:aindrapraja@wplaws.com)

This country-specific Q&A provides an overview of real estate laws and regulations applicable in Indonesia.

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# INDONESIA REAL ESTATE



## 1. Overview

The basic law for land in Indonesia is Law No. 5 of 1960 on Agrarian (the Agrarian Law), a complex underlying law adopting customary (*adat*) laws developed over hundreds of years at rural village level, and as further modified by the Dutch colonial rules. Prior to the issuance of the Agrarian Law, *adat* law and western law coexisted, governing land registration for Indonesians and foreigners respectively. The Agrarian Law, as further implemented by various implementing regulations, creates a uniform regime and ends the dualism on land matters while still maintaining the communal concepts applicable to land under *adat* laws.

## 2. What is the main legislation relating to real estate ownership?

The main legislation for real estate ownership in Indonesia is the Agrarian Law, Law No. 20 of 2011 on Apartments, Law No. 4 of 1996 on Mortgage over Land and Objects Related to Land and Law No. 11 of 2020 on Job Creation (Omnibus Law), Law No. 28 of 2002 on Building as amended by Omnibus Law, Law No. 26 of 2007 on Zoning/Spatial Plan as amended by Omnibus Law (Zoning Law), which are supplemented and implemented through numerous implementing regulations, including:

- Government Regulation No. 24 of 1997 on Land Registration (GR 24/1997);
- Government Regulation No. 18 of 2021 on Management Right (*Hak Pengelolaan*), Land Titles, Strata Title, and Land Registration;
- Government Regulation No. 13 of 2021 on the Implementation of Apartments; and
- Government Regulation No. 21 of 2021 on the Implementation of Spatial Plans (GR 21/2021);
- Government Regulation No. 16 of 2021 on the Implementation Regulation of Law No. 28 of 2002 on Building;
- Government Regulation No. 12 of 2001 on the Amendment to Government Regulation No. 14

of 2016 on the Implementation of Housing and Housing Areas;

- Government Regulation No. 22 of 2020 (as amended) on the Implementing Regulation of Law No. 2 of 2017 on Construction Services;
- Minister of Agrarian Affairs and Zoning/Head of the National Land Agency (BPN) Regulation No. 3 of 1997 as amended several times and lastly by BPN Regulation No. 16 of 2021 on the Implementing Regulation of GR 24/1997; and
- BPN Regulation No. 5 of 2020 on the Electronic Integration of Mortgage Services.

## 3. How is ownership of real estate proved?

The Agrarian Law set a rule for all land in Indonesia to be registered with the land office. Therefore, as a general rule, the ultimate ownership of a real estate is a land title certificate issued by the land office where the land is located (with 5 years grace period after the issuance of land title certificate for a claim to be brought up against the land title certificate).

Note, however, that many land in rural areas have not yet properly registered; hence lacking land certificates. In this case, the ownership of the real estate would be different, including tax payment by the “occupier”.

## 4. Are there any restrictions on who can own real estate?

Yes. The Agrarian Law divides titles over land title into several types, each is for a specific purpose and can be owned by a specific person (as elaborated in Q5).

## 5. What types of proprietary interests in real estate can be created?

The most common land/property titles recognised under Indonesian law related to real estate developments are as follows:

- **Right of Ownership (*Hak Milik*) or freehold** gives the holder the fullest right a person can possess over land in Indonesia for an unlimited period. Only Indonesian citizens and certain limited Indonesian legal persons or entities can hold a *Hak Milik*.
- **Right to Build (*Hak Guna Bangunan - HGB*)** allows its holder to construct buildings or facilities. An HGB is limited to a duration of 30 years, with a possible extension of 20 years and possibility for renewal(s). An HGB may be held by Indonesian individuals and Indonesian legal entities, including foreign investment company or PT PMA.
- **Right to Cultivate (*Hak Guna Usaha - HGU*)** allows its holder to cultivate the land for agriculture, plantation, fishery or livestock business. An HGU is limited to a duration of 35 years, with possibility for extension and renewal(s). Similar to HGB, HGU may be held by Indonesian individuals or Indonesian legal entities, including PT PMA.
- **Right to Use (*Hak Pakai*)** authorises its holder to utilise land or to collect products from the land. A *Hak Pakai* may be held by Indonesian citizens and Indonesian legal entities, as well as foreign citizens who reside in Indonesia. A *Hak Pakai* can be granted for a maximum period of 30 years, with a possible extension of 20 years and possibility for renewal(s).
- **Right to Manage (*Hak Pengelolaan*)** is granted for governmental bodies and agencies: such as: regional governments and state-owned companies to manage and control state lands.

Aside to the land titles, Indonesian law also acknowledges the right of ownership over *strata title*. Expatriates are now allowed to hold strata title upon an HGB land provided it is located in a special economic area designated by the regulation, including a special economic zone, free trade zone and an industrial estate area.

## 6. Is ownership of real estate and the buildings on it separate?

Yes, conceptually Indonesian law recognizes horizontal ownership division principle (*horizontale scheiding*), where ownership of a land can be separated from ownership of objects upon the land, including building. To do this, building owners must sign an agreement with the land owners.

## 7. What are common ownership structures for ownership of commercial real estate?

For foreign investors, the real estate must be owned through their Indonesian investment company or PT PMA.

## 8. What is the usual legal due diligence process that is undertaken when acquiring commercial real estate?

Buyers typically engage a local law firm to carry out a legal due diligence over the assets (e.g., land and building document and licences, existing contracts) and in some cases over the capacity of the seller. The process for assets legal due diligence is as follows:

- documents review to verify the details of the land, including registered owner, location, area, title validity;
- land verification check with the relevant land office to confirm existence of mortgage or dispute over the land; and
- court verification to confirm existence of legal proceeding on the land.

## 9. What legal issues (if any) cannot be covered by usual legal due diligence?

Mostly factual matters, including environmental pollution, unknown/illegal occupants, and existing building condition.

These factual matters are normally dealt with other consultants and included as representations, warranties and indemnifications in the transaction documents.

## 10. What is the usual process for transfer of commercial real estate?

The transfer of title of certificated land is done by way of the seller and the purchaser signing an Indonesian language land sale and purchase deed (*Akta Jual Beli - AJB*) in front of an Indonesian authorised land deed official (*Pejabat Pembuat Akta Tanah - PPAT*) that has jurisdiction over the transacted land is located. Legally, the title is transferred once the AJB is signed by the parties. Following the signing of the AJB, the PPAT must register the transfer with the relevant land office registry for recordation.

As the form of AJB is prescribed by the law typically, in addition to the AJB, parties would also sign a separate sale and purchase agreement (SPA) to include their

specific representation, warranties, undertakings, payment mechanisms as well as indemnification clauses.

### **11. Is it common for real estate transfers to be effected by way of share transfer as well as asset transfer?**

Yes, this is quite common, especially considering the property acquisition tax (*Bea Perolehan Hak Atas Tanah* - BPHTB) of maximum 5% (depending on the location) of transaction price (or the property's taxable value, whichever is higher) applicable to buyer and 2.5% of the purchase price income tax applicable to seller in a real estate transaction.

### **12. On the sale of freehold interests in land does the benefit of any occupational leases and income automatically transfer?**

Yes, particularly for the period after the transfer, unless otherwise contractually agreed.

### **13. What common rights, interests and burdens can be created or attach over real estate and how are these protected?**

There are several various classifications of security, but the most common for real estate (including land and building) is mortgage or known as *Hak Tanggungan*.

### **14. Are split legal and beneficial ownership of real estate (i.e. trust structures) recognised**

No, Indonesian law does not recognize beneficial owner. The registered owner in the land certificate will be considered as the legal owner of the land.

### **15. Is public disclosure of the ultimate beneficial owners of real estate required?**

No, there is no beneficial ownership concept of real property under Indonesian law.

### **16. What are the main taxes associated with commercial real estate ownership and transfer of commercial real estate?**

For an asset transfer deal, the seller is subject to income tax in the amount of 2.5% of the purchase price and the

buyer is subject to the BPHTB in the maximum amount of 5% of the purchase price (or the property's taxable value, whichever is higher) depending on the region where the land is located.

The above is in addition of any applicable VAT and potential luxury tax VAT if the transaction value meets certain threshold.

Please also consult with a qualified tax/financial adviser for further details on these taxation elements.

### **17. What are common terms of commercial leases and are there regulatory controls on the terms of leases?**

No regulatory controls, other than standard regulatory protection rights for lessors and lessee provided under the Indonesian civil code. This is a pure contractual matter.

Land lease is normally longer (at least 2.5 - 5 years) than lease of office unit (starting from 1 year).

### **18. What (if any) Covid-19 related regulatory controls are in place which affect landlords' abilities to enforce tenant obligations in commercial leases?**

No specific regulatory controls introduced by the Government in relation to commercial leases and Covid-19 outbreak.

### **19. How are use, planning and zoning restrictions on real estate regulated?**

Under the Zoning Law and GR 21/2021, the central government sets the general norms, standards and criteria of zoning plans, to be further implemented by the regional governments in their respective areas.

Specifically for forestry and coast areas, these are subject to the respective regimes of the Minister of Environment and Forestry and the Minister of Marine Affairs.

The government controls the compliance with the zoning rules through, among others, issuing business licences and/or building construction approvals (*Persetujuan Bangunan Gedung* - PBG).

### **20. Who can be liable for environmental**

## contamination on real estate?

Indonesian environmental laws adopt the “polluter pays” principle, which puts the environmental liability on the party that causes the environmental pollution/damage. On this basis, if the buyer can prove that it was not involved in the environmental contamination, the buyer should not be responsible for the contamination merely by possessing a property in the location concerned.

### 21. Are buildings legally required to have their energy performance assessed and in what (if any) situations do minimum energy performance levels need to be met?

Yes, certain class of buildings with high intensity, such as mixed-use residential building with more than 4 storeys, office space with area of more than 50,000 sqm or warehouse, factory and shop with area of more than 5,000 sqm and more than 4 storey, are required to satisfy the ‘green building’ technical standard set out by the Government Regulation No. 16 of 2021 and the Minister of Public Works and Public Housing Regulation No. 21 of 2021.

The standard criteria cover various aspects, including the land management planning, energy and water usage, air quality, eco-friendly material and waste management, eco-friendly supply chain for construction material, and eco-friendly construction process. Failure to comply with the applicable green building standard would trigger administrative sanctions, from warning letter, suspension of construction to building demolition.

To encourage developers to meet the “green building” requirements, the government also introduces certain incentives such as reduction of governmental levies, and relaxation of building area coefficient ratio.

### 22. Is expropriation of real estate possible?

Only for limited reasons for public use set by the law, for example: roads, airports, terminals, oil and gas infrastructure for the national/regional spatial planning, in which case the law requires the government to pay

compensation to the landowner.

The compensation form and amount will be determined based on the result of valuation by independent valuer appointed by the government. If the landowner does not agree with the compensation, it can file an objection to the court and request the court to determine the new compensation form and/or amount.

### 23. Is it possible to create mortgages over real estate and how are these protected and enforced?

Yes, to create a mortgage, the mortgagor and the mortgagee must sign a deed of mortgage before an authorized PPAT and have it registered with the BPN where the real estate is located.

In an enforcement event, the mortgagee cannot possess the land, but it must sell the land (through auction or if certain conditions are met, through private sale). Theoretically, the mortgage certificate has a self-executionary power without the need of a court decision.

### 24. Are there material registration costs associated with the creation of mortgages over real estate?

Yes, certain fees and taxes payable when creating a mortgage, payable to the PPAT and BPN, which include the fees for the preparation, execution and registration of the mortgage deed. The fees are generally calculated on a percentage basis of the amount secured by the mortgage.

### 25. Is it possible to create a trust structure for mortgage security over real estate?

No, Indonesian law does not recognize trust structure for security over real estate. The common structure recognized under the Indonesian law is for lenders (particularly foreign lenders) to appoint an Indonesian bank as their security agent to hold and administer mortgage security over real estate in Indonesia for and on behalf of the foreign lenders.

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## Contributors

**Mr. Luky I. Walalangi**  
Managing Partner

[lwalalangi@wplaws.com](mailto:lwalalangi@wplaws.com)



**Mr. Hans Adiputra Kurniawan**  
Partner

[hadiputra@wplaws.com](mailto:hadiputra@wplaws.com)



**Ms. Siti Kemala Nuraida**  
Senior Associate

[snuraida@wplaws.com](mailto:snuraida@wplaws.com)



**Mr. Andhika Indrapraja**  
Associate

[aindrapraja@wplaws.com](mailto:aindrapraja@wplaws.com)

