

Aprilia's Presentation, 30 August 2026

Slide 1 So you have seen from Willem's presentation that West Papua has been a colony of Indonesia since 1969.

Today I am talking about an Indonesian colonial practice in Merauke. Merauke is a place that should interest you because it was an Australian and American military base during World War II.

Slide 4 *Pesta Babi* is a recent Indonesian documentary that shows very clearly, with sound data, what has been going on in Merauke, and other places in West Papua. The documentary is so powerful that Indonesians are finally waking up to the gross treatment of West Papuans by their own government.

We have here today some Indonesian friends who now really understand and are supporting our struggle.

Slide 5 The project I'm talking about is the Food and Energy Estate in Merauke. This is three million hectares of Papuan land being logged for rice and sugarcane production.

Slide 6 Today I'm only focussing on the sugarcane.

Slide 7 There are 3 tribes whose land has been taken for sugarcane plantations: the Kwipalo clan, the Muyu people and the Marind. So what is wrong with this development?

Slide 8 Ancient forests are being logged rather than protected. The traditional owners are paid \$25/hectare.

Slides 9,10 They lose their food and medical sources, and the fundamentals of their spiritual beliefs.

Slide 11,12 Vincen Kwipalo, a Yei tribal leader, asked the government's mediator: 'Can you guarantee my safety if I get killed in the forest?' He asked this after refusing 300,000 rupiah (\$25) for land his ancestors are buried in.

Slide 13. The law could not protect indigenous land in Merauke.

Slide 14,15 In fact the sugar plantation is inside protected forest area.

Slide 16-20 Resulting in deforestation and flooding. The people and the animals lose their homes in the forest

Slide 21 President Prabowo has ordered the military to protect the interests of the oligarchs, and the number of military personnel and hardware increases every year.

Slide 22 The Indonesian businessmen invited by the government to develop the project are all related and have been convicted for corruption in Indonesia itself, and in China as well.

Slide 22 The Fangiono family is behind the Merauke Sugar Group. The family patriarch, Martias Fangiono, was a major player in the Indonesian timber industry, through his

company the Surya Dumai Group, which rose to prominence during the Suharto era. After Maritas was convicted on corruption charges in December 2007, the group collapsed. But during the same month, another company, First Resources, was listed on the Singapore stock exchange, with Martias' oldest son, Ciliandra Fangiono, as CEO.

Slide 23,24,25 On April 2025, Martias' niece, Angelia Sudirman, was named as the majority shareholder of the Merauke Sugar Group and its nine subsidiary companies. On Instagram, Angelia describes herself as a 'wife, mommy, and entrepreneur in love with beauty and wellness.' However, on paper at least, she is now one of the biggest agribusiness tycoons in Asia.

Slide 26 Another Indonesian oligarch, Martius Sitorus, has owned Wilmar Sugar in Townsville since 2010 when he bought CSR's sugar and ethanol division for \$1.5 billion.

Slide 27 Wilmar has eight mills in Queensland, and manufactures half of Australia's raw sugar. Sitorus is Batak, from Sumatra, and lives in Singapore, with an estimated net worth of \$3.55 billion. Martius has held a 200,000-hectare permit on land in Merauke since 2013. That's thirteen years, even before this was even called a national project. This is what oligarchy looks like: the same names, the same money, moving from one Indonesian resource frontier to the next, and now to Papua.

Slide 28, 29 Sugar Research Australia (SRA) is the specialist research organisation for the Australian sugarcane industry. SRA publishes its partnership with Wilmar Sugar Australila on its website, but not its sale of Australian-developed sugarcane seedlings to Fangiono's PT Global Papua Abadi.

Slide 31 I strongly recommend watching Pesta Babi. The director uploaded it to youtube because it's been banned in Indonesia. *Pesti Babi* should alarm Australians because it shows how an Indonesian company in Townsville, an Australian tax-funded sugar research company, and the Indonesian political and military elite, are collaborating in the ecocidal project that is destroying 2.5 million hectares of dense tropical forests, peatlands, and swamps in South Papua.