



DARREN WHITESIDE/REUTERS

Indonesian scientists were hopeful a dedicated fund would reverse years of insufficient investment.

▶ foreign donors, the Indonesian government committed US\$3 million to the agency in its first year, through the finance ministry's Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education. The endowment fund also signed a memorandum of understanding with the ISF, agreeing to give the agency money for five years.

Teguh Rahardjo, the ISF's executive director, says that the agency has received some of this cash, but not enough to support all of its grant programmes. Government budget constraints have contributed to the funding shortfall, and the agency is now searching for other sources of money, he says.

He says that the ISF was able to contribute 12 billion rupiah this year towards research grants for collaborations between Indonesian and UK universities. The programme is also supported by the Newton Fund, a British research-development group.

Indonesian researchers have typically had to rely on yearly funding from the national budget, which invests only 0.08% of the country's gross domestic product in scientific research each year. Some scientists argue that the process by which this money is awarded to universities or research centres by various ministries, including the Ministry of Research,

Technology and Higher Education, isn't open and transparent. Syarif Hidayat, head of legal, cooperation and information services at the ministry, denies that the funding process is not open and says the ministry is working on ways to stretch research funding over multiple years.

The ISF was established to support long-term research. It is inspired by funding agencies such as the US National Science Foundation, and uses independent peer review to award funding.

"It is very unfortunate that ISF postpones this grant," says molecular biologist Riza Putranto at the Indonesian Research Institute for Biotechnology and Bioindustry in Bogor. "We cannot rely on national budget alone to conduct high-quality research in Indonesia," says Putranto, whose ISF funding application was not successful.

The Ministry of Finance did not respond to *Nature's* questions about budget constraints. ■

CORRECTION

The Editorial 'Restore justice in Turkey' (*Nature* **554**, 145; 2018) stated that the text-messaging system ByLock was available only through personal introduction. In fact, it was widely available and could have been downloaded by anyone.