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Government Policy In The Trade Sector And Its Implications For National Income From The Perspective Of Islamic Economic Law

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Abstract

The trade sector plays a strategic role in driving economic growth through increased production, exports, investment and national income. Amidst a global economic slowdown, rising protectionism and the transformation of trade brought about by technological developments and Artificial Intelligence (AI), Indonesia is required to strengthen its export competitiveness and transform its trade structure in a sustainable manner. This study aims to analyse government policies in the trade sector and their implications for national income from the perspective of Islamic economic law. The study employs a qualitative method with a normative-conceptual approach through a literature review of policy documents, national trade data, the Indonesia Export Potential Dashboard, the Regional Export Potential Dashboard, as well as literature on economics and Islamic economic law. Research findings indicate that trade policy contributes to an increase in national income through the strengthening of exports, the downstream processing of natural resources, the development of domestic industry, the digitalisation of trade, and the empowerment of MSMEs. Indonesia recorded a trade surplus of USD 41.05 billion in 2025 and USD 5.55 billion in the first quarter of 2026. Nevertheless, Indonesia's share of global trade remains at around 1.11 per cent and is dominated by primary commodities. To enhance competitiveness, the government has developed the Indonesia Export Potential Dashboard and the Regional Export Potential Dashboard as data-driven tools, whilst also strengthening SMEs through various export programmes.

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From the perspective of Islamic economic law, these policies are in line with the principles of al-'adl, al-maṣlaḥah and maqāṣid al-sharī'ah, particularly hifẓ al-māl. This study concludes that increasing national income requires strengthening exports, transforming the economic structure, enhancing competitiveness, and establishing an inclusive, data-driven and equitable trading system.

Keywords: Trade Policy, National Income, Exports, MSMEs, Islamic economics

INTRODUCTION

Trade is one of the strategic sectors in a country's economy as it plays a vital role in boosting production and the distribution of goods and services, as well as driving economic growth and improving public welfare (Mankiw, 2021; Feenstra & Taylor, 2020; Nam, 2024). In macroeconomic theory, both domestic and international trade activities contribute directly to an increase in national income through exports, investment and consumption. Consequently, government policy in the trade sector serves as a vital instrument for driving economic development and improving public welfare (Mankiw, 2021; Feenstra & Taylor, 2020; Nam, 2024).

Amid increasingly complex global economic dynamics, Indonesia's trade sector faces both challenges and new opportunities. Bappenas (2026) projects that the global economy in 2026 will experience a slowdown due to rising geopolitical tensions, the fragmentation of international trade, protectionist policies, and changes in the structure of world trade resulting from the artificial intelligence (AI) revolution (Brynjolfsson & McAfee, 2018; Rodrik, 2020). Furthermore, the decarbonisation policies implemented by various developed countries have the potential to become new non-tariff barriers for developing countries, including Indonesia. This situation requires Indonesia to undertake a trade transformation that is more adaptive, innovation-driven and geared towards enhancing global competitiveness (Bappenas, 2026).

Although Indonesia is one of the largest economies in South-East Asia, the contribution of its exports to world trade remains relatively limited. Data from Bappenas shows that in 2024, the value of Indonesia's exports reached approximately USD 265 billion, with a global market share of 1.11 per cent. This figure remains below that of several ASEAN countries, such as Vietnam, which has achieved a global export market share of 1.70 per cent, and Malaysia, at 1.39 per cent. Indeed, over the past two decades, Indonesia's average export market share has hovered around 0.92 per cent, indicating a trend of stagnation in national export competitiveness despite an increase in export value driven by the surge in global commodity prices during the 2021–2022 period.

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(Bappenas, 2026; Yaqin & Sulistyono, 2024)

Furthermore, Indonesia's export structure remains dominated by primary commodities and labour-intensive products. The Indonesia Export Potential Dashboard developed by Bappenas shows that, of Indonesia's 5,199 export products, only around 1,041 are classified as competitive in the global market. This situation indicates that the increase in export value has not yet been fully supported by an increase in the complexity and value added of national export products. Consequently, the transformation of the export structure towards high-tech and high-value-added manufactured goods has become a key priority in national economic development. (Irwin, 2019; Nam, 2024).



Figure 1.1 Source: Bappenas 2026

In the context of national development, the Government has set out its trade policy direction through the National Long-Term Development Plan (RPJPN) 2025–2045 and the Long-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2025–2029. One of the key priorities is Domestic and Global Economic Integration (IE-7), which aims to increase Indonesia's participation in global supply chains, expand high-value-added exports, and strengthen economic linkages between regions. (Bappenas, 2024; Bappenas, 2025; Rodrik, 2020).

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Figure 1.2 Source: Bappenas 2026

To support this agenda, the Government has developed various data-driven tools, one of which is the Indonesia Export Potential Dashboard, which serves as a strategic information system for identifying flagship products, potential export markets and opportunities for regional export development (Bappenas, 2026).



Figure 1.3 Source: Bappenas 2026

In line with the 2025–2029 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN), Minister of National Development Planning/Head of Bappenas Regulation No. 4 of 2026 on the Draft Government Work Plan (RKP) for 2027 identifies trade and exports as key elements of the national economic development policy direction for 2027. One of the key priorities is to strengthen

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economic transformation by enhancing the competitiveness of national trade and exports. Trade policy is directed towards: expanding access to export markets; reducing dependence on traditional export markets; promoting the diversification of high value-added export products; strengthening Indonesia's integration into global value chains; and enhancing the competitiveness of domestic products through industrial downstreaming. The government has identified exports as one of the drivers of economic growth in 2027 through three key strategies: diversification of export markets and products; strengthening industrial downstreaming and value addition; and utilising data and technology (the Export Potential Dashboard) for national and regional export planning (Bappenas, 2026).

On the other hand, the Ministry of Trade has indicated that Indonesia's trade sector continues to show strong prospects. Indonesia's trade balance in 2025 recorded a surplus of USD 41.05 billion, comprising a non-oil and gas surplus of USD 60.75 billion and an oil and gas deficit of USD 19.70 billion. In the period January–March 2026, a trade surplus of USD 5.55 billion was again recorded. These figures indicate that the trade sector remains one of the main sources of foreign exchange and a driver of national economic growth (Ministry of Trade, 2026; Trading Economics, 2026; World Bank, 2026).



Figure 1.4 Source: Ministry of Trade 2026

From the perspective of Islamic economic law, trade is an economic activity that is strongly encouraged, provided it is conducted fairly, transparently and does not involve elements prohibited by Sharia, such as riba, gharar and monopolies. Islam views trade as a means of

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realising the public interest (al-maslahah al-'ammah), improving the welfare of society, and creating a more equitable distribution of wealth. Therefore, an analysis of the Government's trade policies is not only important from an economic perspective but is also relevant to examine from the perspective of Islamic economic law to ensure that the objectives of national economic development are in line with the principles of justice and the public interest.

From an Islamic perspective, trade is an economic activity that holds a significant position in society as it serves as a means of generating income, distributing wealth, and realising social welfare, as well as creating a more equitable distribution of wealth (Chapra, 2000; Kamali, 2008; Hassan & Lewis, 2007).

The Qur'an provides clear legitimisation for commercial activities, provided they are conducted fairly and do not involve elements prohibited by Islamic law. Allah SWT states:

وَأَحَلَّ اللَّهُ الْبَيْعَ وَحَرَّمَ الرِّبَا

"Allah has made trade lawful and has forbidden usury." (Quran 2:275)

This verse indicates that trade is an economic activity permitted in Islam and forms part of a legitimate economic mechanism for generating profit. However, trading activities must be conducted in accordance with the principles of justice, honesty and responsibility so as not to cause harm to others. Furthermore, the Qur'an also emphasises the importance of justice in economic transactions, as Allah SWT states:

وَأَوْفُوا الْكَيْلَ وَالْمِيزَانَ بِالْقِسْطِ

"And give full measure and weight in all fairness." (Quran 6:152)

This principle demonstrates that Islam not only encourages the growth of economic activity, but also emphasises the importance of ethics, transparency and justice in trade. In the context of modern trade, this principle can be realised through fair trade policies, the protection of business operators, transparency of market information, and the prevention of monopolistic practices and economic exploitation. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) also paid great attention to trade ethics. In a hadith, it is stated:

التَّاجِرُ الصَّدُوقُ الْأَمِينُ مَعَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصِّدِّيقِينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ

"Honest and trustworthy traders will be with the prophets, the righteous, and the martyrs." (Narrated by al-Tirmidhi)

This hadith indicates that commercial activity holds great religious merit and moral significance when carried out with honesty and trustworthiness. Furthermore, the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) also forbade the practices of hoarding and monopolies, which can harm society:

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لَا يَحْتَكِرُ إِلَّا خَاطِئٌ

"Only a sinner would hoard goods." (Narrated by Muslim)

This prohibition demonstrates that Islam rejects commercial practices that create economic inequality, market manipulation and the exploitation of society. Therefore, the Government's trade policies, which aim to improve public welfare, expand market access, strengthen SMEs and create a fairer trading system, are fundamentally in line with the principles of Islamic economic law and the objectives of maqāṣid al-syarī'ah. These principles form the foundation for the development of a modern Islamic economic system that emphasises distributive justice, social welfare, and the sustainability of economic development (Auda, 2008; Ibn Khaldun, 1967; Kuran, 1995) Based on the above, this study aims to analyse government policy in the trade sector and its implications for national income from the perspective of Islamic economic law, by integrating developments in national trade policy, the latest export performance data, and the direction of Indonesia's economic development towards the 'Golden Indonesia 2045' vision.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative research method using a normative-conceptual approach (normative legal research) to analyse government policy in the trade sector and its implications for national income from the perspective of Islamic economic law. The normative-conceptual approach was chosen as it allows for a systematic examination of legal norms, concepts of Islamic economic law, and public policies relating to trade activities and national economic development (Marzuki, 2021; Novianti, 2024). In research on Islamic economic law, this approach is relevant as it is capable of comprehensively integrating an analysis of positive law provisions with Sharia values and principles (Marzuki, 2021; Kamali, 2008; Novianti, 2024).

Normative studies in Islamic economic law are not limited to the analysis of formal regulations but also encompass an examination of the sources of Islamic law—namely the Qur'an, hadith, ijma' and qiyas as the foundation for evaluating the compatibility of economic policies with Sharia principles (Chapra, 2000; Auda, 2008). This approach also provides an analytical framework for assessing the effectiveness of public policy in realising the public interest (maṣlaḥah) and the sustainability of Sharia-based economic development (Novianti, 2024).

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RESEARCH FINDINGS

TRADE POLICY AND NATIONAL EXPORT PERFORMANCE

Research findings indicate that the trade policies implemented by the Government play a strategic role in boosting national income by strengthening export performance, increasing investment, and accelerating domestic production. From a macroeconomic perspective, trade policy is a key instrument for expanding access to international markets, increasing foreign exchange reserves, and strengthening the competitiveness of the national economy. Consequently, the Government has consistently prioritised export growth as one of its key strategies for driving sustainable economic growth (Retnasih, 2026; Oloyede et al., 2021).



Figure 1.5 Source: Bappenas 2026

Data from the Ministry of Trade indicates that Indonesia recorded a trade surplus of USD 41.05 billion in 2025. This positive trend continued in the first quarter of 2026, with the trade surplus reaching USD 5.55 billion. This achievement indicates that the trade sector remains one of the main contributors to the country's foreign exchange earnings, whilst also playing a role in maintaining national economic stability amidst global economic uncertainty (Trading Economics, 2026; World Bank, 2026).

Nevertheless, the increase in the value of exports has not yet fully reflected the strengthening of Indonesia's position in international trade. Data from the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) shows that Indonesia's share of world trade in 2024 remained at around 1.11 per cent. This situation indicates that export growth has not been accompanied by a significant improvement in global competitiveness, primarily due to the continued dominance of exports based on primary commodities and low-tech products. Consequently, a transformation of trade policy is required one that is more adaptive, innovative and focused on increasing value added, diversifying export products and strengthening national competitiveness so that it no

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longer relies on a 'business as usual' approach.

Transformation of the Export Structure and Enhancement of Value Added

The research findings indicate that one of the main challenges facing Indonesia's trade is an export structure that remains dominated by primary commodities and labour-intensive products. Data from the Indonesia Export Potential Dashboard shows that only around 1,041 of Indonesia's 5,199 export products are highly competitive in international markets. This research reinforces the urgency of downstreaming and industrialisation policies, which are currently a priority for the Government. Products with a high Product Complexity Index (PCI), such as machine components, electronic equipment, measuring instruments and industrial machinery, have great potential to become new drivers of Indonesia's export growth (Yaqin & Sulistyono, 2024; Nam, 2024). Consequently, trade policy is directed not only towards increasing export volumes but also towards enhancing the quality and complexity of national export products (Irwin, 2019)

Strengthening MSMEs and the Digitalisation of Trade

The research also found that strengthening MSMEs is one of the government's key strategies for boosting national exports. The Ministry of Trade has developed various programmes such as 'UMKM Bisa Ekspor', the Export Coaching Programme (ECP), 'Desa Bisa Ekspor', InaExport, business matching, and international trade missions (Ministry of Trade, 2026).





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Figure 1.6 Source: Ministry of Trade 2026

Data from the Ministry of Trade for 2026 shows that, as of April 2026, the 'UMKM Bisa Ekspor' programme had generated potential transactions totalling USD 107.34 million, comprising purchase orders (POs) worth USD 11.72 million and potential transactions (MoUs) worth USD 95.62 million. The programme has involved 552 business operators through 278 business matching and pitching sessions with international buyers. Furthermore, the InaExport platform has recorded more than 14,000 registered businesses and more than 27,000 export-ready products. These results demonstrate that the digitalisation of trade contributes to expanding market access, reducing information asymmetry, and enhancing the efficiency of Indonesia's export promotion efforts (Rodrik, 2020; Brynjolfsson & McAfee, 2018).

THE EXPORT POTENTIAL DASHBOARD AS A DATA-DRIVEN POLICY TOOL

One of the trade policy innovations identified in this study is the development of the Indonesian Export Potential Dashboard by Bappenas. This dashboard provides information on the national export profile, provincial export profiles, flagship products, product competitiveness levels, and potential export markets. The existence of this dashboard is significant because the study found that the main barriers faced by Indonesian exporters are not only financing issues but also a lack of market information. A Bappenas study indicates that around 71.5 per cent of businesses require export information as a key necessity for conducting exports. However, trade information remains scattered across various platforms, making it difficult to access quickly and efficiently. In this context, the Indonesian Export Potential Dashboard serves as a market intelligence tool that can assist the government, businesses and SMEs in formulating data-driven

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export strategies (Bappenas, 2026; Ministry of Trade, 2026).

ANALYSIS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ISLAMIC ECONOMIC LAW

From the perspective of Islamic economic law, the Government's trade policies which are geared towards increasing exports, strengthening MSMEs, promoting equitable regional development, and enhancing the value added of products are fundamentally in line with the principles of maqashid al-sharia (Auda, 2008; Chapra, 2000). These policies support the realisation of hifz al-mal (protection of wealth) through increased community income and job creation. Furthermore, programmes for the empowerment of SMEs and the development of regional exports also reflect the principles of al-'adl (justice) and al-maslahah (public interest) as they provide more equitable economic opportunities for all regions of Indonesia (Kamali, 2008; Hassan & Lewis, 2007). Thus, the research findings indicate that Indonesia's trade policies not only have positive implications for increasing national income but are also strongly relevant to economic development objectives from the perspective of Islamic economic law.

DISCUSSION

TRADE POLICY AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR INCREASING NATIONAL INCOME

Indicate that trade policy is a strategic instrument for driving national income growth through the strengthening of export performance, increased investment, and the acceleration of domestic production activities. These findings suggest that international trade functions not only as a source of foreign exchange earnings but also as a mechanism for transmitting economic growth through increased aggregate demand, job creation, and the expansion of national production capacity. Consequently, the effectiveness of trade policy cannot be measured solely by the value of exports, but also by its ability to generate a multiplier effect across other economic sectors (Mankiw, 2021; Feenstra & Taylor, 2020).

Indonesia's trade balance surplus of USD 41.05 billion in 2025 and USD 5.55 billion in the first quarter of 2026 demonstrates that the trade sector remains one of the main pillars of national economic stability. These surpluses reflect Indonesia's ability to generate foreign exchange earnings that exceed expenditure on imports, thereby contributing to the strengthening of foreign exchange reserves, exchange rate stability and the capacity to finance development. From a macroeconomic perspective, this situation indicates that trade policy has made a positive contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) through the net export component (Mankiw, 2021; Feenstra & Taylor, 2020).

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Nevertheless, the research findings reveal a paradox between the increase in the value of exports and Indonesia's competitive position in global trade. Data from Bappenas show that Indonesia's share of world trade in 2024 stood at only around 1.11 per cent and has not seen any significant increase over the past two decades. This finding suggests that the growth in export value has not fully reflected an improvement in international competitiveness. In other words, the increase in exports remains quantitative in nature and has not been accompanied by structural transformation capable of enhancing Indonesia's position within global value chains.

This situation indicates that the structure of Indonesia's exports still faces a fundamental problem, namely the dominance of primary commodities and products with a relatively low level of processing. Dependence on primary commodities means that export performance is heavily influenced by the volatility of international commodity prices, thereby making the benefits of trade for economic growth less sustainable (Pam, 2016; Omoke, 2021). Furthermore, the low level of technology and innovation in export products means that Indonesia's competitiveness lags behind that of countries which have successfully undergone a transformation towards a knowledge-based economy. Based on these findings, this study argues that the focus of trade policy needs to shift from a paradigm of increasing export volumes towards enhancing export quality. This transformation encompasses the development of value-added industries, the diversification of export products, increased technological intensity, and the strengthening of the integration of national industries into global supply chains. Consequently, the success of trade policy is not only measured by the size of the trade surplus, but also by its ability to boost national productivity, strengthen international competitiveness, and generate sustainable economic growth.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE EXPORT STRUCTURE AND THE CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

Research findings indicate that Indonesia's export structure remains dominated by primary commodities and labour-intensive products with relatively low added value. Of Indonesia's 5,199 export products, only around 1,041 possess a high level of competitiveness in international markets. This finding suggests that an increase in the number of traded products has not automatically boosted national export competitiveness. Consequently, the main challenge facing Indonesia's trade lies not in its capacity to produce export goods, but in its ability to create products that possess a competitive advantage and are highly competitive in global markets.

From an international economic perspective, the export structure is a key indicator

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reflecting a country's level of industrialisation. Countries capable of sustaining long-term economic growth generally have an export structure dominated by medium- and high-technology manufactured goods, innovation-driven industries, and modern service sectors that generate high value added. Conversely, dependence on primary commodity exports makes an economy more vulnerable to fluctuations in international prices, changes in global demand, and geopolitical turmoil beyond the control of the exporting country (Nam, 2024; Yaqin & Sulistyono, 2024).

The findings of this study indicate that the transformation of the export structure is a key prerequisite for enhancing Indonesia's trade competitiveness. An increase in the value of exports will not yield optimal economic benefits if it continues to rely on exports of raw materials or products with a low level of processing. Consequently, the government's policy of downstream processing of natural resources holds strategic significance as it can increase the value added of products, expand inter-sectoral linkages within industry, and foster the creation of a stronger domestic value chain. Downstream processing not only boosts export value but also increases the industrial sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product, employment, and government revenue.

The urgency of this transformation is growing amid a shifting international trade landscape characterised by the Artificial Intelligence (AI) revolution, the digitalisation of the economy, the fragmentation of global supply chains, and the rise of protectionist policies in various countries. Under such conditions, a comparative advantage based on the availability of natural resources is no longer sufficient to maintain national competitiveness. Competitive advantage is now increasingly determined by innovation capacity, technological mastery, production efficiency, and the ability to produce goods that align with the dynamics of global market demand.

In line with endogenous growth theory, investment in technology, research and development (R&D), and the improvement of human capital are fundamental factors in enhancing productivity and economic competitiveness in a sustainable manner (Borensztein et al., 1998; Akinlo, 2021). Therefore, the transformation of trade policy needs to be integrated with industrial, innovation, education and investment policies so that Indonesia does not merely act as a supplier of raw materials, but also as a producer of high value-added products that hold a strategic position within global value chains. From the perspective of Islamic economic law, this transformation of the export structure also has normative relevance as it aligns with the principles of maqāṣid al-syarīʿah, particularly hifẓ al-māl (the protection and development of wealth) and al-maṣlaḥah al-'āmmah (the public interest). The development of value-added industries, the enhancement of national productivity, and the strengthening of competitiveness are not only geared towards

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increasing economic gains, but also towards creating broader public benefit through job creation, improved social welfare, and the strengthening of national economic resilience.

TRADE INFORMATION AS THE FOUNDATION FOR STRENGTHENING EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS

One of the fundamental challenges in the development of Indonesia's exports is not only limited production capacity, but also the fact that businesses do not yet have optimal access to comprehensive trade information. Data from Bappenas shows that more than 70 per cent of businesses require information on export markets as a prerequisite for developing international trade activities. However, information on market potential, demand trends, product standards, regulations in destination countries, and global supply chain networks remains scattered across various unintegrated platforms. This fragmentation of information renders the process of identifying export opportunities less effective, particularly for businesses with limited resources and analytical capacity. From an institutional economics perspective, information is a strategic asset that determines market efficiency and the quality of economic decision-making. Information asymmetry has the potential to increase transaction costs, amplify business risks, and reduce the ability of economic actors to respond to international market dynamics (Rodrik, 2020). Consequently, the export opportunities that are actually available cannot be utilised optimally, meaning that the potential for increasing national income through international trade has not yet been fully realised.

In response to this situation, the Government has developed the Indonesia Export Potential Dashboard and the Regional Export Potential Dashboard as data-driven policy instruments (evidence-based policy). Unlike conventional trade data provision, these two dashboards present more comprehensive information on flagship products, competitiveness levels, market demand potential, opportunities for export diversification, and the mapping of regional economic potential. The integration of various data sources into a single platform not only improves the accessibility of information but also enhances the quality of export strategy formulation by both the government and business actors (Bappenas, 2026).

The findings of this study indicate that the digitisation of trade information has broader implications than merely the provision of statistical data. The utilisation of integrated trade information systems can improve the accuracy of identifying market opportunities, support more rational decision-making, and accelerate business operators' adaptation to changes in global demand. In the context of an increasingly digitised international trade environment, a country's competitive advantage is determined not only by its production capacity, but also by its ability to

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manage and utilise information as the basis for formulating policies and business strategies. From this perspective of Islamic economic law, the provision of accurate, transparent and easily accessible trade information reflects the implementation of the principles of al-'adl (justice) and al-maṣlaḥah (public interest). Transparency reduces the potential for gharar (uncertainty) in economic transactions whilst providing more equal opportunities for all business actors to participate in international trade. Thus, the digitisation of trade information not only enhances economic efficiency and competitiveness but also strengthens trade governance that is fair and oriented towards the public interest (Auda, 2008; Chapra, 2000; Kamali, 2008).

CONCLUSION

This study shows that government policy in the trade sector plays a strategic role in boosting national income through the strengthening of exports, the development of domestic industry, the downstream processing of natural resources, increased investment, the digitalisation of trade, and the empowerment of MSMEs. This is reflected in Indonesia's trade balance surplus of USD 41.05 billion in 2025 and USD 5.55 billion in the first quarter of 2026, which demonstrates the significant contribution of international trade to the country's foreign exchange reserves, economic growth, and macroeconomic stability. However, Indonesia's share of global trade remains relatively low, and the export structure is still dominated by primary commodities and labour-intensive products; consequently, a transformation towards more innovative, complex and high-value-added exports is an urgent necessity. This study also found that limited access to trade information is a major obstacle to export development; consequently, the development of the Indonesia Export Potential Dashboard and the Regional Export Potential Dashboard represents data-driven policy innovations that support the identification of flagship products, market opportunities and more effective decision-making. Programmes to strengthen MSMEs such as 'UMKM Bisa Ekspor', 'Desa Bisa Ekspor', the Export Coaching Programme (ECP), business matching, and the InaExport platform demonstrate a trade policy direction that is increasingly inclusive and sustainable. From the perspective of Islamic economic law, these policies are in line with the principles of maqāṣid al-syarī'ah, particularly hifẓ al-māl, al-'adl, and al-maṣlaḥah al-'āmmah, so that an increase in national income is determined not only by the value of exports, but also by the government's ability to transform the economic structure, strengthen national competitiveness, expand access to trade information, and ensure a fairer and more sustainable distribution of the benefits of development amongst the people.

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