

Press Release

Bappenas Invites Senior Dayak Figures to Collect Input on State Capital Relocation

JAKARTA – The development of the new State Capital (IKN) in East Kalimantan is not only about building the required infrastructure, but is also about building communities, fostering interaction, and integrating cultures, says the Minister of National Development Planning/Head of Bappenas Bambang Brodjonegoro.

At a seminar held at the Bappenas offices on Thursday (17/10), Minister Bambang noted that the role of the Dayak community as the ethnic natives of Kalimantan, and host of the IKN, is important to help realize an inclusive and sustainable development process. The seminar itself, titled "Dayak Culture and Its Contribution to the Relocation of the State Capital to East Kalimantan", was held to collect constructive input from the Dayak community regarding the development of the city itself.

By relocating the State Capital to the area, it is hoped that the IKN will help bring improved welfare, education and opportunities for native Dayaks to hold strategic positions in government.

"The relocation of the State Capital will encourage the Dayak community to mingle and be presented with the same opportunities to help advance Indonesia. Moving the State Capital to East Kalimantan will also increase the island's greater contribution to the Republic of Indonesia, beyond just dealing with natural resources such as timber, palm oil, coal, oil, and gas," Minister Bambang said.

The Minister added that the relocation process requires careful planning because the island of Kalimantan itself is home to various unique features, such as being the only island in the world that is home to three countries at once, namely Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam. Historically, Kalimantan is also seen as the origin of Indonesian civilization, with the Kutai Kingdom being the oldest kingdom in Indonesia.

These factors force planners to form a more articulate relocation plan. One of the largest factors to consider is the fact that the relocation would have to involve the relocation of hundreds of public sector workers (ASN) to the city. "Thus, we will ensure that the new IKN will not have exclusive clusters based on ethnicity, religion, race, or economic groups," the Minister explained.

Adding to Minister Bambang's comments, the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas' Head Secretary and Head of the IKN Communications Team Himawan Hariyoga said that the new IKN will become a place for Indonesian culture to mingle and integrate. Himawan underlined the importance of every side, without exception, to prepare as well as possible, one of the ways is by ensuring that the socio-cultural aspects are well maintained to ensure that potential conflict factors can be addressed as properly as possible.

"That is why this seminar is presented as a forum where the Dayak community can have their say on the development of the IKN. We aim to receive comprehensive, constructive inputs so that the relocation process runs smoothly and that the Dayak community can fully benefit from it," Himawan said.

Figures such as Dayak community leader and House of Representatives member Willy Midel Yoseph said that the Dayak community is well-known as a society that is able and willing to adapt to cultural developments. Meanwhile, Central Kalimantan Governor Teras Nanang added that the development of the IKN in Kalimantan, an island that contributes up to US\$27 billion or Rp 350 billion to the State Budget annually, must adhere to the island's environmental factors.

This is because 70% of Kalimantan belongs to Indonesia, covering an area of 22 million hectares.

"The 'heart of Kalimantan' is in our territory and is very rich in biodiversity, with 50% of the world's flora and fauna species being found there. In addition, 14 of the 20 major rivers in Kalimantan flow upstream to the island's central area. If any of the rivers were to be damaged or disrupted, it would spell the end of Kalimantan," Teras elaborated.



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