

Press Release

National Dialogue on State Capital Relocation Highlights Central Kalimantan's Environmental, Social and Cultural Aspects

PALANGKARAYA – The Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas held a National Dialogue on the relocation of the State Capital (IKN) to Kalimantan on Friday (19/7), entitled "Towards a Future Capital: Smart, Green, Beautiful and Sustainable".

The dialogue was held to collect input regarding the readiness of Central Kalimantan in becoming one of the candidate locations for the new State Capital, apart from East Kalimantan and South Kalimantan, considering the environmental perspective as well as the social and cultural perspectives. The main speakers of the event were the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas' Deputy for Regional Development Rudy S. Prawiradinata and the Governor of Central Kalimantan Sugianto Sabran. Additional talkshows were held as well featuring speakers such as the University of Palangkaraya's Vice Chancellor for Planning and Cooperation Sulmin Gumiri, the Peat Restoration Agency's Deputy II for Construction, Operation and Maintenance Alue Dohong, the University of Palangkaraya's Dean of Social and Political Sciences Kumpiady Widen and moderator Fitria Husnatarina.

"Wherever the new State Capital will be, Kalimantan will experience significant growth, nonetheless. The Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas has measured the economic impacts of relocating the capital to Kalimantan. There are three candidates, namely: Central Kalimantan, South Kalimantan, and East Kalimantan. If the capital city moves to Kalimantan, trade movements between the new State Capital and the island's major cities will increase and grow positively. More than 50% of Indonesia's central territories will experience an increase in trade flow, creating a broader impetus for investment in these regions. The economic linkage of the new capital with other provinces will also be one of the drivers of investment in other provinces as well," Deputy Rudy explained.

Deputy Rudy also conveyed the results of the provisional assessment of Central Kalimantan as a candidate for the IKN relocation. The results are as follows: first, the area of delineation will be around 401,364.16 hectares and the potential location will be around 40,962.62 hectares. Second, the quantity of surface water will be obtained through two main watersheds, namely the Kahayan and Katingan watersheds. Third, the carrying capacity of groundwater in the delineation locations will mostly be in the medium class. Fourth, the area has a history of forest fires, particularly in the years between 2015 and 2018, making it a point of concern to address. Fifth, Central Kalimantan is home to Sampit Seaport which is located 219 km away from the delineation location, while the Tjilik Riwut Airport in Palangkaraya is about 149 km from it. The final sixth point, regarding the defense and security aspects, the region has good land, air and sea access, although sea access via Sampit Seaport is located far beyond the location of the planned city itself.

"Central Kalimantan is the second largest province in Indonesia after Papua. The land is large, the population is small, and the Dayak community is open and friendly. In addition, Central Kalimantan's infrastructure and social costs are lower than other locations. Planning for Central Kalimantan will be easy, regarding what we want the central government area to look like, etc. We can manage the peatlands and flood mitigation systems easily, for example, in the Pulang Pisau area there is a forest filled with sengon plants that can be of use. Agriculture in the region is also good, as the organic rice produced in the area is of high quality. Forest fires will not occur if the land it sits on is used productively," explained Governor

Sugianto, who emphasized the importance of sorting out economic issues before the IKN relocation begins.

The criteria for determining the location for the capital city are:

- 1) The location being strategic and geographically located in the middle of Indonesia
- 2) The availability of large amounts of land owned by the government or state-owned enterprises to reduce investment costs
- 3) The land must be free from earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, floods, erosion and forest and peatland fires
- 4) Abundant supply of water and free from environmental pollution
- 5) Be close to existing cities that have developed for the efficiency of initial infrastructure investment, with good access to logistical hubs such as airports, ports and roads and adequate levels of drinking water, electricity and communication networks that can be developed further
- 6) The potential for social conflict is low and has an open culture to newcomers
- 7) Meet the defense and security perimeter.

"The relocation of the capital city is entirely a national policy of the central government. Our position is to secure and follow up on the decision," explained Sulmin Gumiri.

Regarding the environmental aspects, Alue Dohong explained that Central Kalimantan is optimistic regarding its handling of forest and land fires. "The development of the nation's capital city, from an environmental perspective, from the planning to the construction and post-construction efforts, must be inclusive," he said.

"This inclusiveness must exist for the sake of letting the local Dayak community participate in the environmental planning and management of the national parks. We already have Sebangau National Park, with the relocation of the capital city to Central Kalimantan, peatland restoration and rehabilitation efforts will be better to support water security and land fire prevention in supporting the capital. Moreover, Bappenas has already launched the Low Carbon Development Indonesia initiative, which will be very appropriate in the development process," he added.

Furthermore, Kumpiady Widen added that regarding the social and cultural aspects, the people of Central Kalimantan, especially its Dayak community, adhere to a philosophy of life that is in line with the Pancasila ideology, namely tolerance, unity, mutual cooperation, honesty and fairness. "The readiness of all Central Kalimantan people is assured to welcome the project with open arms," he conveyed.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo will determine the location of the new capital city this year. The target is to commence groundbreaking operations by 2021, followed by beginning the construction of the city's core areas by 2024.

"As a maritime country, we must ensure to have a more even and diverse economy that benefits all regions. That is why the new capital city must be located in a strategic area, in the middle of Indonesia. It must be Indonesia-centric, able to encourage economic growth and promote equitable development. Wherever the President decides where it will be, the impact on the location will be huge. This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to build a grand representation of the nation's identity," Deputy Rudy added.

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Parulian Silalahi
Head of Public Relations
& Executive Administration

For more Information:

Kementerian PPN/Bappenas
Jl. Taman Suropati No. 2 Jakarta 10310
Telepon: (021) 31934283; Faks.: (021) 31901154
e-mail: humas@bappenas.go.id