

## Press Release

### ***Minister Suharso Discusses Important Role of Local Communities in the IKN Development Process***

**PENAJAM PASER UTARA** – During his stay at Penajam Paser Utara, the Minister of National Development Planning/Head of Bappenas Suharso Monoarfa invited community leaders, academic figures and local government representatives to provide their input and aspirations regarding the development and planning of the new State Capital (IKN), now known as Nusantara.

"One of the most important things to remember when we talk about the IKN, whatever the context, is that this is an Indonesia-centric project. Not a Kalimantan-centric or Java-centric project, but acting as the pride of the entire nation reflected in the heterogeneous power of East Kalimantan," Minister Suharso said during an event at the house of the Penajam Paser Utara Regent's Office, Thursday (22/4).

The meeting was also attended by East Kalimantan Governor Isran Noor, Penajam Paser Utara Regent Abdul Gafur Mas'ud, the Subdistrict Head (Camat) of Sepaku Risman Abdul, Kalimantan Institute of Technology Deputy Chancellor Muhammad Mashuri, Mulawarman University lecturer Ndan Imang, and several religious, traditional and youth leaders from the Paser area. Minister Suharso emphasized that the socio-cultural aspect of the IKN's development, especially the role of local communities, is one of the main considerations during the development of the city.

"There needs not to be any separation between what constitutes the IKN or what doesn't. We will acculturate and invite local communities to become involved in its planning as well. Because remember, this is an Indonesia-centric project which promotes unity, togetherness, and our advantage as a pluralistic nation. It is a symbol of our solidity as a nation," Minister Suharso added.

The involvement of leaders, academic figures, and local governments is very important in every stage of development, especially the recommendations regarding the socio-cultural aspects of building the Capital in the area. This is important considering that in 2045, the population of the IKN and the areas around it is projected to reach 1.7 million to 1.9 million people, while East Kalimantan's population is projected to reach 10 million to 11 million people. A number of strategies are being carried out so that the process of cultural acculturation will result in equal distribution of job opportunities at the IKN, namely supporting the development of labor market information to reduce barriers of entry into the labor market, increasing training capacity through strengthening and improving Job Training Centers owned by ministries and government agencies, increasing access and quality of education and health infrastructure, facilitating the growth of entrepreneurs and small-to-medium scale businesses (UKM), as well as maintaining local cultural practices and social cohesion between local residents and migrants.



*The meeting of Penajam Paser Utara's public figures with the Minister of National Development Planning/Head of Bappenas discussed the IKN's development process, Thursday (22/4/2021).*



*Minister Suharso underlined the importance of acculturation and the role of local communities in fulfilling the aims of the IKN, Thursday (22/4/2021).*

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