

## ***PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSIONS HELD IN MAKASSAR AND MEDAN TO WELCOME ACADEMIC INPUT INTO STATE CAPITAL DRAFT BILL***

**MEDAN AND MAKASSAR** – An official public consultation meeting on the State Capital City Draft Law (RUU IKN) took place in Medan, North Sumatra and Makassar, South Sulawesi in a bid to assess public feedback into the capital city relocation project.

In Medan, the meeting was carried out by the House of Representatives (DPR) together with the University of North Sumatra (USU) on Wednesday (12/1) and was attended by several prominent figures related to the project including IKN Bill Drafting Special Committee Member Hamid Noor Yasin, USU Deputy Chancellor Edy Ikhsan and several figures from the USU.

"This meeting between the USU, the DPR and the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas aims to ensure that the concerns of multiple parties are addressed, particularly that of the academics, whose expertise is able to provide valuable input recommendations for the development of the new state capital (IKN)," the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas' Deputy of Facilities and Infrastructure J. Rizal Primana explained.

A number of topics, such as the IKN Masterplan, budget allocation plans and governing structures were the primary focuses of the meeting. "We hope that the IKN Bill can be ratified as soon as possible and provide us with a strong foundation to carry out its development plans. We are making sure that all relevant aspects are addressed within the bill itself by accommodating the comprehensive analysis and careful considerations from experts in their fields," USU Deputy Chancellor Edy Ikhsan added.

Meanwhile, another public consultation meeting on the RUU IKN was held simultaneously in Makassar, South Sulawesi, held by the House of Representatives as well as figures from Hasanuddin University (Unhas) and lead by Unhas' Deputy Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Partnerships, Muh. Nasrum Massi. The meeting was also attended by Special Committee for the IKN Draft Bill member Hamka Baco Kady, the Unhas academic community, as well as representatives of relevant ministries and government institutions.

"We are very grateful to be given the opportunity to host such an important meeting at Unhas, one of the largest universities in Eastern Indonesia. Hopefully, the discussions will be useful for the development of the new capital city," Unhas' Deputy Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Partnerships Muh. Nasrum Massi said.

Elsewhere, the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas' Expert Staff Member for Equity and Territorial Affairs Oktorialdi reiterated that the input of academic and public input towards the project is crucial for the planning of various sectors for the new state capital's development, including population relocation, infrastructure design, and environmental management.

"Public consultations on the IKN Bill, such as what is taking place at Unhas, is very important. Regarding the development of the region, the goal is to establish the new State Capital as a world class city for all; a smart city run with smart governance,"

Oktorialdi said.

**Medan, North Sumatra dan Makassar, South Sulawesi, 12 January 2022**

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