

Press release

Minister Bambang Explains the Importance of Relocating Capital City to the Country's Youth

JAKARTA – The Minister of National Development Planning/Head of Bappenas Bambang Brodjonegoro welcomed a delegation of young attendees to the "Youth Talks: Let's Move the Capital City" seminar on Tuesday (20/8), to discuss the younger generation's urgencies of moving the State Capital (IKN).

In line with President Joko Widodo's speech made on August 16, Minister Bambang emphasized the importance of transferring the IKN as a matter of strengthening the national identity.

"The new capital city must accommodate the needs of all regions of Indonesia. It must be in the center of the country, hence Kalimantan, to encourage equitable development and spur economic growth. The role of the younger generations is important for moving the new capital city because after it is relocated, it will be them who will lead Indonesia," Minister Bambang said.

The new capital city will be built under the concept of being a "forest city". Public transportation will be a mainstay of the IKN, starting from trams, buses, an LRT, and other modes of transportation to avoid potential pollution and congestion. It will be built as a symbol of national identity, a "smart, green, beautiful and sustainable" city with modern and international standards. It will be governed effectively and efficiently.

"Jakarta will remain the center of finance, business, and trade just like New York, while the capital city will be the center of government like Washington DC. Jakarta will continue its role as an economic hub, and it will be a competitor to Singapore," said Minister Bambang.

According to a study held by the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas, Jakarta is seen as no longer sustainable to uphold its status as the nation's capital. Facts show that Jakarta's density is increasing, making it the ninth most populous city in the world, which faces a variety of problems such as being prone to flooding and heavy air pollution.

"I went to Papua ten days ago, to Jayapura and Nabire. I looked up and the skies were blue and very clean. For a long time, we are unable to see the blue sky in Jakarta due to the haze. The haze is not natural, but is because of air pollution," explained Minister Bambang. Furthermore, the Minister added that Jakarta's pollution problems do not only occur in the air but also in its water. The Ciliwung River is severely polluted with chemicals, human waste and garbage, making it unsuitable as a source for clean water. Relocating the capital city will help reduce the burden on Jakarta, which is currently facing a clean water crisis.

"Jakarta has too many people. Due to too many people, traffic jams are frequent and rampant. When you are stuck on the road, it can take an hour to get to work. You have to ask yourself, if spending 2 hours a day during a commute, is that normal? There is a lot of opportunities taken from you just because of the traffic jams. We need a better quality of life. We can't just accept traffic jams with such resignation, but we have to overcome them," concluded Minister Bambang.



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