

## Press Release

# ***New State Capital to Implement Forest City Concept, Prioritizing Environmental Factors***

**JAKARTA** – To discuss the importance of the State Capital (IKN) development plan’s environmental aspects, the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas held its fourth national dialogue on the transfer of the State Capital, entitled “Towards a Sustainable State Capital” on Tuesday (11/2).

In addition to acting as a forum for public involvement in realizing an inclusive, sustainable State Capital that is able to support wider economic growth, this dialogue aims to convey the results of the IKN Rapid Assessment and collect input from various parties to be included in the strategic environmental assessment (KLHS) plans and the IKN Masterplan itself.

“No Capital City has ever been moved from island to island, except in Indonesia. This is the first time it has ever happened. Therefore, all eyes will be on Indonesia, whether we are able to carry out this project successfully while also adhering to environmental friendliness and low carbon emission targets. There are so many things related to the environment that become the main part of preparing both the IKN’s Masterplan and the detailed plans,” remarked the Minister of National Development Planning/Head of Bappenas Suharso Monoarfa.

“Thank you for being here with us and providing us with valuable input. The city we are building will become a very modern, advanced one, utilizing renewable energy and also being environmentally friendly. We hope that this city can act as inspiration for other cities in regards to the zero-carbon development and other various factors,” he added.

The Indonesian government plans to move its capital city to East Kalimantan, specifically located in the Kutai Kertanegara Regency and the Penajam Paser Utara Regency. The IKN will encapsulate an area of up to 256,142.74 hectares, with a core city area of 56,180.87 hectares and a main government center of 5,644 hectares. The areas take into account the One River One Management upstream-downstream system and the character of the area’s watershed characteristics (DAS), as well as the boundaries of the Bukit Soeharto Grand Forest Park (Tahura), which will be developed and managed in an integrated manner into a buffer zone and a biodiversity conservation area.

“With the concept of ‘living with nature’, we want to make sure that we implement the Forest City plan with utmost care and success. To do so, we plan to fit the new State Capital with many open spaces to reduce the environmental footprint. At least 50% of the 56,000 hectare area, as big as Manhattan, will be dedicated to open green spaces. Within the entire 256,000 hectare area, we expect 70% to 75% to be green spaces because we do not want to disturb the environment in and around Soeharto Hill. There are many rivers in and around the State Capital area, so we will take care of this by implementing the One River One Management approach,” explained the Deputy for Regional Development at the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas Rudy Prawiradinata.

The IKN’s vision of being a ‘Smart, Green, Beautiful and Sustainable City’ will be translated through the development of the city through the Forest City concept. Through this vision, the IKN is expected to become a city that puts forward social and modern practices while still paying attention to environmental sustainability. This concept is considered to be the best approach to develop the new State Capital considering the IKN’s future location will be on the island of Kalimantan, which holds abundant tropical rainforest and various ecological traits. One form of this transformation of this concept is to emphasize the proportion of 50% spatial patterns for green spaces which will also help prioritize improving the quality of

ecosystems and conservation efforts, especially in areas with high conservation values (HCV).

“We really must be able to ensure the sustainability of this city and its environment so that it can be maintained optimally. Any industry that will develop in the area will be a clean and environmentally friendly one. Located in close proximity of the cities of Balikpapan and Samarinda, we will develop the economic sector further as well,” Rudy elaborated.

To ensure that the environmental aspects are considered in the IKN development plans, the government, through the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Forestry conducted a Strategic Environmental Assessment (KLHS) of the planned IKN transfer in 2019. The assessment’s results included recommendations for environmental safeguards on space utilization and the implementation of forest city principles according to the direction of implementation. The Smart City elements that will be implemented will involve measures surrounding sustainability, policies that will enable sustainability policies, as well as roadmaps for environmental recovery and improvement.

In 2020, the Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas will complete the assessment process that has been carried out by the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Forestry through the preparation and conclusion of the KLHS for inclusion in the IKN Masterplan.

The preparation for the IKN Masterplan’s KLHS recommendations will be integrated with the preparation of the Masterplan itself, so as to accommodate the vision of ‘Smart, Green, Beautiful and Sustainable’.

“We will use the results of the KLHS as a reference for the development process, in line with the Masterplan. In the Masterplan itself, we will explore and conduct a more in-depth study by using the findings of the KLHS. We will provide more details in the future,” Rudy explained.

The comprehensive KLHS analysis includes recommendations relating to: the carrying capacity of natural resources and the environment, the estimation of environmental impacts and risks, the performance of ecosystem services, the level of vulnerability and adaptive capacities to climate change, the potential for biodiversity in the IKN area, and the level of resilience for biodiversity in the IKN area.

The preparation of the KLHS is carried out with a participatory and collaborative approach by actively involving various relevant parties at both the national and regional levels.

“The carrying capacity of this city is not far from what we expected. We estimate the city’s population to be at 1.5 million and it turns out that the carrying capacity of 56,000 hectares is at around 2 million people. This is what we will have to maintain if we want the city to remain environmentally friendly and sustainable,” said Rudy.

Also present at the National Dialogue is the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Forestry Expert Staff Member for Natural Resources Economics Laksmi Wijayati, and experts such as Bagas Pujilaksono from Gadjah Mada University, Zenzi Suhadi from WALHI, Irdika Mansur from SEAMEO BIOTROP, Paulus Matthew from Mulawarman University, and Bambang Hero Saharjo from the Bogor Institute of Agriculture.

“The implementation of smart city elements for environmental management in the State Capital will be implemented with appropriate monitoring and tracking methods so as to minimize environmental damage that occurs due to the development process,” explained Laksmi Wijayati.



Jakarta, 11 February 2020

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