

INDONESIA NEWS

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INAUGURATION

Vice President Ma'ruf Amin (second from left) accompanied by Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Financial Services Authority (OJK) Wimboh Santoso (left) talks with MSME players when inaugurating the Micro Waqf Bank (BWM) at Muhammadiyah Metro University, Metro City, Lampung, Thursday (23/12). The establishment of BWM continues to be carried out by the OJK together with the government to encourage the development of sharia micro-enterprises and empower the community around the pesantren.

IDN/ANTARA



Govt to Continue Infrastructure Development: President Jokowi

Many parties have questioned the government's policy of building a lot of infrastructures, such as the construction of toll roads, ports, and airports, he noted.

PRESIDENT Joko Widodo (Jokowi) has said his government will continue to build infrastructure, both small and large scale, considering that infrastructure is the foundation and fundamental to improving Indonesia's economic competitiveness.

"I am still going to continue this program," he stated at the 7th anniversary of the Indonesia Solidarity Party (PSI) on Wednesday (22/12).

Many parties have questioned the government's policy of building a lot of infrastructures, such as the construction of toll roads, ports, and airports, he noted. "Many of them ask the purpose of this program. They say that people do not eat asphalt. But once again I emphasize, we want to compete with other countries," he remarked.

Indonesia must be able to compete with other countries by increasing eco-

nomical growth, encouraging competitiveness, and creating many job opportunities, President Jokowi said.

With this aspiration, infrastructure is the foundation and a fundamental requirement for increasing competitiveness, he explained. "Because for me road infrastructure means welfare. If there is no road, there will be no infrastructure and no products," he remarked.

He said the impact of infrastructure development will not be seen in the short term. However, with the presence of infrastructure, Indonesia already has the foundation to compete with other countries in order to improve people's welfare, he added.

Furthermore, the Head of State emphasized that the government should not only build large-scale infrastructure, but also pay attention to small-scale and rural infrastructure.

In the last five years, fund transfers to villages reached Rp 400.1 trillion, he noted. In addition, the government has also built 227 thousand kilometers of village roads during the same period, he informed. "We also pay attention to small infrastructure such as village roads. Until today, we have transferred Rp 400.1 trillion to villages in the last five years to build village roads, reservoirs, irrigation, bridges, public markets, and village-owned enterprises or BUM Desa," he added.*

Ancol to be Venue for 2022 Jakarta Formula E

THE Formula E Operations (FEO) and the International Automobile Federation (FIA) have decided to hold the 2022 Jakarta Formula E World Championship in Ancol, North Jakarta, on June 4, 2022.

The circuit will be named the Jakarta International E-Prix Circuit (JIEC).

"The approval had been received this morning," Head of the Formula E Organizing Committee Ahmad Sahroni stated here on Wednesday (22/12).

Sahroni remarked that the decision

was taken on the basis of thorough studies conducted by the FEO and FIA.

Furthermore, the committee's head noted that the location was selected since Ancol is a lively place and has become one of Jakarta's icons. In addition, the venue will not hinder public activities owing to no public road access connectivity.

The 2.4-kilometer (km) circuit, with a width of 12 meters, is located in proximity to the international-class Jakarta International Stadium (JIS) known as The New

Iconic Jakarta. From above, the track resembles a "kuda lumping," a prop used for an East Java traditional dance.

"The 'kuda lumping' shape is chosen since it has a national philosophy," President Director of Jakarta-owned property firm PT Jakarta Propertindo (Persero) Widi Amanasto remarked.

Meanwhile, Director of Jakarta-owned real estate and recreational centers developer PT Pembangunan Jaya Ancol Tbk Teuku Sahir Syahali noted that apart

from being the largest recreational arena in Indonesia, Ancol had been used as a racing track earlier.

"Ancol had hosted several races since 1970. The last one implemented was in 1990. The circuit was from Carnival Beach to the Eastern Gate. Thus, being chosen as the E-Prix venue will bring a lot of nostalgia to Ancol," he stated.

He expects the implementation of the event to revive the tourism sector in Jakarta as well as Indonesia.*