

INDONESIA NEWS

Friday, February 11, 2022

THE PRESIDENT APPRECIATES MK

President Joko Widodo in the Special Plenary Session for Submission of the MK (Constitutional Court) Report 2021, at Building I Mahkamah Konstitusi, Jakarta, Thursday (10/2). The President appreciated the Constitutional Court for using the pandemic as a momentum to accelerate transformation by making the transition to digital justice.

IDN/ANTARA



Indonesia Committed to Protecting Foreign Refugees: Minister

Law and Human Rights Minister Yasonna Hamonangan Laoly has stressed Indonesia's commitment to providing protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees despite their using the nation as a transit point illegally.

"INDONESIA remains committed to providing special considerations based on the principles of humanity and global human rights aspirations," Laoly said during a meeting with Chief of Mission of the International Organization of Migration (IOM), UN Migration, Louis Hoffmann, here on Wednesday (9/2).

Hoffmann paid a courtesy call on Laoly during a visit to Jakarta to improve coop-

eration and discuss the continuation of cooperation between IOM and the Law and Human Rights Ministry. Indonesia is not legally bound to provide permanent settlement to international asylum seekers or refugees on the grounds that it is not a party to the Refugee Convention 1951 and Protocol 1967 on Refugee Status, Laoly said.

For its part, as a non-party to the con-

vention, Indonesia is not obliged to provide settlement to foreign migrants who come to the country as refugees, the minister added.

The cooperation with IOM is designed to improve the understanding of refugee-related issues, assist the government in tackling migration challenges, and encourage social and economic development related to migration, he said. The cooperation also includes upholding the dignity and welfare of refugees, their families, and the community, he added.

The presence of international refugees has become a sensitive issue in international discourse, Laoly noted. They flee their country and take refuge in another country due to domestic conflicts that threaten their safety, he said.

Several countries currently deny entry

to foreign refugees on the grounds that they may disturb internal security stability, he added. A refugee-related international regime is set forth in the Convention 1951 on Refugees and Protocol 1967 on Refugee Status, he said.

Indonesia has not ratified the convention, he added. Although Indonesia is a non-party to the convention, it does not refuse the presence of foreign refugees, he highlighted. Laoly said the government treats foreign refugees and asylum seekers based on Presidential Regulation No. 25 of 2016 on the Handling of Foreign Refugees. To that end, Indonesia has coordinated with IOM and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), he added. (*)

IADO to Supervise MotoGP at Mandalika

THE Indonesia Anti-Doping Organization (IADO) will supervise the 2022 MotoGP at the Pertamina Mandalika International Street Circuit, Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, which is scheduled to take place from March 18–20, 2022.

"IMI will also involve IADO in various national and international championships that will be held in Indonesia, such as Asia Talent Cup, World Superbike, GT World Challenge Asia, MXGP, Asia Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), and the World Rally Championship," chairman of the Indonesian Motor Association

(IMI), Bambang Soesatyo, said in an official statement released on Wednesday (9/2).

One of the reasons for changing the name of the agency from the Indonesian Anti-Doping Agency (LADI) to the Indonesia Anti-Doping Organization (IADO) was to ease communication at the international level, he added.

He stressed that the name change must also be followed by changes to make IADO an independent, professional, and trusted organization.

"Independent means there should be no interference from the government or sports

associations in making anti-doping decisions issued by the IADO. Meanwhile, professional and trusted means there are no IADO administrators who have concurrent positions as sports administrators or government employees," he expounded.

The IMI chairman, who also serves as the general chair of the Tarung Derajat Sports Association (PB Kodrat), said that various parties must participate in providing support to IADO considering that earlier, the agency often faced difficulties in sanctioning athletes for doping violations.

He also praised the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Indonesian Olympic Committee (KOI), and IADO, who have worked hard so that starting from February 2, 2022, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) officially lifted the sanctions imposed on Indonesia.

"From the initial penalty that should have been valid for one year since it was imposed on October 7, 2021, it could be accelerated to only about four months. The imposition of such sanctions (on Indonesia) should only be the first and last. Do not let it happen again," he remarked. (*)