

INDONESIA NEWS

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PRESIDENT REVIEWS IMPLEMENTATION OF COVID-19 VACCINATION

President Joko Widodo (right) talks with workers during the COVID-19 booster vaccination activity at the Smart Marunda Industrial Estate, Bekasi, West Java, Thursday (24/2). The President appealed to industrial areas not to hesitate to ask for additional if the allocation of the COVID-19 vaccine for booster doses has run out, in order to ensure the continuity of the production sector supporting the economy

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Capital City Nusantara Development Begins With Reforestation: Jokowi

Construction of the new capital city Nusantara (IKN) in East Kalimantan would commence by developing the Central Government Area, with reforestation being started beforehand, President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) stated.

“CONSTRUCTION of IKN Nusantara will begin by developing the Central Government Area as the first phase. We will start to conduct reforestation and revitalization beforehand,” Jokowi remarked while delivering a speech at the Beranda Nusantara event on Wednesday (23/2).

Before relocation of the capital city from Jakarta, the IKN development was initiated by conducting reforestation and tree replantation with various types of plants, he remarked. The development will then continue with basic infrastructure, including the provision of clean water, green and blue areas of the city, government complexes, offices, housing, and supporting facilities and infrastructure, Jokowi noted.

The president emphasized that relocation of the capital city to IKN Nusantara was not merely limited to moving the State Civil Apparatus and government buildings. “However, this is a leap for the Indonesian

people to transform the nation to become an advanced Indonesia,” Jokowi affirmed.

The president later explained that buildings in the new capital city will showcase the greatness of this nation; reflect national identity; and realize social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Hence, the city’s development also plays an important role in transforming Indonesia’s human culture to become more relevant in line with the current developments. This development also prepares the community to get ready for the future. The transformation of human culture starts with taking care of nature and the environment as well as using natural materials based on new and renewable energy, Jokowi noted.

The president believes that IKN Nusantara will become an environment-friendly city since it can be reached within 10 minutes by using 80 percent of the public transportation, having 70-percent green area coverage, and a two-degree reduction in temperature.

No damage to forests in new capital development

President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) reiterated that development of the new national capital Nusantara in East Kalimantan would not damage the local forests, as natural conditions would be taken into account during the progress in construction. “We must not perceive that our efforts to relocate the capital would damage the forests,” Jokowi stated.

The government is committed to ensuring that 70 percent of the new capital area would be reserved as a green area to ensure the capital remains green, he stated. According to the president, the authority had also projected that 80 percent of the energy consumed in the new capital would originate from natural resources, and a hydropower dam planned in Kayan River, North Kalimantan, would be the main energy source for the administration centre.

The head of state also noted that public transportation facilities would be taken into account during the development of the new capital. “The city planner has projected that the capital will be a ten-minute city, which means that any journey undertaken from one point to another within the capital would take less than 10 minutes,” Jokowi remarked.

The president also affirmed that pe-

destrians, bikers, and public transportation users would be prioritised in the new capital promoted as a future smart forest city. “The new capital will have many green areas and forests. All aspects in the capital, including the transportation system, water and electricity system, infrastructures, communications, and public services, would be managed by modern technologies,” he remarked.

As hills being a prominent feature in the new capital site, Jokowi affirmed that the capital’s development would follow the hilly contours of the site. Apart from preserving a natural waterfront by maintaining the forest ecosystem, the authority is committed to rehabilitating several ecosystems that have been damaged, he stressed.

“Of the 256 thousand hectares of the new capital area, construction work would proceed in only 50 thousand hectares of land, while the rest of the 200 thousand hectares would be preserved as it is. We will also rehabilitate damaged ecosystems by developing tree nurseries that would produce at least 20 million tree seeds annually,” the president remarked.

Jokowi added that Minister of Environment and Forestry Siti Nurbaya Bakar had also informed him that the nursery development work was currently nearing completion. (*)