

INDONESIA NEWS

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

President Joko Widodo accompanied by First Lady Iriana Jokowi received an official visit from Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape and Mrs. Rachael Marape, at the Bogor Presidential Palace, West Java, Thursday (31/3). This meeting is planned to produce several memorandums of understanding, including cooperation in the electricity sector, opening the Jayapura to Port Moresby and Merauke to Port Moresby flight routes, customs and maritime affairs.

IDN/ANTARA



China Supports Indonesia's Stance in G20 Amid Russia-Ukraine Conflict

China has affirmed its support for Indonesia to focus on the G20 key agendas amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

“WE have also known that some parties were keen on incorporating the issues of Russia and Ukraine into G20’s agendas this year. We have also known that Indonesia had affirmed its stance that G20 was the forum of economy and finance,” Chinese Ambassador to Indonesia Lu Kang stated during an online press briefing here on Thursday (31/3).

Kang made the statement, as the conflict concurrently occurred amid the 2022 G20 Presidency held by Indonesia. In addition, the

conflict has led to polarization among G20 member countries that imposed sanctions on Russia and took sides between Russia and Ukraine. “We do agree that Indonesia can ignore those disturbances,” he noted.

The multilateral agency, akin to G20, has its functions and roles that focus on certain issues, according to the ambassador. “If we include the addressing of all issues in the multilateral agency, then they will interfere with the functions,” he underlined.

Indonesia’s G20 Presidency carries the

theme of “Recover Together, Recover Stronger,” and it is taking up the three key agendas of global health architecture, energy transition, and digital transformation, Kang remarked. Hence, such key agendas should be the focus and be discussed by the world, he stressed.

Kang wished Indonesia success for its G20 Presidency, both in fulfilling the agendas and assisting countries in the region to address international issues. “As a friendly country, we do expect that G20 this year could be successful, and we give maximum support for Indonesia that holds the G20 Presidency,” he remarked.

Indonesia had earlier stated its stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict during its G20 Presidency.

“Once more, we are focusing on the three key agendas of global health architecture, energy transition, and digital transformation,” special staff for priority programs strengthening at Foreign Affairs Ministry Dian Triansyah Djani stated.

Meanwhile, the ministry’s spokesperson, Teuku Faizasyah, had acknowledged that the conflict emerged as a challenge during the G20 Presidency. “Indeed, this is another challenge in G20,” he remarked.

On the other hand, the challenge aligns with the G20 goals: to recover and to be stronger together. “This becomes relevant with the G20 programs that we revive from the pandemic and catastrophe,” he remarked. (*)

Ministry to Build International Standard Islamic School in Banten

THE Investment Ministry/Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) will establish an international standard Islamic boarding school in Lebak District, Banten Province. “The boarding school will foster orphans throughout Indonesia for free,” Investment Minister/Head of BKPM Bahliil Lahadalia stated here on Thursday (31/3).

The boarding school will be built in Cileles Sub-district, Lebak District, Banten Province, spanning an area of 20 hectares, at a total cost of Rp89 billion. The first phase of the school’s construction is targeted to be completed by December 2022. “In the begin-

ning, the facility is targeted to accommodate 400 children,” the minister noted.

According to Lahadalia, establishment of the Islamic boarding school aims to provide quality education that can generate superior economy experts and entrepreneur graduates, who can disseminate Islam through business.

The quality rather than the quantity of the graduates is being prioritized in the establishment of the boarding school.

Since it will be run in line with international standards, management of the school will involve Head of the Vice President’s

Secretariat, Prof. Ahmad Erani, and Rector of the Bogor Agricultural Institute Prof. Arif Satria. “We expect that graduates of the Islamic boarding school can enter various well-known universities,” Lahadalia stated.

In addition, he noted that construction of the boarding school aims to facilitate orphans to receive quality education. The BKPM head remarked that establishment of the boarding school was driven by his difficult experiences of having to make an eight-kilometer (km) round trip to his junior high school on foot.

Due to the long trip, he was compelled

to stop going to school as a result of which he did not complete his lower secondary education through formal education.

The minister later graduated from lower secondary education after attending peer group education (called ‘Kelompok Belajar’ or ‘kejar’), a nonformal education facilitated by the government for students, who do not learn from common schools. “Thus, we hope that the international standard Islamic boarding schools can provide quality education to produce reliable and superior human resources, who also have noble character,” he added. (*)