

INDONESIA NEWS

Friday, April 8, 2022

PRESIDENT JOKOWI VISITS JAMBI ANGSO DUO MARKET

President Joko Widodo (second from left) accompanied by First Lady Iriana Joko Widodo (second from right) talks with food vendors during a working visit to the Angso Duo Modern Market in Jambi, Thursday (7/4). During his visit to the largest market in Jambi, President Joko Widodo also handed over working capital assistance and direct cash assistance (BLT) for cooking oil to a number of traders and beneficiary families.

IDN/ANTARA



April 29, May 4, 5, 6 Declared Eid Collective Leave Days

President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) has declared April 29 and May 4, 5, 6, 2022, as collective leave days for the Eid al-Fitr period, which will fall on May 2-3.

“THE government has decided that Eid al-Fitr 1443 H days will be on May 2-3, 2022, and collective leave days for the Eid al-Fitr period will be on April 29, and May 4, 5, 6, 2022,” the President said in an online press statement, issued from the Bogor Palace, West Java, on Wednesday (6/4).

A detailed regulation on collective leave will be issued by the relevant ministries, he added. He said that residents can utilize the collective

leave period to go home and meet parents, families, and relatives in their hometowns.

The President also reminded residents that the COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet and asked them to remain vigilant against COVID-19 by maintaining discipline in following the health protocols. “We need to remain vigilant (against COVID-19). Take your COVID-19 booster vaccine right away, remain disciplined in observing the health protocols,

and continue wearing masks in public places and while in crowds,” Widodo said.

The government has projected that up to 85 million residents will leave for their hometowns during the Eid al-Fitr homecoming period on the collective leave days, and 47 percent of all trips will be undertaken using private vehicles, he noted.

Up to 14 million residents are also projected to leave the Greater Jakarta area, the President added. “The government will exert their effort in providing optimized services to ensure travelers can travel safely and comfortably (during the homecoming period),” he said.

Earlier, the government had announced

that a booster vaccine will be required for homecoming trips during Eid al-Fitr, with residents who have received the vaccine booster free to travel without COVID-19 test certificates. “Those who have received their COVID-19 booster vaccine are free to travel without further COVID-19 testing,” Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin said.

Residents who have received only their first vaccine dose will be required to provide a COVID-19 PCR test certificate obtained at least three days before travel, while residents who have received their second vaccine dose will need to provide the results of either a COVID-19 PCR test or a COVID-19 antigen test performed one day before travel. (*)

Indonesia Ready to Welcome Australian Tourists: Minister Uno

INDONESIA is ready to welcome international tourists, especially from Australia to Bali, as the government has gradually reopened international borders, Tourism and Creative Economy Minister Sandiaga Uno stated.

The minister noted that Indonesia has opened its international borders since March 8, 2022. Australia is one of the 42 countries that are able to get visa on arrival (VoA) in Bali.

“We also have to disseminate information on our travel policies to the international community. The policies show our

concern for the safety and health of the tourists,” Uno noted while meeting Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, Penny Williams, Tuesday (5/4).

Williams remarked that Indonesia continues to strive to curb the transmission of COVID-19 to provide safety and confidence to overseas tourists visiting the country.

Meanwhile, Williams noted that Australian people were eager to visit Indonesia again, especially Bali. “In addition, many Indonesian citizens are currently studying or working in Australia. Thus, the reopen-

ing of the Indonesian-Australian border gate also offers respite to Indonesian citizens living in Australia,” she remarked.

Furthermore, she is upbeat about both nations intensifying cooperation in various sectors, especially in the economic sector. “Hence, we are ready to collaborate to bolster our cooperation,” she added.

Earlier, Uno had noted that Australia is the most potential market to gain more overseas tourist visits to Indonesia, especially Bali.

Thus, Uno has planned to visit two cities in Australia -- Melbourne and Sydney -- to

increase the number of international tourists from the country to Indonesia. “Australian tourists consider Bali as their second home,” he remarked at the Weekly Press Briefing here on April 4, 2022.

During the meeting with the Australian ambassador, the Indonesian minister was accompanied by Tourism and Creative Economy Ministry’s Deputy for Tourism Products and Event Organizers Rizki Handayani; Director of National and International Events Dessy Ruhati; as well as Director of Inter-Institutional Relations Iman Santosa. (*)