

INDONESIA NEWS

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JOKOWI REVIEWS ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE ON NIAS ISLAND

President Jokowi made a working visit to North Sumatra Province by reviewing the infrastructure of the Nias Ring National Road and Idano Sibolou Bridge in West Nias Regency, Wednesday (6/7).

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Widodo Reviews Road Infrastructure on Nias Island

President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) reviewed the development of the Laehuwa-Ombolata-Tumula-Faekhuna'a road in North Nias district, North Sumatra, and inspected the condition of the national road in the area on Wednesday (6/7).

"I WENT to Nias Island, North Nias, and then to Gunung Sitoli as well. I wanted to check their national roads, the provincial axis roads, and the district axis roads," he said in a video accessed on the Presidential Secretariat channel on Wednesday.

After the review, the President informed that the government is targeting to complete the construction of national road infrastructure in Nias by 2023. "For this national road, the circumference is only 16 kilometers; God willing, next year, everything will be completed because they really need a new road," the President said.

The work to improve the Laehuwa-Ombolata-Tumula-Faekhuna'a road in 2022 will be carried out with a budget of Rp32.36 billion. This section will connect the West Ring and East Ring of Nias, from North Nias to Gunung Sitoli city on Nias Island.

In addition to national roads, Widodo also highlighted the construction of the

provincial and district/city road axis. He said that the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing (PUPR) and the local government will handle the project. "Then, the provincial road should be handled by the Governor immediately, while the district road will be handled by the PUPR Ministry since the regional budget is not sufficient," he added.

The President said he hopes that the improvement of road infrastructure would boost economic growth in Nias Island.

"We want Nias' commodities, such as coconut, fish, and others, to reach a wider market and have good competitiveness if the infrastructure is ready, including for tourism. I see that surfing in Nias is also good and has promising demand," Widodo remarked.

Minister of Public Works and Public Housing, Basuki Hadimuljono; Minister of Law and Human Rights, Yasonna Laoly; Minister of State Secretary, Pratikno; Governor

of North Sumatra, Edy Rahmayadi; and head of North Nias district, Amizaro Waruwu, accompanied the President during the visit.

Nias infra development for opening up isolated regions

Jokowi inspected the Nias National Ring Road and Idano Sibolou Bridge in West Nias District, North Sumatra, after reviewing infrastructure in North Nias.

According to a statement released by the Presidential Secretariat here on Wednesday, the development of connectivity infrastructure on Nias Island is aimed at opening up the isolated western and northern regions of Nias and reducing extreme poverty.

A number of districts on Nias Island have been designated as underdeveloped areas with extreme poverty, as per Presidential Regulation No. 63 of 2020. Therefore, the government has issued Presidential Instruction No. 4 of 2022 on the Acceleration of Elimination of Extreme Poverty.

The infrastructure development in Nias is part of efforts to support the instruction, and is being carried out by the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing.

While observing infrastructure in West

Nias, Widodo received an explanation from the head of the North Sumatra National Road Implementation Center, Brawijaya.

According to Brawijaya, the center will build a 24-kilometer road in 2023, which will be a part of the Nias Ring Road that connects cities and districts on Nias Island.

"In addition, we will also handle (road infrastructure) from Gunungsitoli city to West Nias, and Lahomi to Sirombu. It is actually a provincial road," he said.

Meanwhile, the 50-meter Idano Sibolou Bridge was completed in 2021, with a budget of Rp13.74 billion. In North Nias, the President reviewed the project to improve the Laehuwa-Ombolata-Tumula-Faekhuna'a road infrastructure, which connects North Nias to Gunungsitoli city.

A budget of Rp32.36 billion will be used for the upgrade of the Laehuwa-Ombolata-Tumula-Faekhuna'a road in 2022.

Widodo said he hopes that the project will boost economic growth on Nias Island, so that regional commodities such as coconut and fish can compete in markets. Improved road infrastructure will also have a positive impact on the island's tourism, he added. "Because in here, (surfing) is in great demand," he said. (*)