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THE RETREAT SESSION OF THE 42ND ASEAN SUMMIT IN LABUAN BAJO

President Joko Widodo (center) poses for a photo with a number of ASEAN heads of state (from left) President of the Philippines Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr., Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Don Pramudwinai, Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of Laos Sonexay Siphandone, Sultan of Brunei Darussalam Hassanal Bolkiah, Prime Minister of Cambodia Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim, and Prime Minister of Timor Leste Taur Matan Ruak at the retreat session of the 42nd ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo, NTT, Thursday (11/5).

Jokowi Chairing Two Meetings on Second Day of ASEAN Summit

President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) will chair two of three meetings at the 42nd ASEAN Summit at Meruorah Hotel in Labuan Bajo, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), Thursday (11/5).

“TODAY is the second and final day of the 42nd ASEAN Summit. There will be three meetings,” Foreign Affairs Ministry’s spokesperson, Faizasyah, said in a press release from the Communication and Media Team for the ASEAN Summit.

The two meetings to be chaired by Jokowi are the Retreat Session and Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Summit. Meanwhile, the third meeting -- Brunei-Indonesia-Malay-

sia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth AREA (BIMP-EAGA) -- will be chaired by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, as Malaysia currently holds the chairmanship of BIMP-EAGA.

On the first day of the summit, the Indonesian head of government chaired five meetings, including the opening and panel sessions, ASEAN Leaders’ Interface Meetings with Representatives of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA),

Representatives of ASEAN Youth, and Representatives of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC).

In addition, the president chaired the ASEAN leaders’ interface meeting with the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV). The first day produced ASEAN leaders’ joint statements and declarations on several matters, such as the creation of One Health Initiative, migrant workers’ protection, and advancing regional payment connectivity as well as local currencies’ transactions.

Furthermore, the joint statements encapsulate the determination in eradicating human trafficking practices due to the abuse of technology. The 42nd ASEAN Summit involves the leaders of the bloc’s

member countries, Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, and ASEAN Secretary General Kao Kim Hourn.

Of the 10 ASEAN countries, only the heads of states of Thailand and Myanmar did not attend the summit.

Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha is absent due to the country’s preparation to hold the upcoming general elections on May 14. With regard to Myanmar, the ASEAN did not politically invite the country due to the bloc’s firm decision to not involve the country’s junta in its high-level meetings.

The series of events of the ASEAN Summit will be concluded with a press conference by President Jokowi at the Media Center at the Bintang Flores Hotel, Labuan Bajo, Thursday.(*)