

Wednesday, Mar. 18th, 2020

GENERAL NEWS AND HEADLINES

Transjakarta to require non-cash payments to minimize COVID-19 transmissions

Detik (<https://tinyurl.com/t5o93z6>); Antara News (<https://tinyurl.com/tmdtqta>)

To curb the rapid transmission of the COVID-19 coronavirus, PT Transjakarta has announced that all of its monetary transactions must be cashless starting on March 19. This will serve as another preventative measure taken in response to the COVID-19 outbreak in the country, whereby cashless payments would minimize physical contacts between staff members and customers.

Transjakarta spokesperson Nadia Diposanjoyo said in a written statement earlier today that services requiring cash payments, including e-money card purchases and top-ups at all bus rapid transit (BRT) stations, were to cease temporarily.

Nadia said all passengers were recommended to ensure their e-money cards still had sufficient balances before traveling. She added that top-ups could still be done using the debit cards of several banks, including Bank BCA, Bank Mandiri and BNI. Additionally, passengers can also use other top-up methods provided by ATMs and minimarkets.

Regional elections to be held as planned

Katadata (<https://tinyurl.com/w6j25vv>)

Coordinating Political, Legal and Security Affairs Minister Mahfud MD affirmed that the 2020 regional elections would take place in September despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mahfud denied all speculations regarding a delay of this year's regional elections, asserting that the technical, operational, political and security aspects of the elections are being prepared in advance.

General Elections Commission (KPU) head Arief Budiman said his team was in the process of recruiting voting committees (PPS), which would be followed by the inauguration of the PPS in their respective subdistricts.

Previously, Arief instructed the KPU to suspend all activities that required large mass gatherings, including training for and the launching of elections, until March 31.

KPK limits detention center visitors over COVID-19 pandemic

The Jakarta Post (<https://tinyurl.com/w9nflpy>)

The Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) has announced it will limit visits to its detention center because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The statement came after the Law and Human Rights Ministry's Correctional Directorate General announced measures to prevent an outbreak in correctional facilities, namely prisons, jails and children's detention centers.

Visits to 524 prisons across the country would only be suspended if the respective regional administrations declare COVID-19 emergencies after coordinating with the National Disaster Mitigation Agency.

Ali, however, said the KPK's investigations would proceed as usual, adding that all suspects and witnesses were required undergo body temperature checks. All witnesses and suspects whose body temperatures are above normal are to be reported to the prosecution deputy and the KPK's clinic.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS NEWS AND HEADLINES

Businesses plea for more economic aid

CNN Indonesia, (<https://tinyurl.com/rlyqbd>); *Kontan*, (<https://tinyurl.com/vd5dh2d>)

Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin) chairman Rosan Roeslani requested that the government expand its tax exemption program beyond the

manufacturing sector and provide more economic aid, particularly for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). He hopes the government can delay the payment and collection of its microcredit program Kredit Usaha Rakyat (KUR) for six months and lower the KUR rate. Association of Young Indonesian Businessmen (HIPMI) deputy for economy and finance Ajib Hamdani also requested more economic aid in order to improve the liquidity and cashflow of many businesses.

Jokowi considers fuel price cut

Kontan, (<https://tinyurl.com/wqyqe9z>); *Bisnis Indonesia*, (<https://tinyurl.com/ww77bzj>); *Kompas*, (<https://tinyurl.com/vly6huk>)

President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo is considering a fuel price cut following the fall of global crude oil prices to the level of US\$30 per barrel and has asked his ministers to evaluate the price of both subsidized and non-subsidized fuels. Coordinating Economic Minister Airlangga Hartarto confirmed the possibility of a fuel price cut after holding a limited meeting with President Jokowi via video conference today.

Bulog to conduct market operation for sugar

Bisnis Indonesia, (<https://tinyurl.com/sn5r6do>); *CNBC Indonesia*, (<https://tinyurl.com/quanmey>)

The State Logistics Agency (Bulog) will conduct market operations in the next two weeks by distributing 50,000 tons of imported white crystalized sugar at the price of Rp 10,500 per kilogram, below the ceiling price of Rp 12,500 per kg. Bulog’s decision to sell the imported sugar below its ceiling price will drive down the market price from above the level of Rp 16,000 per kg, Bulog operations and public service director Tri Wahyudi Saleh said. The sale price has been approved by the Coordinating Economic Minister.

Work from home policy affects online ‘ojek’ drivers’ income

Detik, (<https://tinyurl.com/trbewdw>, <https://tinyurl.com/rtt8frn>)

The implementation of a work-from-home policy in Greater Jakarta has affected the income of online ‘ojek’ (motorcycle taxi) drivers. Two-Wheeled Action Movement (Garda) leader Igun Wicaksono claimed the work-from-home policy has cuts drivers’ income from ride-hailing by an average of 50 percent. The most severe reductions have occurred in Central and South Jakarta, where the city’s main business districts are located. Nevertheless, the demand for courier services and food delivery has increased by 10 percent, he added. The increase for such services has occurred in residential areas.

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