

Monday, May 18th, 2020**GENERAL NEWS AND HEADLINES****PSBB yet to be relaxed: President Jokowi**

Kompas (<https://tinyurl.com/yavopgf7>); *Republika* (<https://tinyurl.com/yb9b7jsb>); *Detik* (<https://tinyurl.com/y9ojj4mv>); *CNN Indonesia* (<https://tinyurl.com/y8csspfc>); *Liputan6* (<https://tinyurl.com/yajhbw7z>)

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo insisted during a virtual meeting earlier today that the large-scale social restrictions (PSBB) policy has yet to be relaxed. The government, according to Jokowi, is currently preparing possible scenarios for any such relaxation.

"We are currently preparing the scenario regarding the PSBB relaxation. The decision will be made at the right time, after studying the data," Jokowi added. The President said that the Idul Fitri *mudik* (exodus) ban was still in place.

Jokowi needs to freshen up Cabinet to handle COVID-19: PSI

Media Indonesia (<https://tinyurl.com/yaeapzor>)

The Indonesian Solidarity Party (PSI) has suggested President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo reshuffle his Indonesia Onward Cabinet to ensure that the country can successfully fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

"A Cabinet reshuffle is necessary to replace ministers whose performances are sluggish and have failed to adapt to the current crisis," PSI spokesperson Dara Nasution said in a written statement published earlier today.

While acknowledging that a Cabinet reshuffle was the President's prerogative, Dana added that it was needed, especially considering the public's mounting dissatisfaction with the government's COVID-19 handling measures.

House, KPU, Home Ministry to discuss upcoming regional elections

Kompas (<https://tinyurl.com/ybpmmjzb>); *Media Indonesia* (<https://tinyurl.com/y9zbpbly>); *Republika* (<https://tinyurl.com/y7noktts>)

House of Representatives Commission II plans to hold a meeting on Wednesday with Home Minister Tito Karnavian and the General Elections Commission (KPU) to discuss the preliminary stages of the 2020 simultaneous regional elections, which have been postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was previously decided that polling day for the 2020 simultaneous regional elections would be postponed three months and would be held on Dec. 9. However, if the COVID-19 pandemic has not been brought under control by the beginning of the elections' preliminary stages, they will be delayed further.

Should voting be conducted in December, the first preliminary stage will then be conducted in June. Considering the urgency of the subject, the House decided to hold a meeting during its recess.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS NEWS AND HEADLINES

Financial market expects BI to cut rate

Bisnis Indonesia, (<https://tinyurl.com/y8dczgr2>, <https://tinyurl.com/y7duqogc>)

Economists in the financial market predict Bank Indonesia (BI) will cut its rate by 25 basis points to 4.25 percent in the monthly board of governors meeting on May 18 and May 19 in order to boost the flagging economy. According to Bloomberg's market consensus survey, 11 economists predict the central bank will cut the rate, while four expect the seven-day reserve repo rate to stay at 4.5 percent. Last April, BI held the rate at 4.5 percent to maintain rupiah stability amid strong capital outflow.

Association urges members to speed up garlic imports before Idul Fitri

CNBC Indonesia, (<https://tinyurl.com/ybdzq6d9>); Kontan, (<https://tinyurl.com/ycj7m9rx>)

The Indonesian Onions and Root Vegetables Entrepreneurs (Pusbarindo) have urged importers to help stabilize garlic prices and maintain supply availability ahead of Idul Fitri, which falls on May 23 and 24. Pusbarindo chairman Valentino said from March 1 to May 16 Indonesia had imported 91,000 tons garlic from China, and more would come in until May 31. A lack of supply has pushed up domestic garlic prices, and President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo has instructed the Agriculture Ministry and the Trade Ministry to resolve the issue.

Freeport cuts workforce at Grasberg as COVID-19 cases rise

The Jakarta Post, (<https://tinyurl.com/y9tl7ae6>)

Freeport-McMoran Inc.’s Indonesian unit has said it will operate the giant Grasberg mine with a “skeletal team” after a rise in coronavirus infections in the area, including at mine workers’ living quarters, and three deaths. “We are trying to reduce the number of workers, reduce the population. We just have a skeletal team to run the mine. For contractors whose projects have been delayed or postponed, we have returned their employees. We have also removed workers who are in the risk category,” Freeport spokesman Riza Pratama told Reuters. COVID-19 infections in Mimika regency, where the mine is located, reached 150 cases as of Sunday, including 102 cases in Tembagapura, the living quarters built to house Grasberg’s workers and their families.

Minna Padi customers plea for help from Jokowi

CNBC Indonesia, (<https://tinyurl.com/y7ckzolq>)

Minna Padi Asset Manajemen customers have asked for President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo to intervene to resolve losses incurred due to the liquidation of six Minna Padi mutual fund products by the Financial Services Authority (OJK). One of the representatives, Catherine, requested help from the House of Representatives Commission VI overseeing trade, industry and investment in recovering Rp 6 trillion (\$402,200) in funds owned by 6,000 customers. Meanwhile, Minna Padi said the company had submitted the liquidation plan for its six mutual fund products to the OJK and was currently waiting for approval.

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