

Friday, Sept. 25th, 2020

GENERAL NEWS AND HEADLINES

Task force warns of potential COVID-19 clusters at flood shelters

The Jakarta Post (<https://tinyurl.com/y3kcdvdc>)

National COVID-19 task force spokesperson Wiku Adisasmito has warned the public about possible infection clusters at shelters for flood victims as the rainy season approaches. "We are calling on regional governments to be vigilant to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission. One potential source of COVID-19 clusters would be the flood victims' shelters," Wiku said on Thursday.

Adherence to health protocols at the shelters, including wearing masks, physical distancing and washing hands, could reduce the risk of transmission, he said. He also noted the importance of maintaining the cleanliness of the shelters and providing sufficient air circulation and sunlight to protect the people from common rainy season diseases such as dengue fever, diarrhea, leprosy, typhus and skin disease.

"All of these diseases could lower people's immunity, causing them to become more susceptible to contracting COVID-19," he said.

The Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) predicted the rainy season – which often brings floods – will begin in late October or early November this year, but several regions have already reported torrential rain during the current transition from the dry season to the wet season.

Febri Diansyah reveals reason behind resignation from KPK

Detik (<https://tinyurl.com/y242cxe6>)

Febri Diansyah, the head of the Corruption Eradication Commission's (KPK) public relations bureau, revealed his decision to resign from the anti-graft body.

"I've tried [to adjust] to the new situation in KPK, to serve as the body's head of public relations bureau. However, I feel like opportunities [for KPK employees] to make contributions have declined," said Febri.

Previously, Febri served as the KPK's spokesperson, before he was posted in the agency's public relations bureau after KPK appointed its new chairman, Firli Bahuri. Febri was among those who strongly opposed the contentious revision of the KPK Law back in September 2019 since the revision was deemed detrimental to the KPK's independence.

"The effectiveness of anti-corruption measures and the KPK's performance depends on [the KPK's] independence. Currently, [the KPK] is no longer an independent agency. We don't know for sure what the future will be for the KPK," said Febri.

Febri submitted his resignation letter on Sept. 18, as affirmed by KPK spokesperson Ali Fikri. In his resignation letter, Febri cited "changes in the KPK's political and legal condition" as the reason for his departure. Febri's official resignation is presumed to take effect on Oct. 18.

49 people detained during Farmer's Day rally

CNN Indonesia (<https://tinyurl.com/yyfk5tek>)

The National Committee of Agrarian Reform (KNPA) reported that at least 49 protestors who attended Farmer's Day rallies on Thursday in several locations were detained by the police. In a written statement, the KNPA said the 49 detainees consisted of university students and activists from a number of regions, including Makassar, Solo, Bengkulu, Kupang and Manado.

The KNPA deemed the detainment of protestors as a form of repression against democracy and free speech. The organization urged President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and National Police chief Gen. Idham Azis to immediately release the protestors.

Meanwhile, Makassar Police chief Sr. Comr. Yudhiawan Wibisono said the protestors were arrested for allegedly attacking police officers during the rally. "We detained 20 protestors because they hurt three police officers," said Yudhiawan.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS NEWS AND HEADLINES

Airlangga: 2020 GDP to contract by 0.6 to 1.7 percent

CNBC Indonesia (<https://tinyurl.com/y4oob5t7>); Liputan6 (<https://tinyurl.com/yxswul7z>)

Coordinating Economic Minister Airlangga Hartarto predicts the Indonesian economy to contract between 0.6 to 1.7 percent this year. "And in the third quarter – one more week – [the economy is] predicted to shrink by 1 to 3 percent," Airlangga said during a coordination meeting with the National Economic Recovery and COVID-19 Mitigation Committee in Bintan, Riau Islands. But, Airlangga remains optimistic with the prospect of economic recovery in 2021 by reiterating the government growth target in the range of 4.5 to 5.5 percent. "It depends on vaccine availability, 270 million vaccines as planned by the government," Airlangga explained.

BI: Indonesia's foreign financial liability increases

Kontan (<https://tinyurl.com/yxcqzpcb>); CNN Indonesia (<https://tinyurl.com/y3u4ndyu>); Kompas (<https://tinyurl.com/yycg2wgp>)

Bank Indonesia announced that Indonesia's foreign financial liability (FFL) climbed by 6.3 percent quarter-on-quarter (qoq) to US\$659.6 billion in the second quarter of this year. Meanwhile, the country's foreign financial assets (FFA) only increased by 4 percent qoq, specifically from \$364.1 billion to \$378.8 billion. Consequently, Indonesia's net liability increased to \$280.8 billion or 25.7 percent to gross domestic product (GDP). BI spokesperson Onny Widjanarko said the increase in net liability was due capital inflow in term of portfolio investment.

Modernland negotiates Rp 5.79 trillion debt restructuring

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

Publicly listed property developer PT Modernland Realty is negotiating a debt restructuring scheme for its US dollar denominated bonds amounting US\$390 million. Modernland president director William Honoris held a video conference with bondholders to discuss the restructuring scheme this morning at 10.30 PM Singapore time, accompanied the company's financial consultant Borelli Walsh and legal consultant Milbank LLP. Previously, credit rating agency Fitch Ratings

downgraded Modernland's rating, as well as the rating of its two dollar denominated bonds from CC to C. One bond is worth \$150 million with due date in 2021. Another is due in 2024 and worth \$240 million.

Renewable bill draft mentions govt subsidy for renewable energy tariffs

CNBC Indonesia (<https://tinyurl.com/y2nm69td>)

According to the latest renewable bill draft, the government is going to provide subsidy for renewable energy tariffs. The subsidy is regulated in Article 47 of the bill draft, which is written as 'if electricity tariffs from renewable energy-based power plants is higher than the PLN's electricity supply cost, the government shall pay for the difference between the tariffs and the supply cost to PLN'. In support of the article, Halim Kalla, the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry deputy chairman for renewable energy, said, "Hopefully, subsidy provision could improve the economic value of [renewable] projects." Indonesian Renewable Energy Society (METI) chairman Surya Dharma also support the article, saying it provides certainty for investment in renewable energy projects.

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