

GENERAL NEWS AND HEADLINES
Indonesia welcomes foreign assistance

The Jakarta Post,
Headline

Although the government has yet to officially declare the 7.4-magnitude earthquake and tsunami that hit Central Sulawesi on Sept. 29 a national disaster, President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has welcomed assistance from foreign donors, ranging from transport aircraft to medical supplies, to assist the government's efforts in the region. Coordinating Political, Legal and Security Affairs Minister Wiranto, who is assigned to oversee the assistance, said that 14 countries, including Singapore, Malaysia, India, Qatar, South Korea and the United States, had expressed their commitment to help the ongoing disaster relief efforts.

According to the National Disaster Mitigation Agency's (BNPB) latest data, the death toll has reached 1,234, while 799 people are heavily injured following the natural disasters.

Evacuations in Donggala and Sigi stymied

Koran Tempo,
Headlines

Days after the earthquake and tsunami that occurred in Central Sulawesi, the Search and Rescue (SAR) team is still encountering difficulties evacuating victims of the natural disasters in several areas in Donggala and Sigi districts. Reportedly, the difficulties are caused by the geographical condition of the areas; not only have the roads leading to the areas been destroyed by the disasters, the areas are also hilly, making it particularly challenging to send heavy equipment to there. So far, the National Search and Rescue Agency (Basarnas) has sent personnel to evacuate the victims with aircraft, and the evacuation process in the affected area is carried out mainly with manpower.

Parties to mirror candidates

Kompas, p. 4

A day after presidential and vice-presidential candidates announced the postponement of their campaign in Central Sulawesi, political parties have decided to temporarily cease their legislative election campaigns as well in the region. Just like the presidential and vice-presidential candidates, the parties are halting their campaign in Central Sulawesi to ensure that all available resources will be devoted to assist the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in the region. Furthermore, the postponement of the campaign is also to avoid any

	political misconduct while humanitarian efforts are much needed. Following the decision, General Elections Commission (KPU) member Wahyu Setiawan expressed his appreciation of the parties' initiative. He also reminded parties that giving humanitarian relief as part of their campaign could be violating Law No. 7/2017 on Elections, stipulating that participants of elections were not allowed to give promises, money or any other material goods to the public.
Scenarios on post-disaster elections constructed <i>Republika, p. 3</i>	The General Elections Commission (KPU) is formulating a number of possible scenarios on elections in regions affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Central Sulawesi. KPU commissioner Viryan Aziz predicted that elections in the region might not have enough, or any, voters following the natural disasters. Not only have many of the registered voters in the areas been killed by the disasters, some of them are still missing. In addressing this matter, the commission has urged its local branches to re-record voters in Central Sulawesi. Furthermore, the KPU will reportedly regroup polling stations in the region as well. Elections Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) commissioner Fritz Edward Siregar said the agency had yet to consider delaying elections in the affected areas. In the meantime, Bawaslu is still assessing the extent of damage to infrastructure following the disasters.
KPI limits TV campaign ads ahead of 2019 <i>The Jakarta Post, p. 8</i>	As part of an effort to maintain media neutrality ahead of the general election next year, the Indonesian Broadcasting Commission (KPI) has formed a joint media supervisory team comprising several divisions, with each focusing on media companies, broadcasting companies, national press, broadcast of publication time, political TV spots and other forms of political ads. KPI deputy chairman Sujarwanto Rahmat M. Arifin said the commission would cooperate with the General Elections Commission (KPU), the Elections Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu) and the Press Council to preserve media neutrality during the campaign season. In terms of political ads for the ongoing campaign season, the commission stipulates that each candidate is only allowed a total of 10 TV spots, each with a maximum duration of 30 seconds for every TV station every day. Furthermore, candidates are advised against publishing advertorials.

Rupiah surpasses Rp 15,000/US\$ <i>Bisnis Indonesia and Investor Daily, headline</i>	The rupiah reached its highest point since 2008, where on Tuesday it touched Rp 15,043 and potentially creates a new normal. Several economists and businessmen are urging the government to take immediate actions to stop the rupiah from plummeting further. The Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin) deputy chairwoman for international relations Shinta Widjaja Kamdani, for example, suggested for fuel base price increase to reduce the pressure on the state budget. Meanwhile, Indonesian Employers Association (Apindo) chairman Hariyadi Sukamdani opted for longer term solution such as invigorating upstream and downstream industry. Hariyadi said the same problem would repeat itself if the government could not release itself from imported capital goods dependency. "There must be an incentive to attract the upstream manufacturing business." Meanwhile, the government and Bank Indonesia said they are committed to safeguard rupiah's new normal hence it won't disrupt macroprudential stability.
RI may miss tourism target <i>Bisnis Indonesia, p.3</i>	The government's US\$ 17 billion foreign exchange target from tourism sector may not be achieved after the number of visitations in between January to August 2018 were growing below expectation. The Central Statistics Agency (BPS) recorded around 10.58 million foreign visitations in January until August 2018 or 12.3 percent increase from the same period last year. However, the growth was slowing compared to January-August 2017 to January-August 2016, which grew by 25.68 percent. Center of Reform on Economics (CORE) director Mohammad Faisal said a stable 20 percent visitations growth per month is needed for Indonesia to achieve the 17 million foreign tourist and US\$17 billion targets.
Benefitting from new retail bond <i>Kontan, headline</i>	The government is preparing to launch new saving retail bond after the huge hit with SBR004. The new bond – ORI015 – will market in October 4 until 25. The bond will also have higher return coupon than the SBR004 at 8.25 percent per year. Ashmore Asset Management Indonesia fixed income fund manager Anil Kunmar said the high coupon suggests government's needs for fresh funds. Moreover, ORI015 has lower minimum purchase at Rp 1 million, from Rp 5 million, which is expected to boost its sales.
New challenge for Indonesian CPO	Crude palm oil industry may find itself facing new challenge called Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) regulation. The European Union and the US government

<i>Kontan</i> , p.18	are currently reviewing the regulation and its potential implementation. The ILUC relates to the unintended consequence of releasing more carbon emissions due to land-use changes around the world induced by the expansion of croplands for ethanol or biodiesel production in response to the increased global demand for biofuels. This would inevitably include palm plantation which has contributed to a lot of land-use changes in Indonesia.
Developers want subsidized house base price to increase <i>Investor Daily</i> , p.1	Some property developers from Real Estate Indonesia (REI) and Association of Housing Development in Indonesia (Apersi) have demanded breakthroughs to achieve the One million House Program (PSR) induced by the government. They suggest for faster permit processing and higher base price as incentives for developers to complete the target on time. Since the program started in 2015, data from the Public Housing and Public Works Ministry showed only 736,187 units have been completed. With the program intended to complete in 2019, PSR delay would become a bad mark for the government ahead of 2019 election.

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