

WEEKLY MEDIA MONITORING

HEADLINES

- **President Joko Widodo ordered Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Region and Transmigration, Eko Putro Sandjojo, to allocate a slice of the Village Fund to pay for daily or weekly payment for workers in the labor intensive program next year.** It is estimated that five million workers will be absorbed for up to 60 working days in the program next year.
- **In Yogyakarta, around 4,000 village heads attended the 2017 National Village Summit (Rembug Desa Nasional) held on 26-28 November** to discuss the implementation of Law No. 6/2014 on Villages. The Summit adopted Panggungharjo Charter that reaffirms the commitment on village empowerment and environmental quality management.
- **During the National Village Summit, the Villages Minister said village development has been a priority over the last three years, with the provision of Rp 127 trillion of Village Fund and through various programs in 19 ministries worth Rp 500 trillion.** These programs helped the government met the target of the National Mid-term Development Plan (RPJMN) to raise the status of 5,000 disadvantaged villages into developing villages.

The Villages Minister is optimistic the Village Fund can be absorbed 100 percent this year. The Minister said the absorption rate has reached 98 percent of Rp 60 trillion, up from 82 percent in 2015. Increased absorption rate means improvement in village government's capacity to manage the fund.

1. VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

President Joko Widodo ordered Minister of Villages, Disadvantaged Regions and Transmigration, Eko Putro Sandjojo, to arrange for daily or weekly payment for workers in cash-for-work program next year. The government planned to set aside 30 percent of the Village Fund (Rp 18 trillion) for wages through the program, which is estimated to absorb five million workers for up to 60 working days.

Head of Central Java Community Empowerment Office, Sudaryanto, asked the central government to issue technical guidelines on the use of village fund for cash-for-work program. According to Sudaryanto, the labor

intensifying program is not applicable to all types of project. Certain infrastructure developments, such as bridge construction, are better implemented by professional contractors, he said.

In Yogyakarta, around 4,000 village heads attended the 2017 National Village Summit (*Rembug Desa Nasional*) in Panggungharjo Village, Bantul District on 26-28 November to evaluate the implementation of Law No. 6/2014 on Villages. The Summit adopted Panggungharjo Charter that reaffirms the commitment on village empowerment and environmental quality management.

During the National Village Summit, the Villages Minister said village development has become a priority over the last three years, with the provision of Rp 127 trillion of Village Fund and through various programs in 19 ministries worth Rp 500 trillion. These programs helped the government met the target of the National Mid-term Development Plan (RPJMN) to raise the status of 5,000 disadvantaged villages into developing villages. The Village Fund program have also contributed to local economic development, primarily through the improvement of village infrastructures and facilities.

Sources:

- [Jokowi Ingin Upah Program Padat Karya di Desa Dibayar Harian](#) – Liputan6.com, November 28, 2017
- [Mendes: Dana Desa Tak Boleh Pakai Jasa Kontraktor](#) – Suara Pembaruan, November 28, 2017
- [Tahun Depan, Kontraktor Dilarang Garap Proyek Dana Desa](#) – Kompas.com, November 28, 2017
- [Pemprov Tungu Juknis Dana Desa 2018](#) – Suara Merdeka, November 30, 2017
- [Ribuan Kepala Desa Ikuti Refleksi 3 Tahun UU Desa](#) – Koran Sindo, November 27, 2017
- [Penyerapan Dana Desa Capai 98%](#) – Koran Sindo, November 28, 2017
- [Dana Desa Bangun 121 Ribu KM Jalan](#) – Media Indonesia, November 28, 2017
- [3 Tahun Dana Desa Dikururkan, 121 Kilometer Jalan Dibanqun](#) – Viva.co.id, November 27, 2017

2. VILLAGE FUND DISBURSEMENT AND REPORTING

The Villages Minister is optimistic the Village Fund can be absorbed 100 percent this year. The Minister said the absorption rate already reached 98 percent of Rp 60 trillion, up from 82 percent in 2015. Increased absorption rate means improvement in village government's capacity to manage the fund.

In Subang District, West Java, based on the analysis on Village Fund Phase 1 realization reports, the local government indicates that many village heads have difficulty in the implementation of projects financed with Village Fund, particularly in determining the standards of unit costs and construction quality.

Three villages in Banjar District, South Kalimantan, have not received Village Fund Phase 1 because the authorities are still evaluating the reports of fund misuse in these areas. The villages are Jingah Habang Ilir in Karang Intan Subdistrict, as well as Pejambuan and Lokbuntar Villages in Sungai Tabuk Subdistrict.

The Association of Village Chiefs in Aceh Utara District urged the district government to immediately disburse Village Fund Phase 2 of Rp 362 billion to 852 villages. The district government said the request for funds disbursement had been submitted on 27 November and is currently being processed by the State Treasury Service Office (KPPN).

Aceh Barat district government said 82 percent of the villages have submitted Village Fund Phase 1 realization reports, and are ready to receive the Phase 2 of the fund.

Sources:

- [Mendes Yakin Dana Desa Terserap 100 Persen](#) – Metrotvnews.com, November 28, 2017
- [Dana Desa Bangun 121 Ribu KM Jalan](#) – Media Indonesia, November 28, 2017
- [Menteri Eko Optimis Dana Desa Terserap 100 Persen](#) – Kompas.com, November 28, 2017
- [Dana Desa Tahap II Siap Dicairkan](#) – Pikiran Rakyat, November 28, 2017
- [Tiga Desa di Kabupaten Ini Belum Terima Kucuran Dana Desa Tahap II](#) – Banjarmasin.tribunnews.com, December 1, 2017
- [Dana Desa Tahap II Belum Cair](#) – Serambi Indonesia, November 30, 2017
- [Sudah Dikirim ke KPPN](#) – Serambi Indonesia, November 30, 2017
- [Aceh Barat Laporkan Dana Desa ke Kemenkeu](#) – Serambi Indonesia, November 27, 2017

3. CORRUPTION AND ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES

Pekanbaru District Court in Riau sentenced a village chief in Rokan Hilir District with five years imprisonment and Rp 200 million fine in a village fund corruption case. The convict also has to return Rp 399 million fund.

In North Sumatra, Tangga Bosi village head in Padang Lawas District was detained by the District Attorney in a corruption case that inflicted Rp 286 million of state losses. The suspect allegedly marked up public toilets project, and created fictitious procurement and road improvement projects for 2016 Village Fund. The road project actually financed by the Public Works Agency has been claimed to be a village fund project.

In East Nusa Tenggara, East Sumba District Attorney arrested former village head, secretary, and treasurer of Palakahembi Village over misappropriation of village budgets in 2013 and 2014 amounting to Rp 230 million. In the neighbouring Malaka District, dozens of Alkani villagers reported the village head to the police over alleged embezzlement of village officials' salaries totalling at Rp 22 million.

Sources:

- [Berita Video – Breakingnews: Kejari Sumba Timur Tahan Tiga Tersangka Korupsi ADD](#) – Kupang.tribunnews.com, November 28, 2017
 - [Kajari Sumtim Tahan Tiga Tersangka](#) – Kupang Pos, November 29, 2017
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- [Kasus Korupsi Dana Desa, Kades di Riau Tuntut 5 Tahun Penjara](#) – Detik.com, November 28, 2017
- [Laqi, Kades Ditahan Lantaran Korupsi Dana Desa](#) – Jppn.com, December 1, 2017
- [BRIA Siap Ikut Proses Hukum](#) – Kupang Pos, November 27, 2017

4. VILLAGE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (BUMDES)

Long Bagun Ilir Village in Mahakam Ulu District, East Kalimantan, built a market with a budget of around Rp 400 million. The market will be managed by the village-owned enterprise (BUMDes).

Source:

- [Long Bagun Ilir Hahulu Bangun Pasar Desa](#) – Kaltim.antarnews.com, November 28, 2017

5. VILLAGE GOVERNANCE

In Garut District, West Java, only 210 of the 442 villages are utilizing village financial system (Siskeudes). The government said every village needs to receive training on Siskeudes, rather than having only one representative from each village attended the training held at subdistrict level.

In East Java, Ngadas and Jetak villages in Probolinggo are picked as pilot locations for village fund utilization. Secretary General of the Ministry of Villages, Anwar Sanusi said, the ministry would document and disseminate the system used in these two villages, which emphasizes the principles of transparency, public participation (*gotong royong*) and self-management (*swakelola*).

In Jombang district, East Java, dozens of Kedungturi villagers protested against the village head's decision to appoint his son as village secretary.

Sources:

- [Belum Semua Desa Terapkan Siskeudes](#) – Pikiran Rakyat, Desember 2, 2017
- [Desa Ngadas & Jetak Bakal Jadi Percontohan Penggunaan Dana Desa](#) – Metrotvnews.com, November 28, 2017
- [Dana Desa Tak Transparan, Kades Didemo Warga](#) – Jppn.com, November 27, 2017

6. VILLAGE HEAD ELECTIONS

In Serang District, Banten, about 600 residents of Kadubeureum Village could not vote in the village head election as they were not included in the voters list. The election committee argued that the list was provided

by the District's Population and Civil Registry Agency. Serang District conducted simultaneous elections in 33 villages with the average participation rate of 80 percent.

Sources:

- [Pilkades Kadubereum Diprotes](#) – Radar Banten, November 27, 2017

7. ADDITIONAL NEWS

- **BALI:** The Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture (PMK) will coordinate inter-ministerial cooperation on the recovery efforts following Mount Agung eruption. The Village Ministry will participate through the utilization of village fund ([Dana Desa untuk Percepatan Pembangunan Pascabencana Gunung Agung](#) – Indopos.co.id, December 1, 2017)
- **EAST JAVA:** The Waste Bank initiative at Keboharan Village in Sidoarjo District won an environmental award from the district government ([Gelorakan Takakura, Kembangkan Bank Sampah](#) – Jawa Pos, December 1, 2017).

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