

WEEKLY MEDIA MONITORING

HEADLINES

- **President Joko Widodo blamed red tape for the low disbursement rate of the 2018 Village Fund Phase 1.** The central government is undertaking efforts to simplify the red tape at all levels of government. As of April 27, 2018, the central government has wired Rp 14.12 trillion of the Village Fund to district governments. However, most of the money have not been distributed to villages.
 - **The Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration is bullish the cash-for-work program in 2018 could absorb around five million workers.** The government set aside Rp 18 trillion (30 percent) from the 2018 Village Fund for the program.
 - **The Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration said the Village Fund program over the past four years has reduced inequality.** He stated that as of April 2018, the Gini ratio in rural areas reached 0.32, or lower than the national figure of 0.39.
 - **The latest World Bank data shows that maternal mortality rate in Indonesia stands at 126 deaths per 100,000 live births,** higher than 102 deaths per 100,000 live births set by the 2015 Millennium Development Goals, of which Indonesia is a party.
 - **In 2018, the Ministry of Education and Culture focuses on the following three programs:** the distribution of Smart Indonesia Card (KIP) to 16.4 million students, revitalization of Vocational High School (SMK), and character building program.
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1. VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

The Minister of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration is bullish the cash-for-work program in 2018 could absorb around five million workers. The government has set aside Rp 18 trillion (30 percent) from the 2018 Village Fund for the program.

The Minister also said the Village Fund program over the past four years has reduced inequality. He stated that as of April 2018, the Gini ratio in rural areas reached 0.32, or lower than the national figure of 0.39.

During a visit to Gorontalo District in Gorontalo, the Minister said how the Rural Areas Primary Product Program (*Produk Unggulan Kawasan Perdesaan, Prukades*) has succeeded in reducing the poverty rate in the district from 22 percent to 20 percent.

Meanwhile, chairperson of the United Development Party (PPP) called on village governments to allocate a portion of the Village Fund to assist Islamic kindergartens and playgrounds.

Sources:

- [Swakelola, Aqar Dana Desa Tetap Berputar di Desa](#) – Pikiran Rakyat, Apr. 30, 2018
- [Program Padat Karya Tunai Serap 5 Juta Tenaga Kerja](#) – Pikiran Rakyat, Apr. 30, 2018
- [Mendes: Dana Desa Menginspirasi Negara Lain](#) – Antaranews.com, May. 3, 2018
- [Mendes PDTT: Prukades Turunkan Kemiskinan di Gorontalo](#) – Metrotvnews.com, May. 5, 2018
- [Ketum PPP Harapkan Ini dari Dana Desa](#) – Detik.com, May. 3, 2018

2. VILLAGE FUND ALLOCATION AND DISBURSEMENT

President Joko Widodo blamed red tape for the low disbursement rate of the 2018 Village Fund Phase 1. The central government is undertaking efforts to simplify the red tape at all levels of government.

As of April 27, 2018, the central government has wired Rp 14.12 trillion of the Village Fund to district governments. However, most of the money have not been distributed to villages as many villages have not met the administrative requirements.

In Timor Tengah Selatan District, East Nusa Tenggara, only 10 of the 266 villages received Village Fund Phase 1. In Bengkulu, none of the 14 villages in Seluma Utara Subdistrict have met the requirements. In Ambon City, only 12 of the 30 villages have received the fund.

In Manggarai Barat District, East Nusa Tenggara, 66 percent of the villages have received the fund. In Sukoharjo District, Central Java, 83 percent of the villages have completed the 2018 Village Budget (APBDes) required to receive the Fund.

Sources:

- [Kades Diwarning Cairkan DD](#) – Bengkuluexpress.com, May. 1, 2018
 - [Dana Desa Mandek, Jokowi Salahkan Ruwetnya Prosedur](#) – Viva.co.id, Apr. 30, 2018
 - [Dana Desa Mengendap di Kabupaten/Kota](#) – Kompas, Apr. 30, 2018
 - [256 Desa di TTS Belum Cairkan Dana Desa Tahap I. Ini Masalahnya](#) – Kupang.tribunnews.com, May. 1, 2018
 - [12 Desa DI Telah Terima Kucuran DD](#) – Ambon Express, May. 5, 2018
 - [56 Desa Tunggu Dana Desa](#) – Media Indonesia, Mei. 2, 2018
 - [Mental Kepala Desa Jadi Penghambat](#) – Kupang Pos, May. 3, 2018
 - [25 Desa Belum Selesaikan APBDes](#) – Suaramerdeka.com, May. 5, 2018
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3. CORRUPTION AND ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES

In East Java, the head of Wonokupang Village in Sidoarjo District was detained for embezzling Rp 277 million of the 2017 village budget.

In Riau Province, the High Prosecutors Office arrested a corruption case suspect that had gone into hiding in South Jakarta. The suspect is allegedly involved in stealing Rp 1,1 billion from the tender of village financial system (*Siskeudes*) application development in Siak District.

Sources:

- [Berita Foto: Tersangka Korupsi Sistem Keuangan Desa](#) – Media Indonesia, May. 5, 2018
- [Diduga Korupsi, Kepala Desa di Sidoarjo ini Dibui](#) – Detik.com, Apr. 30, 2018
- [Kejari Tahan Kades Wonokupang](#) – Jawa Pos, May. 1, 2018

4. VILLAGE HEAD ELECTIONS

In Sidoarjo District, East Java, 70 village heads elected in March will be inaugurated on May 9, despite the ongoing dispute on the election results in three villages. The defeated candidates in the three villages filed lawsuit to the State Administrative Court (PTUN).

Sources:

- [Pilkades Tiga Desa Masih Bermasalah](#) – Jawa Pos, May. 3, 2018

5. VILLAGE OWNED ENTERPRISES (BUMDes)

The Association of Village-Owned Enterprises (BUMDes) in Garut District, West Java, protested against the Social Affairs Office's decision to exclude BUMDes in the distribution of non-cash social assistance program. The Office stated that many BUMDes do not have sufficient capital and appointed a private company as distributor.

In Temanggung District, Central Java, only 98 of the 166 villages established BUMDes.

Source:

- [Libatkan BUMDes pada Bantuan Langsung Nontunai](#) – Pikiran Rakyat, May. 5, 2018
- [BUMDes Baru Terbentuk di 29 Desa](#) – Suaramerdeka.com, May. 3, 2018

6. HEALTH

The latest World Bank data shows that maternal mortality rate in Indonesia stands at 126 deaths per 100,000 live births, higher than 102 deaths per 100,000 live births set by the 2015 Millennium Development Goals, of which Indonesia is a party.

Director of Public Health and Nutrition at the National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) said 30 percent of stunted children come from middle-class urban families.

Source:

- [Maternal Death Remains High Despite Health Care](#) – the Jakarta Post, May. 2, 2018
 - [30 Persen Anak Kelas Menengah Atas juga Alami Stunting](#) – Viva.co.id, May. 3, 2018
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7. EDUCATION

In 2018, the Ministry of Education and Culture focuses on the following programs: the distribution of Smart Indonesia Card (KIP) to 16.4 million students, the revitalization of Vocational High School (SMK), and character building program.

The Minister of Education and Culture stated that the government succeeded in increasing the country's Human Development Index (HDI) from 68.9 in 2014 to 70.18 in 2016. The improvement was contributed by an increase in the average of expected years of schooling index from 12.39 to 12.72 years, and mean years of schooling index from 7.73 to 7.95 years.

In Jambi Province, shortage of teacher was reported in Kerinci and Batanghari Districts. Schools in Kerinci District employed almost 2,000 honorarium teachers funded by School Operational Assistance (BOS) funds. Honorarium teachers accounted for 30 percent of the total of 3,247 teachers.

In East Java, Banyuwangi District launched a daily allowance and transportation program for over 1,000 students from poor families with a total budget of Rp 1.9 billion. They will receive a Rp 5,000 daily transport allowance and pocket money amounting from Rp 5,000-15,000 per day.

In West Java, Tasikmalaya City Government has only allocated 5 percent of its budget for education, or far below the 20 percent set by the law.

Source:

- [Terus Tingkatkan Angka Partisipasi Sekolah](#) – Media Indonesia, May. 2, 2018
- [Di Banyuwangi, Pelajar Tak Mampu Diberi Uang Saku Setiap Hari](#) – Detik.com, May. 2, 2018
- [Banyak Sekolah di Jambi Andalkan Guru Honoror](#) – Suara Pembaruan, May. 3, 2018
- [Butuh 400 Ruang Kelas Baru](#) – Pikiran Rakyat, May. 3, 2018

8. ADDITIONAL NEWS

- **CENTRAL JAVA:** Central Java Legislative Council will soon pass a bylaw (*Perda*) on tourism village, which categorizes tourism villages into educational, sports, maritime, and religious tourism ([Perda Desa Wisata Segera Rampung](#) – Bisnis Indonesia, May. 2, 2018).
- **MALUKU:** Since 2017, community participation in the Family Planning Village Program in Central Maluku District continues to increase. Currently, 12,205 fertile couples participate in the program ([Tingkatkan Kualitas Keluarga Pedesaan](#) – Ambon Express, May. 03, 2018).
- **EAST NUSA TENGGARA:** The Institute for Economic and Social Rights (ECOSOC) and Sarabiti Institute held training on Village Law for village heads and members of Village Consultative Bodies ([Kades di Flotim Belajar Undang-Undang Desa](#) – Kupang.tribunnews.com, May. 1, 2018).

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