

MoD Prabowo affirms his commitment to territorial commands

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Indonesian Minister of Defense (MoD) Prabowo Subianto briefed 2,000 village supervisory non-commissioned officers (Babinsa) of the Indonesian Army on Tuesday (Mar 14) at the Military Command III/Siliwangi, Bandung.

In a briefing titled “Defending the Country and the Total People’s Defense and Security System (Sishankamrata)”, the Defense Minister affirmed his commitment to building territorial commands.

He is convinced that a territorial command is the backbone of Defense, and is aligned with the Sishankamrata Indonesian Defense system.

One of Prabowo’s plans to build competent territorial command is to providd transportation and communication tools to facilitate daily Babinsa tasks.

MoD Prabowo, accompanied by Commander-in-Chief of Military Area Command III/Siliwangi Maj. Gen. Kunto Arief Wibowo, symbolically handed over 100 dirt bikes to support Babinsa’s operational tasks in

the area. “Operational support for the Babinsa will continue,” promised Prabowo.

The Defense Minister added that the Babinsa throughout Indonesia would also be equipped with communication tools. He is confident that the Indonesian National Armed Forces can uphold the mandate to protect national sovereignty.

“The Armed Forces will remain strong, and will guarantee the nation’s security. And we will protect the sovereignty of our country,” he said.

MoD Prabowo also presented awards and appreciation to five outstanding Babinsa, with Umrah pilgrimage prizes.

One of the rewarded officers expressed his gratitude to the Defense Minister, “We are grateful for your award. We will improve our capabilities for the people in our region.”

Meanwhile, in his remarks, Commander-in-Chief of Military Area Command III/Siliwangi Maj. Gen. Kunto Arief Wibowo expressed his appreciation to MoD Prabowo for providing motorbikes as transportation support, which would contribute to

optimizing the duties of Babinsa officers.

On this occasion, the Defense Minister also visited an exhibition featuring technological breakthroughs developed by territorial command units at the Military Area Command III/Siliwangi.

“During my visit to West Java, to Bandung, I gave a briefing to the Siliwangi territorial command. Earlier, the Commander-in-Chief showed me innovations, specifically an applied technology produced by the Commander-in-Chief and his staff, which I believe are very practicable. This is very strategic because it is an innovation destined to resolve people’s hardships,” said MoD Prabowo.

The Minister also expressed his appreciation and was impressed with the innovations the Military Area Command III/ Siliwangi has developed. This is in line with the Sishankamrata concept, where each territorial command must play a role in resolving issues in its territory.

“Particularly the problem of clean water, fertilizers for food crops, waste



MoD Prabowo Subianto briefs 2,000 Babinsa officers on Tuesday (Mar 14) at the Military Command III/Siliwangi, Bandung

processing from unproductive and disease-causing matters into productive items,” he said.

He continued by commending the innovation of the Battlefield Man-

agement System integrated information technology that had been successfully developed by Military Area Command III/Siliwangi. “I urge PT LEN (a communications equipment

company) and the Research and Development Agency to collaborate. We will standardize this innovation to be mass-produced for all personnel,” said Prabowo. **[10]**

A shared commitment promotes inclusion and equality for all



(Left-Right) Deputy Speaker of the Assembly Lestari Moerdijat, Speaker of the Assembly Bambang Soesatyo, Member of Committee III of the House H. Arsul Sani, Project Manager of Zero Discrimination Day Ayuningtyas Widari Ramdhaniar and UNAIDS Country Director Krittayawan Tina Boonto

The Joint United Nations Program for HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), in collaboration with the Akselerasi Warta Resolusi Foundation (ReThinkbyAWR), the Indonesian House of Representatives, the People’s Consultative Assembly, the Health Ministry, the Ministry of National Development Planning, the Diesel One Solidarity Community and academics from ILUNI UI, held a National Public Discussion on Strengthening the National Legal Framework for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups from Discrimination at the Parliament Building in Senayan, Jakarta, on Wednesday (Mar 15).

This event gathered national government stakeholders and representatives of civil society, academics and practitioners to discuss the urgency of creating a comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Bill to protect every citizen from stigmatization and discrimination.

Speaker of the People’s Consultative Assembly Bambang “Bamsot” Soesatyo said the challenges to eliminate discrimination and build respect for women’s rights are highlighted in the commemoration of Zero Discrimination Day on March 1 and International Women’s Day on March 8. He added that these problems are faced in developing and developed countries. “In Germany, a study by the DeZIM Institute reveals that 65 percent of the 5,000 respondents believe that racial discrimination still occurs in Germany. Nearly 45 percent of respondents also said they had witnessed a racist incident. About 22 percent said they had personally experienced racism,” said Bamsot in his keynote speech.

Bamsot further explained that according to the 2022 Pew Research Center, 82 percent of respondents in the US considered racism a major problem for

black Americans, and 68 percent of respondents said racial discrimination was the cause of hindering the progress of black people. In France, based on the poll results released by the statistics agency and the French Institute for Demographic Studies (INED), it was found that the children of immigrants of African and Asian descent face constant discrimination.

According to the World Bank report in early March 2023, Indonesia received a cumulative score of 70.6 in guaranteeing equal economic rights for both genders. In Southeast Asia, Indonesia’s position is still behind Laos, Vietnam, Timor Leste, Singapore, Cambodia, the Philippines and Thailand.

“In 2022, Statistics Indonesia recorded that out of 17 million persons with disabilities who are of productive age, only 7.6 million are employed. It is only a minor reflection of our inability to uphold the mandate of Article 53 of Law No. 8/ 2016 on Persons with Disabilities. The Law regulates that the proportion of workers with disabilities is 2 percent in government agencies and state-owned and regionally-owned enterprises and 1 percent in the private sector of the total number of employees,” explained Bamsot.

“The discriminatory attitudes and treatment in the developed countries bring an important message that discrimination is a global problem. Therefore, it must be addressed collectively by the entire international community, through collaboration that prioritizes equality, synergy and collaboration,” said Bamsot.

Amid the many problems, Bamsot said the Indonesian people should be grateful that the 1945 Constitution has provided a fundamental foundation.

Deputy Speaker of the Assembly

Lestari Moerdijat said civil society must persistently raise key issues such as manifesting gender equality – a problem with which Indonesia is still struggling.

Lestari noted that Indonesia had developed an instrument to protect its citizens, primarily women and children, from threats of sexual violence in the form of the Law on Sexual Violence Crimes (UU TPKS). However, regulations for the enforcement of the Law have not been entirely available. Since the UU TPKS cannot be fully implemented, many sexual violence cases often end in reconciliation.

The Government’s political will must be consistently boosted so that the protection instrument from sexual violence crimes can come into effect immediately.

Lestari said many issues in the country lead to discrimination because measures to solve them are only on the surface. Comprehensive efforts to improve education quality and the national economy must be urgently made to achieve gender equality by 2030.

According to Project Manager of Zero Discrimination Day Ayuningtyas Widari Ramdhaniar, this public discussion is expected to be the first step in a joint commitment to protecting vulnerable groups – dealing with prejudice, stereotypes and stigma, and achieving equality for all Indonesian people without exception. “This joint commitment is a significant step to promote inclusion and equality for all individuals and groups, especially those most vulnerable to discrimination. We believe that strengthening the national legal framework can help create a society where everyone is valued, respected and protected, regardless of their background, identity or status,” said Ayuningtyas Widari Ramdhaniar. **(des)**

Jiwasraya SOE pensioners reject restructuring

Senior lawyer OC Kaligis is one of bankrupt Jiwasraya Insurance’s victims, and has publicly declined to sign the Jiwasraya restructuring agreement. He also demands his right to IDR 30 billion from Jiwasraya. “That IDR 30 billion is only my savings. It’s from a court hearing,” OC related to reporters on Wednesday (Mar 15) at his law firm, OC Kaligis & Associates, in Central Jakarta.

O.C Kaligis, who also acts as the Chairman of the National Consolidation Counsel Team for Jiwasraya Victims, said that the Central Jakarta District Court’s verdict, ordering the bank to pay his IDR 30 billion savings in PT Asuransi Jiwasraya’s protection plan program has been ignored and not paid. “I have sent twelve letters to President Joko Widodo and State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) Minister Erick Tohir, but there has been no serious response,” he said.

PT Asuransi Jiwasraya (Persero) has entered the final stage of a corporate restructuring program. As of Dec 31, 2022, some 99.1% of Jiwasraya insurance customers had participated in the policy restructuring program.

The figure consists of 98.4% of customers from bancassurance products or 17,189 policyholders, 99.6% or 289,247 policyholders from retail products and 99.4% or 6,051 customers from corporate

products.

In this restructuring, Jiwasraya transferred all restructured insurance policies to IFG Life, a new company.

Jiwasraya customers in the SOE Pensioners Forum feel victimized after signing the restructuring agreement. Chairman of the Jiwasraya Customers SOEs Pensioners Forum Syahrul Tahir said after signing, the money received was not fully disbursed.

Syahrul said he was coerced by Jiwasraya into sign the restructuring agreement. However, instead of receiving their full rights, the pensioners’ money was cut by an average of 50% to 74%.

The former Garuda Indonesia employee also exemplified deductions made on other pensioners’ funds from other SOEs. Syahrul said some pensioners from PT Pupuk Kalimantan Timur got a 50 -60% deduction, while some from PT Timah (Persero) Tbk and PT Petrokimia Gresik got an average of 50-74 % cut.

“I’m from Garuda and got a 70% deduction, but some got a 50-60% cut. It means we only receive 26-50%. Meanwhile, retired employees only receive on average IDR 900,000 per month, the lowest is IDR 450,000,” said Syahrul, Wednesday (Mar 15).

Syahrul stressed that such a deduction was a violation of the

document. The pensioners felt victimized when coerced to sign the Jiwasraya policy restructuring agreement.

“We have been wronged. These violations must not happen. That’s why we wrote an open letter to the President to cancel it. Give us our rights back! The deduction is taken from our money, the customers’ money, not the Government’s money. Why did they shut down Jiwasraya? Why must Jiwasraya fold?” questioned Syahrul.

The pensioners demanded the Government cancel the restructuring of Jiwasraya because the restructuring neglected customers’ rights. The pensioners urged authorities to return to the previous agreement with Jiwasraya.

“We earnestly hope that this open letter can move the President to cancel the manipulated restructuring and help millions of Indonesian people who depend on retirement benefits from the Jiwasraya life annuity insurance program,” he explained.

The Jiwasraya Customers SOEs Pensioners Forum consists of pensioners from PT Garuda Indonesia Tbk, PT Pupuk Kalimantan Timur, PT Indosat Tbk, PT Petrokimia Gresik, PT Rekayasa Industri, PT Timah (Persero) Tbk, PT Bukit Asam (Persero) Tbk, PT Sucofindo and former PT Askes. **(eka)**



Senior lawyer OC Kaligis