



SHORT ARTICLES

RIAU ISLANDS PROVINCE

The Capital Market Information Centre for Batam established

The local government of Batam opened a Capital Market Information Centre located in the Mahkota Raya shipping centre at the end of September. The Centre is equipped with facilities including a library, a training hall for prospective investors, information-sharing and customer complaints office. The Centre also has an autonomous representative at the Stock Exchange building in Jakarta. It is intended to provide risk mitigation support to businessmen.

(Source: *Antara*, September 30, *Kompas*, September 30, *Tribun Batam*, September 30, October 1, *Sijori Mandiri*, September 30, *Batam Pos*, September 30, *Kepri Terkini*, September 30, 2010)

International Drug Enforcement Conference held in Batam

Around 100 participants from 17 Asia-Pacific countries participated in the International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC) in Batam on 21 September. The event was held by the National Drug Agency (BNN) in cooperation with the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to share information on drug trafficking and find strategic ways of tackling narcotics distribution. According to the BNN chapter spokesman of the Riau Islands province, Suryawirawan, Batam was chosen to host the event due to its position as the second-most utilized entry point for illicit drugs and narcotics into Indonesia.

(Source: *Batam Pos*, September 20, 21, *Jakarta Globe*, September 21, *Tribun Batam*, September, 21, *Sijori Mandiri*, September 21, *Kompas*, September 21, *Kepri Terkini*, September, 21, 2010)

Task Force to Patrol Maritime Boundaries

The Marine Security Coordinating Board (Bakorkamla) has formed a task force to patrol Indonesia's maritime boundaries, especially around the Riau Archipelago. According to Bakorkamla's Task Force Chief, First Admiral Didi Heru Purnomo, the task force was formed following the recent detention of three officials from the Maritime and Fisheries Ministry by Malaysian Police. The task force's main assets will be based in Batam. Similar arrangements will be made for Tarakan (Belitung) and Eastern Indonesia.

(Source: *Tempo Interaktif*, September 22, *Kompas*, September 22, *Tribun Batam*, September 22, *Kepri Terkini*, September 22, *Republika*, September 22, 2010)

Pirates Attack Japanese Tanker in Riau Waters

A group of pirates attacked a Japanese-owned chemical tanker en route from Singapore to China on 5 September. The pirates boarded the tanker and robbed the crew before escaping. The pirates were armed with knives and steel rods but none of the 23 crew were hurt. According to Noel Choong, head of the International Maritime Bureau Piracy Reporting Centre, this was the 27th incident in the region since February 2010.

(Source: *Reuters*, September 6, 2010)

Batam to have more low-cost apartments

PT Jamsostek, the state-owned insurance company, is completing the construction of another low-cost apartment block in Kabil industrial estate as part of an effort to improve the social welfare of workers in Batam. The project will cost Rp 2 billion (US\$ 222,400) to build and have the capacity to house more than 1,500 low-income workers. The new block has 400 rooms, each of which can accommodate four single workers who will pay a monthly rent of between Rp 90,000 and Rp 130,000 (US\$10-15).

(Source: *Batam Pos*, September 23, *Jakarta Globe*, September 23, *Tribun Batam*, September, 23, *Sijori Mandiri*, September 23, *Kompas*, September 23, *Kepri Terkini*, September, 23, 2010)

Kepri Governor going to Norway for study tour

The Riau Islands Governor, Muhammad Sani, four regents and mayors and several businessmen departed for Norway at the end of September to conduct a comparative study of the country's marine and fisheries sectors. The trip is funded from the provincial budget with expenses estimated at more than Rp 1 billion (US\$110,000). The costs incurred for this visit is a current source of debate in the legislature.

(Source: *Batam Pos*, September 2, *Jakarta Globe*, September 2, *Tribun Batam*, September 2, *Sijori Mandiri*, September 2, *Kepri Terkini*, September, 2, 2010)

South Korea to send investment mission to Indonesia

The ASEAN-Korea Centre is dispatching an investment mission to Indonesia from 3-6 October 2010 to identify opportunities in sectors including ship parts, ship design and construction machinery. On 6 October the mission will be briefed on the latest investment policies and opportunities by the Batam Indonesia Free Zone Authority. They also will have business meetings with Indonesian and Singaporean businessmen that are expected to provide an opportunity to better understand local markets and obtain information on investment potential. South Korean investment in Indonesia reached a total of US\$624.6 million in 2009.

(Source: *Jakarta Post*, October 1, *Kompas*, October 1, *Republika*, October 1, *Media Indonesia*, October 1, 2010)

RIAU PROVINCE

RI deports 30 depressed Iraqi and Afghan boat people

30 illegal immigrants who were arrested in Indonesian waters while attempting to travel to Australia by boat have been deported to Iraq and Afghanistan by Pekanbaru Immigration authorities on 16 September after they had become so depressed that some attempted suicide. According to the Head of the Pekanbaru immigration detention centre, Yanizur, they become dispirited in their overcrowded detention centre while facing an uncertain future.

(Source: *Riau Terkini*, September 16, *Jakarta Post*, September 16, *Riau Pos*, September 16, 2010)



Leaking Pipeline Forces Oil Shutdown

BPMigas officially announced on 1 October that after a gas pipeline sprung a leak at Chevron Pacific Indonesia's Duri field in Riau, up to 20 percent of the nation's oil production capacity is offline. Some 200,000 barrels per day of production capacity had been shut down due to a leak in a pipeline that supplied natural gas used to power oil-field operations. According to Rudi Rubiandini, an energy analyst and drilling expert from the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB), fixing the underground pipeline and returning oil production to normal would likely take more than two weeks, and possibly up to two months, depending on the extent of the damage.

(Source: *Jakarta Post*, October 1, *Kompas*, October 1, *Media Indonesia*, October 1, *Riau Pos*, October 1, *Riau Terkini*, October 1, 2010)

Riau's exports up 26 Percent

Riau province's exports in the first half of 2010 rose 26.2 percent to US\$6.007 billion from US\$4.76 billion in the same period last year. The January-June exports contributed 8.28 percent to the national export total. Oil and gas exports in the first semester of 2010 reached US\$2.174 billion, up 55.4 percent from the same period last year, while non-oil and non-gas exports rose 14.4 percent to US\$3.833 billion. Crude palm oil dominated the non-oil and non-gas exports with a value of US\$2.326 billion, up 60.69 percent. This was followed by paper and cardboard with US\$596.4 million and pulp with US\$479.37 million.

(Source: *Kantor Berita Antara*, October 4, *Riau Pos*, October 4, *Riau Terkini*, October 4, *Media Indonesia*, October 4, 2010)

Batam's Mayoral Election

Registration for Batam's 2011-2016 mayor and deputy mayor candidates was officially declared closed by Batam Municipality's Regional Election Commission on 23 September 2010. By the end of the deadline, six mayor and deputy mayor candidates had officially registered themselves. The six candidates are: Arifin Nasir-Irwansyah, Dr. Amir Hakim-Syamsul Bahrum, Nada Fada Soraya-Nuryanto, Ria Saptarika-Zainal Abidin, Ahmad Dahlan-Rudi and Insyah Fauzi-Mangisi Panjaitan, who registered as independent candidates.

The registered candidates however must still undergo an administrative verification process. All the documentary requirements submitted by the candidates will be verified by the Batam Municipality Regional Election Commission during the Verification Period, which will take place starting from 24 September to 14 October 2010. During this period, candidates will be given the opportunity to revise and complete the documentary requirements necessary for their candidacy. Past experience from the previous Regional Election in the Riau Islands Province indicated that administrative documents often proven to be a source of controversy for the candidates.

Arifin Nasir and Irwansyah (AIR) were the first candidates to register at the Regional Election Commission office. They arrived accompanied by representatives from 21 political parties that formed a supporting coalition. The coalition is made up of the: PKPB, PPD, PNBK, PDP, PPI, Barnas, PPP, PDS, PBB, PMB, PBR, Republikan, Labour Party, PPI, PSI, PPDI, Independence Party, PKDI, PKP, PIS and Sovereignty Party. The coalition entered the Batam Mayoral Election with 22.55 per cent of votes from the previous regional election and three seats at the Batam Municipality's Regional House of Representatives from PPP.

Airifin Nasir is optimistic that he will win the upcoming election due to the support he enjoys from ethnic Malays as well as from the Minang community in Batam. The latter is due to the fact that his deputy mayor candidate is a Minangnese.

The second pair to register were Dr. Amir Hakim and Syamsul Bahrum (HARUM), who are supported by three political parties: the People's Conscience Party (Hanura), National People's Concern Party (PPRN) and Ulema National Awakening Party (PKNU).

Candidates are considered to have fulfilled the General Election Commission's requirements if they secure seven seats at the Batam Municipality's Regional House of Representatives.

Amir Hakim is optimistic about his victory in the upcoming mayoral election. In his opinion, Syamsul Bahrum is considered to be a local figure from the Malay community, highly educated and well known in Batam.

The next candidates in line are Nada Fada Soraya-Nuryanto, who is supported by the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP) and the Gerindra Party. They have secured six seats at the Batam Municipality Regional House of Representatives (i.e. five seats contributed by PDIP and 1 seat from Gerindra).

The fourth candidate is Ria Saptarika-Zainal Abidin, who is supported by the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS) and Golkar. The candidate reserves the right to enter the election race as a result of holding the nine seats that its two supporting parties have managed to secure. The seats consist of four from the PKS and five from Golkar.

Meanwhile, the incumbent mayor Ahmad Dahlan and his deputy mayor candidate Rudi will enter the Mayoral Election race with the support of the Democrat Party (six seats), National Awakening Party (four seats), and National Mandate Party (four seats), a total of fourteen seats at the Regional House of Representatives.

The last candidate to register for the mayoral election was the independent Insyah Fauzi. Interestingly, Insyah-Fauzi had previously registered with Andi Najib as his candidate deputy mayor, but at the last minute was replaced by Mangisi Panjaitan.

All six candidate pairs will compete for the posts of Batam Mayor and Deputy Mayor on 5 January 2011.

(Source: *Kepri Terkini*, August 31, *September 23, 24*, *Batam Pos*, September 23, 24, *Tribun Batam*, September, 23, 24, *Sijori Mandiri*, 23, 24, 2010)

INDONESIA PROGRAMME

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