

GREATER JAKARTA

Central Jakarta targets Rp 395 billion from tax

JAKARTA: The Central Jakarta administration is targeting Rp 395 billion (US\$33 million) in tax revenue for 2009, the deputy head of the municipality said Saturday.

Asep Syarifudin said the municipal tax revenue always reached or even surpassed the target. In 2008, with a Rp 360 billion target, the municipality took in Rp 365 billion.

On Friday, Asep handed over papers to collect unpaid tax for properties in every subdistrict to tax officials.

"I really hope the subdistrict heads will either immediately send the documents to the taxpayers, or make announcements so the taxpayers can fetch the documents themselves," he said as quoted by *beritajakarta.com*. —JP

Marunda fishermen ask for auction center

JAKARTA: Hundreds of fishermen from Marunda, North Jakarta, on Saturday demanded an auction center from the municipal marine, agriculture and food security agency.

Suaeb Mahbub, head of the Marunda fishermen's cooperation, said the lack of a center had obstructed the fishermen from selling their catches.

"We have difficulty marketing our catches. The only way to sell them are if the fishermen sell them, or through middlemen," he said.

Neither method is cost-efficient, he was quoted as saying by *beritajakarta.com*.

Suaeb said they had long asked for the fish auction center in Marunda, and had visited several offices from the subdistrict level to the municipal level.

Edi Santoso, head of the agency, said building an auction hall was not easy.

"We have to do preliminary studies first, and because Marunda and Cilincing aren't that far, the Marunda fishermen can sell their fish at Cilincing."

Jakarta has five fish auction halls, in Kamal Muara, Muara Angke, Muara Baru, Kalibaru and Cilincing. —JP

100 cataract patients get free surgery

JAKARTA: A hundred cataract patients in Kebon Jeruk, West Jakarta, have received free cataract surgery at the local community health center under a charity program held by a local philanthropist on Sunday.

"This program is funded by a donation from those who care about community health," West Jakarta Mayor Djoko Ramadhan, who visited the event, said as quoted by *beritajakarta.com*.

Residents said they were happy to get the free surgery.

"I don't have much money to get surgery for my eyes. When I heard about this program, I immediately registered myself," Yadi, 56, said.

A cataract patient can spend Rp 3.9 million (US\$335.4) to Rp 6 million for cataract surgery at hospital, Kebon Jeruk patients said.

Andreas, the local businessman who sponsored the program, said the program was aimed at helping poor residents get healthcare treatment. —JP

JAKARTA BIENNALE

Billboard art adds reflection to the city's celestial clutter

Prodita Sabarini

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

Taking advantage of a rare opportunity, artists are transforming Jakarta billboards from their traditional function as commercial advertisements to art that provokes viewers to think twice about their surroundings.

Instead of being bombarded by messages pushing them to spend money, people passing the now-historic first modern mall in Indonesia —Sarinah Department Store on Jl. MH Thamrin, Central Jakarta — can see a billboard sporting an old photograph of a woman wearing the traditional kebaya and sarong and holding an umbrella. Artist Angki Purbandono used the anonymous portrait as an imagined image of former first president Sukarno's nanny, the inspiration behind the department store's name.

Commuters stuck in traffic along often-gridlocked Jl. Sultan Iskandar Muda can consider the meaning of another portrait of an elusive woman. Yan Mursid's stereogram is erected on a billboard at the pedestrian bridge in front of the Pondok Indah mosque.

The billboard art is part of the ongoing art festival ARENA: Jakarta Biennale 2009. Billboard project curator Irwan Ahmett said the idea was to bring art to public spaces.

"This is something new and has never been done before."

"The billboard phenomenon in Jakarta has reached an extraordinary level, especially with the election campaigns. They're everywhere and placed with no regard for the city's aesthetics. It's cluttered," Irwan said.

Billboard advertising can be seen in every corner of the capital. With the coming election, political parties and candidates have splashed billboards, banners, and posters on every roadway.

"We're manipulating this phenomenon by using the same medium to showcase site-specific art," Irwan said.



JP/RICKY YUDHISTIRA

Classic Sarinah: Pedestrians pass a billboard depicting an old picture of a Javanese lady, outside the Sarinah department store in Central Jakarta on Sunday. The billboard is part of the Jakarta Biennale's ARENA, which brings visual art into public space.

“What do you think about Grogol? Most say it is 'cluttered'.”

mock billboard up on Jl. Asia Afrika, Senayan, South Jakarta, where the two malls Plaza Senayan and Senayan City face each other.

"We weren't able to secure a permit there," he said.

Four billboards went up Monday. Irwan said Cecil Mariani's billboard about the history behind Menteng Park was scheduled to go up soon in Menteng, Central Jakarta. Eric Wijaya's billboard will be up in mid February, replacing Angki's. Ritchie Ned Hansel's likewise goes up at the same time in Pondok Indah.

Some artists participating in the project said their inspiration came from the exact location where they knew their art would be displayed.

Angki, originally from Yogyakarta and residing there now, said the Sarinah locale pretty much summed up the Jakarta experience. He worked in the Sarinah building for two years for *MTV Trax* magazine. "It's like, after visiting Sarinah, you don't have

to go anywhere else in Jakarta."

"You can find everything there: sidewalk vendors, department stores, restaurants and nightclubs," he said.

Angki has been collecting old photographs since 2006. The photograph he used is part of that collection. "I imagined Sarinah would have been a refined and elegant woman," he said.

Another artist, Ismiaji Cahyono, placed his billboard in Grogol, East Jakarta. Despite the hectic cluttered there, Aji said he liked the site for its strategic location.

Using his billboard he invited people to express their feelings about Grogol through sending a text message over their mobile phones.

His billboard has "Grogol: ..." in big letters.

By Tuesday Aji had already received 24 messages. He said most replies contained the same word: cluttered.

Old buildings unattractive to investors

Agnes Winarti

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

With the increasing destruction of heritage buildings, experts say investors and the public do not understand the importance of conservation.

"Buying an old building in Jakarta is more like a burden, while abroad heritage buildings are regarded as diamonds," the city administration's independent review team for cultural heritage building restoration, Bambang Eryudhawan, told *The Jakarta Post* on Saturday.

"Here, buildings aren't valued as much as the land on which they stand," Bambang said.

According to data of the city tourism and culture agency, there are some 273 heritage buildings around Jakarta in areas such as Menteng, Kota, Condet and Kebayoran.

"People living in heritage areas like Menteng are burdened with the highest land and building taxes, which amounted some Rp 71 million per year for an 800 to 1,000 square meter property," Bambang said.

Arya Abieta of the Indonesian Architectural Documentation Center, said that, "home owners, who are unable to pay such high taxes will sell the property to newcomers, who are less attached to the history of the property. They often demolish the historic buildings and rebuild something completely different."

A 1999 bylaw on the utilization and preservation of cultural heritage buildings and areas differenti-

ates heritage buildings into three categories: A, B and C.

Each category has different rules regarding renovations. Those violating the bylaws face a maximum of six months imprisonment and/or Rp 5 million (US\$430) in fines.

Head of the city's tourism and cultural agency Arie Budhiman said recently the administration did not mind if heritage sites were converted into restaurants, art galleries, or theaters, as long as the construction designs adhered to the regulations.

"We can not expect heritage buildings to stay sterile, they must be able to interact with their environment and bring economic benefits," he said.

"Therefore, we invite the private sector to invest in the restoration of the buildings," he said.

Bambang said the administration needed to better synchronise coordination between related stakeholders and work out contradictory heritage building regulations.

He said that the lack of coordination between related agencies, including the spatial planning agency and the tourism and cultural agency, authorized to monitor the development of heritage sites, has created loopholes.

"There are cases where a category-A building according to one agency is considered a category B by another," he said.

The lack of public order, environmental sanitation and safety, further discourage heritage building owners in the Old Town area from revamping their properties.

"We hope that the administration starts directly tackling the social and economic conditions in Old Town, instead of merely focusing on artificial grooming, such as placing lamps in the area," Ella Ubaidi of the association of the Old Town heritage building owners, said.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Australia honors inspirational alumni for efforts in RI

Thom Smyth and Rhiannon Horrell

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

The Australian Embassy will present nine awards to alumni of Australian universities in a gala dinner slated for Feb. 21 to recognize Indonesians who have studied in Australia and returned home to excel in their fields.

Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Bill Farmer said last week 38 nominees active in business, environmental affairs, the media, culture and academe had been selected by their peers and past Alumni Award winners.

The diverse group of nominees include the editor of *Jakarta Java Kini* magazine Alex Hansel Simanjuntak, chairman of Paramadina University's Center for Islam Yudi Latif, special adviser for legal affairs to the president of Indonesia Denny Indrayana, and Linggar Seni art gallery owner Mia Maria.

The awards are handed out in nine categories in all, including for sustainable social and economic development, for research and innovation, for culture and the arts as well as a special award for young achievers.

Speaking at the dinner honoring the nominees, Farmer reaffirmed the Australian government's commitment to helping improve educa-

tion and living standards in Indonesia even as Australia's economy is feeling the pinch from the global economic crisis.

"[The economic crisis] will not affect the level of assistance offered to Indonesia," he said.

The evening also acknowledged the work of prominent Indonesians with the presentation of special awards for their work in the community.

"These individuals have worked tirelessly ... driven by their passion for contributing to improving the lives of others," Farmer said.

Recipient Abdullah Alamudi, honored for his contribution to the media in Indonesia, is currently serving on the Indonesian Press Council and has provided guidance to the government, the military and lawyers on the importance of press freedom.

Lubna Algadrie also received an award for her contribution to education and language studies; I Made Nitis won for his agricultural research.

The winners of the Inspirational Alumni Award were chosen for their contribution to the lives of others, and included legal expert Dedy Mulyana, educator Khairiah Syahabuddin, aid worker Netty Murni, business owner Hadi Cahyadi and small-business advocate Fanina Yulianthi.

PERIPLUS

Seminar 40 Tahun STF Driyarkara "Turbulensi Ekonomi 2009" Menciptakan Peluang Menghadapi Krisis Global

Pembicara:

- "Turbulensi Ekonomi Global: Peluang Indonesia" Faisal Basri (Ekonomi)
- "Masa Depan Sektor Finansial Global dan Lokal (Indonesia)" Lin Che Wei (Advisor Speaker Exchange Indonesia)
- "Kapitalisme, Liberalisme dan Krisis Global: Tinjauan Moral dan Etikal" Franz Magnis Suseno (STF Driyarkara)
- "Krisis Global dan Ekonomi yang Tercerabut" B Harry-Priyono (STF Driyarkara)
- "Krisis Global, Peluang dan Tantangan: Pengalaman Indofood" Fransiscus Weirang (Deputy President Director Indofood)
- "Krisis Global, Peluang dan Tantangan: Pengalaman Kompas-Gramedia Group" Agung Adiprasetyo (CEO Kompas-Gramedia Group)

Rosiana Silalahi

Kamis, 12 Februari 2009 09.00 - 17.15 Istana Ballroom, Lt. 4 Hotel Sari Pan Pacific J.M.H. Thamrin, Jakarta 10340

INVESTASI

Hanya Rp 500.000 / peserta (Termasuk lunch dan seminar kit)

PENDAFTARAN

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Application should be sent on/before February 22nd, 2009 with a recent photograph.

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Pristine Jakarta



JP/RICKY YUDHISTIRA

Two cyclists ride down a busway crossing bridge on Jl. Sudirman in Central Jakarta on Sunday.