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## FDI to fall this year: BKPM

**JAKARTA:** Incoming foreign direct investment (FDI) to Indonesia is expected to be around US\$11 billion to \$13 billion this year, less than the average in recent years of \$20 billion per year, a senior official said on Thursday.

Thomas Lembong, chief of the Indonesia Investment Board, said the decline, which could reach as much as 40 percent — is “quite significant”, and blamed lack of policy reform momentum at the start of this year.

Lembong, however, said reform had picked up pace in recent months, including the upcoming revision of the negative investment list, following the rupiah’s depreciation. The list specifies business activities which are either entirely closed or conditionally open to foreign investment.

FDI in Indonesia fell for the second straight quarter in July-September from a year earlier. — *Reuters*

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

**Adaptability key to maintaining growth: WB****Riska Rahman**

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

Emerging countries in East Asia, including Indonesia, should adapt to the changing global environment with a set of strategies in order to maintain their economic growth seen in the past few years, according to a recent study by the World Bank.

Sudhir Shetty, World Bank chief economist for East Asia and Pacific, said the robust economic growth in East Asia in the past few years might decline as countries in the region were facing more external and internal challenges in the long term.

"The slowing global trade, rapid change of technology and increasing demands on state institutions to deliver more and better services are some of the challenges these countries are facing in the future," Shetty said via video call from Kuala Lumpur in a recent press briefing in Jakarta.

He said that in the past few decades, six of 10 developing economies in the region moved up from low-income to middle, and even high-income, status thanks to the East Asia development model. The 10 developing economies are Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

"This model combines outward-oriented growth, human capital development and sound

economic governance that successfully made these countries level up their economy, as well as their people's income," he said.

According to the bank, East Asia has been the fastest-growing developing region over the last quarter century with its GDP growing to over three times what it was in 2000. The region saw hundreds of millions of people escaping poverty, and nearly two-thirds of its population was now considered economically secure or middle class, Shetty said.

Indonesia, too, grew along with other countries in the region. In 2007, it reached its highest annual GDP growth since the reform era of 6.3 percent. Meanwhile, the country's current poverty rate had decreased to 9.82 percent of the total population in March, the lowest ever in the archipelago's history.

As future challenges are looming in the region, Shetty emphasized five key findings that might help Indonesia and its peers maintain the economic indicators.

The key findings are: promoting economic competitiveness, building skills, fostering inclusion, strengthening state institutions and financing the transition to high-income status.

In promoting economic competitiveness, the bank suggested that countries open up their economy more broadly to their counterparts.

"If we compare this region to closed [economic] policy coun-

tries like in Sub-Saharan Africa and much of Latin America, it shows that open policy sustains growth over a longer period of time," he said, adding that Indonesia should also reform its service and logistics sectors policies, deepen trade agreements and improve the business climate, among other things, to make the country's trade more favorable.

Furthermore, building people's skills, particularly soft ones, from an early age, could help Indonesia and the region to compete in the services sector, as global trade was shifting to that area as opposed to goods, said Andrew D. Mason, World Bank lead economist for East Asia and Pacific.

Another point, Shetty said, was fostering inclusion by developing programs to transition vulnerable workers, like unskilled labor, toward new job opportunities as rapid technological advancement could replace them with robots and artificial intelligence in the future.

Mason also highlighted the importance of distributing affordable digital access evenly throughout Indonesia to make it more inclusive by encouraging investments in digital infrastructures in poor and remote areas.

"The government should consider how to support and, to some extent, underwrite investments in the supply of digital technology in remote areas where it may not be favorable for private investors," he said.

# Tax office upbeat about collections in 2018, 2019

**Riska Rahman**

THE JAKARTA POST/BOGOR,  
WEST JAVA

The tax office has expressed optimism over reaching its tax revenue target this year despite lower-than-expected realization as of November and is confident about posting a strong performance in 2019.

Finance Ministry tax director general Robert Pakpahan said recently that the tax office projected realized tax revenue this year to reach Rp 1.35 quadrillion (US\$93.09 billion), 94.87 percent of the 2018 state budget. It is lower than the targeted Rp 1.42 quadrillion in the budget.

However, as of November, the tax authority only recorded Rp 1.14 quadrillion in tax revenue, 79.8 percent of the GDP. This means it still has to bring in an additional

Rp 210 trillion in only one month to reach its year-end target.

Robert said the tax office was optimistic about reaching the target based on its previous experience. Last December, he said, the tax authority managed to collect about Rp 167 trillion, equal to 14.24 percent of total tax revenue in 2017.

"I admit that it will be hard for us to reach this year's target, but it's not an impossible goal," he said during a press event in Bogor, West Java.

The government has time to disburse its funds for spending this month, which may trigger consumer spending and, as a result, provide a boost to value-added tax. As of now, government spending has only reached 87.5 percent of this year's state budget ceiling of Rp 2.22 quadrillion.

Moreover, he said, the tax of-

office's ongoing reform to fix its IT system and streamline business processes could increase taxpayer compliance as reformed procedures would make it easier for them to pay their taxes.

Similarly, Danny Darussalam Tax Center (DDTC) tax research partner Bawono Kristiaji said in a statement on Thursday that the recovering economic situation, coupled with a softer approach toward taxpayers and ongoing tax reform efforts without drastic regulatory changes, had helped to stabilize tax revenue growth at 15 percent to 16 percent this year.

"Having said that, we estimate 2018 tax revenue to hover at Rp 1.29 quadrillion to Rp 1.32 quadrillion," he said.

However, tax revenue and compliance director Yon Arsal acknowledged that the tax collection process might still face chal-

lenges in December, following the relaxation of several tax regulations to boost businesses, especially small and medium enterprises (SME).

The government lowered in June the income tax rate for SMEs from 1 percent to 0.5 percent to increase their cash flow and boost their growth. But such a relaxation could also negatively affect tax collection.

Another challenge, he said, came from a finance ministerial regulation on tax refunds issued in April. Formulated to boost investment and business growth, the regulation allows taxpayers to receive their tax refunds immediately without examination.

He said these challenges would affect 2019 tax revenue, which was set at Rp 1.58 quadrillion in the newly passed 2019 State Budget Law.

Bawono said external factors, such as monetary tightening of the United States' Federal Reserve, US-China trade war tensions and volatility in commodity prices, could affect the country's economic growth and, eventually, tax revenue next year.

With these threats in mind, he said, tax revenue next year would likely reach Rp 1.45 quadrillion to Rp 1.49 quadrillion, or 91.9 percent to 94.5 percent of the state budget target.

Robert nonetheless remained confident that 2019 tax revenue would fare a lot better than in previous years, with consumer spending expected to hike during the general election in April. Legislative and presidential candidates are likely to spend more money on campaign merchandise, such as T-shirts, which are subject to a 10 percent value-added tax.

# Jokowi, Prabowo gamble on winning rival's home turf

Nurul Fitri Ramadhani and Suherdjoko

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA/  
SEMARANG

Presidential candidates incumbent Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and contender Prabowo Subianto are stepping up their efforts to claim support in their opponent's heartlands, believing that winning on their rival's home turf would guarantee victory.

The 2019 presidential election is to be a rematch between the two, making it relatively easier to make calculations based on the results of the 2014 election.

The national campaign team of Jokowi and running mate Ma'ruf Amin has expressed its determination to claim support in West Java, Banten and West Sumatra, where Jokowi and Jusuf Kalla lost by landslides to Prabowo and then running mate Hatta Rajasa.

Meanwhile, the campaign team of Prabowo and Sandiaga Uno has made it public that it has set its sights on Central Java, known as a long-time stronghold of Jokowi's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P). Prabowo's team has just revealed its key strategy of moving its campaign headquarters to Surakarta, Central Java,

Jokowi sets sights on West Java, Banten, West Sumatra, while Prabowo focusing on Central Java

Both have equal chance of winning rival's turf with right messages: Analysts

the city where Jokowi grew up and rose to prominence as a politician. Jokowi began his political career as the city's mayor.

The campaign team of Prabowo-Sandiaga said that it had gained confidence particularly after the Central Java gubernatorial election in June, in which Sudirman Said, who was endorsed by the Prabowo camp, managed to win 41 percent of the vote against 58.7 percent won by Jokowi's fellow PDI-P member and incumbent Ganjar Pranowo, in a much closer race than preliminary polls suggested.

PDI-P Central Java chapter chairman Bambang Wuryanto welcomed the opponent's plan to move its main campaign base to the province, saying the plan had only further boosted their fighting spirit.

"We established a team called Pandu Juang five years ago, which managed to help Ganjar win.

They are stronger than ever to fight now. We are on fire," he said.

Over 27.5 million eligible voters are slated to cast ballots across Central Java, the third-largest constituency after West Java and East Java.

"Both Jokowi and Prabowo must first make sure they are safe in their respective strongholds before moving on to the [less safe] yellow and red zones," political observer Ari Nurcahyo of think-tank Para Syndicate told *The Jakarta Post* on Thursday.

In the 2014 election, Jokowi only won four out of 26 cities and regencies in West Java, securing 40 percent of the vote. Meanwhile, Prabowo won nearly 60 percent of the vote in 22 cities and regencies. Jokowi won 66.7 percent in East Java compared to 33 percent won by Prabowo.

Ari said that in 2019, the two tickets would have an equal chance to win votes in the rival's stronghold as long as they knew the key issues to address.

Political analyst from pollster KedaiKopi Hendri Satrio emphasized that each ticket should know "what to sell" in the rival's home turf.

"Prabowo-Sandiaga can start with economic issues, such as high prices, unemployment and so on, while Jokowi can promote

his achievements during his first term," Hendri said.

To date, there were 23 leaders of cities and regencies in West Java who had declared support for Jokowi, according to Dedi Mulyadi, the head of the Jokowi-Ma'ruf campaign team in the province.

"We set a 60 percent target in West Java. The political map is changing now. Jokowi is getting even more support now, including from Bandung and Tasikmalaya," he said.

Jokowi-Maruf campaign team secretary Abdy Yuhana claimed that Prabowo won West Java in 2014 as the province was led by Ahmad Heryawan, a member of the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS), Prabowo's Gerindra Party's closest ally.

The province is currently led by Ridwan Kamil, the former Bandung mayor who was endorsed by Jokowi's coalition. West Java is home to 32.6 million out of 185 million eligible voters.

Meanwhile, Prabowo's campaign team spokesman Suhud Aliyudin said that Sandiaga would focus his campaign on attracting millennial voters in East Java. To date, Sandiaga has visited 818 cities and regencies in East Java, including Surakarta.

## ENERGY

## Govt welcomes shift to gross split deals

Stefanno Reinard Sulaiman

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

Italian energy company Eni S.p.A and Australian energy company Energy World Corporation (EWC) have amended their production sharing contracts (PSC) from cost recovery to gross split, much to the government's delight.

Eni's East Sepinggan block offshore of Kalimantan and EWC's Sengkang block in South Sulawesi, both gas rich, are the latest blocks for which the PSC have been amended into gross split schemes.

Energy and Mineral Resources Deputy Minister Arcandra Tahar couldn't hide his happiness as the two companies signed their contracts.

"Today, we witness a good start," said Arcandra, who had long defended the policy. "I've received so many letters, reviews and criticisms saying that the gross split [scheme] failed to attract investors [...] In the future, I hope that we speak based on data, not your own perception."

As of Tuesday, almost two years after the scheme was introduced in January 2017, contracts involving more than 30 oil and gas blocks have been altered to gross split, including the latest with Eni and EWC.

Eni S.p.A inked an amendment of its PSC in the East Sepinggan block changing from cost recovery to gross split with the aim of speeding up the development of its project in the Merakes gas field, especially over issues regarding cost calculation. Its contract is due in 2042.

EWC, through its subsidiary Energy Equity Epic Sengkang Pty. Ltd. (EEES), signed a similar contract amendment for its Sengkang block, also due in 2042.

Eni Indonesia managing director Fabrizio Trilli told the press that amending its contract to gross split was a win-win solution for them in order to achieve better gas production in the block.

"[With gross split] we are free to perform in any activity [in the block] and it will guarantee a better result both for us and the government on gas production," he said.

Previously, deputy minister Arcandra said the Italian firm decided to amend its PSC to avoid a prolonged discussion with the government over costs on its gas project in the Merakes field as required by the cost recovery scheme, in which the government is obliged to reimburse some of the company's investments.

"They have also committed to increase their local content requirement in the project, through which, if it reaches 30 to 50 percent, we will reward them with an additional 2 percent stake in the split of production," Arcandra said.

EWC chief executive officer Stewart Elliott also expounded on the benefits of a gross split scheme to the press. He said he believes it would eliminate the possibility of vendors marking up prices that must later be reimbursed by the government.

"Because of that [possibility of a markup], the government needs to watch it carefully and it will take a lot of time, which later leads to inefficiency. Therefore, I think it's

a tremendous step for Indonesia to improve efficiency," he after attending the signing event.

The gross split scheme has been widely criticized and was named one of the things that made Indonesia to be considered one of the 10 most unattractive jurisdictions in the world in terms of oil and gas, according to a 2017 Global Petroleum Survey conducted by the Canadian Fraser Institute think tank.

"Indonesia's gross split contracts discourage investment at a time of constrained capital and exploration," the survey stated.

The survey studied 97 countries with participants such as managers and executives in the upstream petroleum industry, ranging from CEOs, consultants and economists to lawyers.

In May, the institute presented its latest survey during the 42<sup>nd</sup> Indonesian Petroleum Convention and Exhibition held by the Indonesian Petroleum Association (IPA).

Not long after, the ministry sent a letter to the association, circulated to the press, in which it expressed its "disappointment" with the IPA's decision to involve the institute as one of the speakers in the event.

The ministry countered the Fraser Institute's survey, saying that it was unfair as it still included taxes during exploration.

"Exploration activities have been exempt from any taxes until the first oil discovery," the ministry said in its statement, referring to Government Regulation No. 53/2017 on taxes for gross split contracts.

# Ports need private investors, says govt

**Marchio Irfan Gorbiano**

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

The government has invited the private sector to invest in the development of ports, a crucial part of Indonesia's global maritime fulcrum vision, through a public-private partnership (PPP) scheme as it continues to develop infrastructure.

Transportation Minister Budi Karya Sumadi said at a high-level seminar held in Jakarta on Thursday that investors were welcome to participate in developing infrastructure through the PPP.

"Indonesia is open to PPP projects," said Budi, adding that the Transportation Ministry would fully support investors in completing administrative steps in the tender process for PPP projects.

The government is set to offer 10 infrastructure projects through the PPP next year, as outlined in the 2019 state budget, four of which are transportation infrastructure projects under the ministry.

They are the development and operation of two seaports in Sulawesi, namely Anggrek, Gorontalo and Bau-Bau in Southeast Sulawesi.

The 144-kilometer railway connecting Makassar, South Sulawesi, to Pare-Pare, as well as a roadworthiness certification center in Bekasi, West Java, would also be offered to private investors through a PPP scheme.

The government was currently preparing to offer the medium-sized seaports in Bau-Bau and Anggrek, which is valued between Rp 500 billion (US\$34.39 million) and Rp 1 trillion, to private investors through the PPP, Budi said,

Two ports in Sulawesi offered to private investors

Indonesia open to PPP projects, says transportation minister

adding that the tender process could start in January.

"We want the [development of] medium-sized ports to not be financed by the state budget but through the private sector in a concession scheme because we want a better level of service."

Budi said the government had offered to carry parts of the investment risks through an availability payment scheme.

"The government is offering an opportunity for the private sector, where if the projects are profitable, it could receive non-tax revenue [PNBP]," he said.

"If the projects end up in the red, the government could pay availability payment [to the investors]."

Budi added that his ministry would continue to build 22 seaports, which are still under construction, next year.

"We also plan to build more jetties on Selayar Island in South Sulawesi and the Musi River in South Sumatra next year," he said.

Indonesia needs investments to develop its infrastructure to the tune of \$359.2 billion between 2015 and 2019.

The government only provides 41.3 percent of the capital, or \$148.2 billion, according to data from the Center for Private Investment (PINA), leaving private investors and state-owned enterprises (SOEs) enough room to chip in with \$131.1 billion and

\$79.8 billion, respectively.

Also speaking at the high-level seminar, World Bank senior PPP specialist Jeffrey Delmon suggested a paradigm shift by the government in order to mobilize more private investments in infrastructure projects through PPP schemes, including handing over low-risk projects to the private sector while the government handles high-risk ones.

He added that the role of the SOEs needed to be optimized to mobilize private investments by bringing certain incentives to the former if it could mobilize capital from the latter.

"At the moment, the private sector often feels constrained by the SOEs because they feel like competitors," said Delmon.

"We need to change that so that the SOEs are actually drivers of private investments, as well as magnets and leverage points to bring in private investments."

He suggested that the government should develop holistic investment regulatory platforms across all business sectors to provide legal certainties, as well as simplified procedures to investors, while adding that such a policy would also benefit local investors.

"Let's create that common platform, common program for investment so that each little private entity in Indonesia can invest all over Indonesia and understand how business works. Then those individual private entities [can] get together and aggregate," said Delmon, adding that such a move would pave the way for "national champions" to emerge in the private sectors, which could compete with other firms in the regional or international stage. (das)

## ENVIRONMENT

# Court rejects lawsuit against scientist in Buton mining case

Charishar Kahfi

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

The Cibinong District Court in Bogor, West Java, has rejected a lawsuit filed by former Southeast Sulawesi governor and graft convict Nur Alam against scientist Basuki Wasis, in a move that highlighted the government's commitment to the environment.

Nur filed a lawsuit against Basuki, an environmental expert from the Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), who had calculated potential losses in the former governor's graft case, which amounted to Rp 2.7 trillion (US\$1.8 million).

The former governor has been convicted of causing environmental destruction on Buton Island by issuing several mining permits. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison and ordered to pay Rp 1 billion fine in the graft case.

The panel of judges of Cibinong District Court said Basuki's study, which was presented in Nur's trial, had no implication for Nur's sentence as the judges in Nur's graft trial did not use it in their consideration upon handing down their verdict against Nur.

"The bench accepted the defendant's refutation plea and stated that Nur Alam's suit cannot be accepted," according to a written statement from Basuki's lawyer made available to *The Jakarta Post* on Thursday.

The judges also said concern over prosecution against environmental experts was among the considerations to reject Nur's lawsuit.

The Jakarta Corruption Court sentenced Nur in March after finding the National Mandate Party (PAN) politician guilty of misusing his authority to grant mining licenses between 2009 and 2014 to nickel miner PT Anugerah Harisma Barakah, in

which he owns a 2 percent stake under the name of his aide.

The court also stripped him of his political rights for five years after he serves his time in prison, which was sought by Corruption Eradication Commission prosecutors.

Nur denied any wrongdoing and said he would "waste no time" in appealing the verdict, but he later sued Basuki and members of his team from IPB for committing a wrongful act that caused others to suffer losses, resulting in civil legal liability for the perpetrator, which the plaintiff claimed a violation of the Civil Code.

Indonesian Forum for the Environment's (WALHI) litigation and environmental law manager Ronald M. Siahaan, who was part of Basuki's legal team during the trial, praised the Cibinong court's verdict, saying that it would become a good precedent to prevent other lawsuits against environ-

mental experts.

Apart from Basuki, another IPB expert Bambang Hero Saharjo also faced similar lawsuit filed by palm oil company PT Jatim Jaya Perkasa (JJP) for the expert witness' testimony incriminating the company in a forest fire case. The company, however, retracted their lawsuit during the first hearing of the case, citing lack of documents supporting the company's argument.

"Another similar lawsuit in the future shouldn't be done anymore, because judges stated challenging experts is equal to challenging the judge," Ronald told *The Jakarta Post*.

Existing regulation had actually provided protection for environmental experts, such as the one stipulated in the 2009 Environmental Protection Law. Article 66 of the law grants immunity to a person who fights for the environment, in both civil and criminal courts.

DEMOCRACY

## Jakarta recovers from divisive election: BPS

The Jakarta Post

JAKARTA

A study has indicated that democracy in the country's capital has recovered since a polarizing gubernatorial election two years ago.

In the latest release of the Indonesian Democracy Index (IDI), Statistics Indonesia (BPS) has revealed that Jakarta is the most democratic among 34 provinces with a score of 84.73.

According to the report, the number of democratic events in each province relates directly to its democracy rating.

The report noted that, before 2016, Jakarta consistently achieved a "good" democracy ranking and was always at the top. However, its democracy index dropped drastically from "good" to "bad", with only 70.85 points in 2016 amid campaigns for the 2017 gubernatorial election.

The report stated that, from 2016 to 2017, there was a heavy use of identity politics in the lead-up to the 2017 election, which led to violations of election rules and democratic principles.

"A good democracy can be reversed easily just because of certain political events. For example, Jakarta was disturbed by widespread [campaign violations] from 2016 to 2017," the report stated.

The 2017 gubernatorial election saw then-governor Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama seeking reelection. He was challenged by former education minister Anies Baswedan and former president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's son Agus Harimurti.

Ahok's candidacy was hobbled by a criminal trial in which he was accused of blasphemy against Islam during a campaign appearance in September 2016. He was hit by a string of smear campaigns by conservative Muslim groups, grouped under the "212", that had called for his prosecution.

BPS social security statistics director Harmawanti Marhaeni said democracy in Jakarta improved quickly after the 2016 gubernato-

rial election. The ranking for civil liberties rose 6.62 points to 87.73, political rights rose 12.32 points to 80.86 and democratic institutions rose 23.93 points to 87.12.

"According to the data, civil liberties returned to the level of 2015," she said on Thursday.

However, the report questioned how permanent the divisions were in society after the sharp decline in the index in 2016.

Prior to and during the election, Jakarta was hit with anti-Chinese and anti-Christian sentiment. Banners with text that threatened to refuse to carry out Islamic burial rituals for deceased Muslims who supported Ahok, a Chinese-Indonesian and Christian, were put up in parts of the capital.

Ahead of the 2019 presidential election, in which President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, a close ally of Ahok, is seeking reelection, the 212 movement is making its comeback.

In a large rally that shows the enduring presence of the Islamists in politics, hundreds of thousands of conservative Muslims flocked to the National Monument (Monas) on Dec. 2 to commemorate the second anniversary of the 2016 anti-Ahok rally.

Anies, now Jakarta's governor, said the group's revival showed the maturity of democracy. Therefore, he added, this should be an example for other provinces. "If the capital city has matured democratically in carrying out basic rights, this can be spread to all over the country," he said.

The Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index 2017 referred to Indonesia as a flawed democracy. It fell from 48<sup>th</sup> place to 68<sup>th</sup> in the index.

In *Freedom in the World 2018*, the latest edition of an annual report released by Freedom House on political rights and civil liberties, Indonesia's score in political pluralism and participation declined from 3 to 2 because of the blasphemy case against Ahok and restrictions on unrecognized religious minorities' access to identification documents. (ggg)



# Expect unexpected weather: BMKG

Vela Andapita

THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

In the past two weeks, Greater Jakarta has been hit by unusual weather phenomena.

On Wednesday, hail was reported in Depok, West Java, following heavy rain that poured onto the city. A video taken on Jl. Serua in Bojong Sari showed piles of ice pellets on the ground.

The Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG), however, said that hail is not an extraordinary occurrence in a tropical country. Hail usually only lasts about 10 minutes and is followed by regular rain.

BMKG spokesman Harry Tirta said there were some signs to indicate hail was about to fall. First, temperatures increase in the night time and morning before hail appears; it is usually 4.5 degrees Celsius hotter than usual. That condition is followed by the formation of white clouds that subsequently turn dark grey. Such clouds are called cumulonimbus.

"What's happening [in Greater Jakarta] is heavy rain with lightning, thunder and short periods of strong wind. It's not a thunderstorm," he added.

The agency predicts cities within Greater Jakarta to continue experiencing such weather in the upcoming weeks.

Moreover, through its official website [www.bmkg.go.id](http://www.bmkg.go.id), the agency says it has been monitoring a weather phenomenon called the Madden-Julian Oscillation

Extreme weather brewing over Greater Jakarta as residents await five-year flood

Hail in Depok not extraordinary weather event, according to meteorology agency

(MJO), which usually manifests in anomalous rainfall that occurs not only in Jakarta, but also across the archipelago.

The MJO, which brings extra water vapor to form clouds in the sky, potentially increases the occurrence of heavy rain and strong wind, followed by thunder.

Heavy downpours and strong winds in the past few weeks have resulted in a considerable amount of damage and have even resulted in injuries and deaths.

In South Jakarta, earlier this week on Dec. 10, strong wind that hit the capital severely destroyed the roof of the Rasuna Garden Food Street in Kuningan. A video went viral showing metal sheets from the top of the building flying away. Visitors ran away in panic.

Hundreds of trees across the city have also been toppled by the extreme weather. The latest incident took place on Tuesday in Kembangan, West Jakarta.

The local Disaster Mitigation Agency (BPBD) worked hard to clear up toppled trees on Jl. Intan Meruya Ilir, Jl. Taman Aries, Jl. Kembangan Utara Raya, Jl. Baru Presisi, Jl. Penyelesaian Tomang,

Jl. Kembang Kerep and the Puri Indah Mall.

Last week, a tornado that struck Bogor, West Java, killed one person and destroyed 848 houses and five vehicles. It toppled dozens of trees, which fell upon three private cars and two public minivans, in three villages.

The fatality, who was identified as Enny Reno, a 46-year-old resident of the Bogor Nirwana Residence housing complex, was killed when a tree fell onto her car while she was driving.

The local police had built temporary shelters and public kitchens for those whose homes were damaged by the weather, while the Bogor disaster mitigation team and emergency response unit, Tagana, continues to assess the damage and relocate residents.

Meanwhile, the Jakarta administration has repeatedly identified dozens of places across the city that are prone to flooding. Floods and landslides have started happening. Some residents even worry that this rainy season would bring the kind of severe flooding that usually only occurs once in five or six years.

Although Harry maintained that there is no such thing as a flood cycle, Jakarta residents have come to believe a five-year cycle exists after experiencing severe floods in 1996, 2002, 2007 and 2013. In 2013, floodwaters reached the center of the capital, inundating the Hotel Indonesia traffic circle.