

English Edition

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Kaupelan is Mourning

VIOLENT EARTHQUAKE CAUSES MORE THAN 100 DEATHS IN WISANYO

Sanantonyo – The earth shook violently in the southern coast of Wisanyo yesterday at 4:36PM, causing panic and destruction. According to the Earthquake Monitoring Centre (*Terong uni Kurusuk nira Waimatahe*), of Purikali, an earthquake of magnitude 6.5 with epicentre at 6.69°S/129.93°E and depth of 10km hit the country. In Sanantonyo, the most affected city, the Modified Mercalli Intensity reached level VIII, destructive.

Rescue efforts for the victims began immediately and continued through the night. Firefighters of Jalabara and Sanantonyo received support from the Royal Army and Navy to these efforts.

Until midnight, the ministry of home affairs had recorded 112 fatalities, mostly in Sanantonyo but also in Jalabara and Purawatu. The search for missing continues in the region, and the number of fatal victims can double, according to civil defence agents.

The number of wounded being treated in the hospitals of the region and also in Purikali is, so far, around 370 people.

Apart from the human losses, the earthquake caused a huge material loss. Many buildings were partially or totally destroyed. The airport of Sanantonyo is closed and much of the southern region is without electricity, since the power plant Jalabara II was seriously harmed. Transmission lines, the Road 03, which connects Sanantonyo and Jalabara, and also an old Portuguese church of the XVI century were partially destroyed by the earthquake. Minister Philip Kurumali, of home affairs, mentioned losses of more than 200 million huwas.

King Kira flew by helicopter to the region during the night, to assist the victims. His Majesty said that “the country is mourning, but we are going to give all the support to the people of southern Wisanyo and reconstruct everything.”



A History of Earthquakes

A LAND BATTERED BY EARTHQUAKES

Purikali – Kaupelan is accustomed to earthquakes and virtually all the weeks there are occurrence of shakes, most of them hardly felt. Fortunately, strong quakes are rare.

Despite being ranked only as the ninetieth in terms of magnitude, the *Sanantonyo Earthquake* can be the third in the rank of damage and losses of lives, considering historical records. The first is the *Banda Sea Earthquake* of 1938 (magnitude: 8.5), which killed more than 500 people in Kaupelan, and the second is the *Jalabara Earthquake* of 1963 (magnitude 8.2), which killed 274 people.

“The country is not prepared to withstand strong seismic occurrences”, minister Kurumali said. “Only 15% of our constructions have well-designed structures and a national effort must be made to minimize the effect of catastrophes such as that of yesterday.”

FICT Games

KAUPELAN WILL LIKELY REMOVE THE BID

Purikali – The cabinet of Wisnumatan has discussed yesterday the long delay of FICT in defining the host for 2015 Games. Kaupelan applied on September 4th, to host them in mid-2015, but the delay is considered too long to allow enough time for the proper preparation of them.

Now, after the earthquake, the prime minister is likely to request the ambassador Aryanto Nuhusedim to withdraw the bid.

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