

Udang Kani

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Pension Funds

PARLIAMENT INCREASES SALARIES OF RETIREES

Purikali - Yesterday, the Parliament approved a bill that increases the wages of retirees, elevating from 60% to 70% of the salary of the active period. Senator Etimadan Lao – leader of the Socialist Party – said that “the measure aims to ensure a better standard of living for the retirees, after the change in the retirement age, from 60 to 65 years. The bill meets the claim of the population that came to the streets to protest earlier this year.”

The approval represents a defeat for the government coalition which

voted against it because, to accelerate the economy, recently reduced the direct taxes of products and services, reducing the yearly budget of the government. The leader of Party of Progress, senator Ngaru Tanutewe, stated last week that “it is a populist bill of the opposition that clearly undermines the policy to speed up the economic development”.

Due to these additional expenses, the government faces a deficit about 830 million huwas in the pension funds and analysts say that a growth of more than 5% will be necessary to balance the pension expenditures.

Modernity vs. Tradition

COULD LATIN ALPHABET REPLACE KIWANGAR WRITING?

Purikali – There is another controversial proposal being discussed in the Parliament to make Latin alphabet official together with Kiwangan script to write the Kaupelanese language.

According to the proponents of the bill, the Latin writing is easier to be used in the era of internet and by foreign tourists. Touristic place names in signposts, for example, currently written in Kaupelanese and English using both scripts could be replaced by a single text using the Roman alphabet. Ultimately, the proposal would reduce costs and is defended by the Party of Progress that has a speech of modernity and technological improvements.

The proposal divides opinions even among the government coalition. The National Party, very traditional, defends the ancient script as a cultural heritage and is totally against such initiative.

Beyond that, there are questions about the risk that the ancient writing falls into disuse. “Would be Kiwangan taught to children at school or would this writing system become only part of our History?” professor Waduk Lasahi and former minister of education asked.



Coca-Cola written in Kiwangan

Early Morning Watchers

THE WORLD CUP

Bandajaya – Even without the national team taking part in the Men’s Football World Cup played in Brazil, many Kaupelanese are watching the games on TV. Most games are late at night or early in the morning, which does not prevent football fans to watch them. According to opinion polls, the national preference is for the Netherlands that will play the semi-final match against Argentina on Thursday morning. Alini Aramwaruhi, a fanatic fan of football, wakes up at 5 in the morning to watch the games at home before going to work at a tourism agency in Bandajaya. She said: “I support the Netherlands although I think Brazil is going to be the champion, even without its main player, Neymar Jr.”

National Industry

THE BOOM OF SHPBUILDING INDUSTRY

Umala – After a poor performance in the 2000s, the shipbuilding industry is growing fast year by year since 2010 and can become the leading national industry in a decade. With many contracts signed this year, the forecast is that the ship production can surpass 2.4 billion huwas, growing 23.8% in comparison to last year. The biggest shipyard, Kalangong, expects to build 22 new ocean-going ships, 46% of national production, with its gross tonnage totalling 471,960 GT.

EXCHANGE RATES



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