

Umm Al-Qura

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The Majority Disapproves Wisnumatan’s Government

Purikali - Opinion polls done in the beginning of November indicate that the disapproval for the government of PM Sindi Wisnumatan surpassed the approval. 63% are not satisfied with the government during the coronavirus crisis and only 34% are satisfied. It is the highest rejection rate since the prime minister took office in 2014. Despite polls indicating that the government did well in terms of health, major dissatisfaction (59%) is with the economic performance of the country. The unemployment of almost 12% - the highest rate since 2012 - is the major cause for this dissatisfaction.

This situation opened a crisis in the government that can lead Wisnumatan to resign. There is a lot of pressure from many sectors for more economic aid.

The economy was strongly affected by the countermeasures to contain Covid-19. The dramatic reduction of foreign tourists impacted directly and indirectly the economic activity. The expected number of 3.5 million tourists this year was reduced to 640 thousand, a drop of more than 80%.

The service sector was the most affected. Also, the oil production had a significant drop due to the oil price in the global market.

GDP is expected to be reduced in 5%, closing the year with 186 billion huwas. Exports and imports also had a similar reduction.

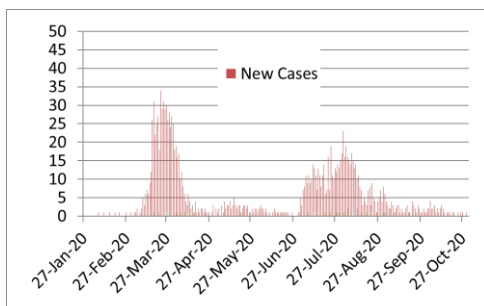
Companies such as airlines, hotels, restaurants and services in general claim a government aid to avoid bankruptcy.

Is the Pandemic under Control?

Purikali - After a second wave of infections, Minister of Health and Sports Atryana Ratawatu declared to the TV that the coronavirus situation is relatively under control with less than 7 new cases per week. Although most establishments are open now, some measures are still being taken. The international airport was reopened but people coming from abroad are requested to do quarantine when arriving to the country.

The total number of cases is 1,460 with 31 deaths and 1,379 recovered, since February 11th.

According to Ms. Ratawatu, the government spent 850 million huwas for the health and will invest additionally 150 million for the first batch - six million doses - of SINO-VAC vaccine. The Bandajaya Medicine Research Centre (*Terong Itambi Medèsin*) is working jointly with China for the vaccine development.



FICT General Assembly

Purikali – The 16th FICT General Assembly was held yesterday. PM Sindi Wisnumatan, Foreign Minister Marina Palimahi and the ambassador to FICT, Alwisyu Tanwahu, attended it via video conference from FICT headquarter in Purikali.

The main topic decided during the meeting was a new election system for the Secretary General and Vice Secretary General. For SG, the system remains using the alphabetical order of member states and VSG will be the ambassador of the subsequent state in the order.



Exchange Rate



USD: KAH 2.4305 ↓



EUR: KAH 2.8687 ↑

