

West Papua Development under Jokowi Leadership

After 7 years, President Joko Widodo has brought 10 new changes for West Papua.



1. Connecting remote areas across West Papua with Trans Papua Road:

Total length as of August 2021: **3,462 KM**



2. Papuan is ready to be the host of international sports competitions in the future with Papua Bangkit Stadium.

International standard stadium with **42,000** spectators capacity supporting with cutting-edge technology.



3. The Birthplace of Papua young Entrepreneurs in Papua Youth Creative Hub.

1.5-hectare spaces for Indonesia "Silicon Valley" will be built in West Papua.



4. Building A Magnificent Papua Icon: Youtefa Bridge.



- 5. Beautify the Nations front porches: Sota Border Crossing Post (PLBN) in Merauke.**



- 6. Easier tourist access with 10 new airports.**



- 7. Sustain the local economy with 6 seaports.**



- 8. Developing human resource quality by building 179 schools and public universities.**



- 9. Empowering Papuan mothers by constructing Wouma Market in Wamena.**

- 10. Helping the Papuan small enterprises by constructing Thumburuni Market in Fakfak.**

- 11. Easy internet access by planting East Palapa Ring optical fiber.**

THE **NEW LOOK** OF WEST PAPUA IN 2021



PAPUA BANGKIT, THE MOST MAGNIFICENT STADIUM IN THE PACIFIC IS **LOCATED IN WEST PAPUA!**

As a host for the National Sports Week XX, Papua province gave their best efforts to build the Papua Bangkit stadium as the outstanding stadium in the Pacific, and the second-largest in Indonesia after Gelora Bung Karno

- International standard
- Capacity: up to 42,000 spectators
- International standard
- Capacity: up to 42,000 spectators

PAPUA YOUTH CREATIVE HUB: HOUSE OF THE START-UP WILL BUILD IN WEST PAPUA JUST LIKE SILICON VALLEY!

- Currently building in Jayapura, Papua province
- Design to be the business incubation of original Papuan youth start-up
- There will be a set of co-working spaces, art and culture center, culinary space, and health space
- Planning to complete by the end of 2022



CROSS-BORDER POST IN SOTA, MERAUKE AS INDONESIA FRONT PORCHES IN THE EASTERNMOST AREA

- Officially inaugurated by President Joko Widodo after opening the National Sports Week XX (PON XX)
- Function to provide the citizens and immigrants to come to Indonesia with comfortable services

WEST PAPUA WILL ALWAYS
BE A PART OF
INDONESIA

**THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF INDONESIA, SOEKARNO, REAFFIRMED
WEST PAPUA AS A PART OF INDONESIA IN SEVERAL OF SPEECHES.**

AUGUST 17
1961

"We will not waste another word with the Dutch! West Irian must be immediately returned to the Republic's territory. At this time, our policy towards the Netherlands is confrontational policies in all fields—politics, economics, and even military!"

MAY 19
1962

"It is the will of the people for the Government of the Republic of Indonesia to be established in West Irian before the rooster crows on January 1, 1963."

MAY 04
1962

"...And, friends, what is Indonesia? What we called Indonesia is this entire archipelago from Sabang to Merauke. What we called Indonesia is what formerly referred to as the Dutch East Indies. What we called Indonesia is what the Dutch called Nederlands Indie. The entire archipelago from Sabang to Merauke, which consisted of thousands of islands; that is Indonesia."

INDONESIA CHOSE TO DEFEND WEST PAPUA INSTEAD OF ABANDONING IT UNDER THE DUTCH



The Blooming Development in West Papua that has Never been Discussed Before!

“If you were to examine the economic and social conditions of West Papua per capita as opposed to Papua New Guinea (PNG), even PNG would acknowledge that their (West Papua) performance is higher.”

Winston Peters, New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister, said.

“Before we went, we had been listening to the other side of the story. And the story we heard, which we were always hearing at that time, were that there is always human rights abuse, there is always a fight for independence, someone is being killed and all that. It’s one-sided, all one-sided.” Rence Sore, The Solomons’ Secretary on Foreign Relations, said that when they went to Papua region, the story was entirely different.

The blooming development in West Papua that has never been discussed by separatist groups and their supporters includes:

Infrastructure Development

The government is working with the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing (PU-Pera) to build the Trans-Papua road. This infrastructure is targeted to be connected entirely in 2018-2019. The length of the road is a combination of the Trans-Papua road in Papua Province, which covers 3,259.45 km and the Trans-Papua road in West Papua Province along 1,070.62 km. With the existence of Trans-Papua, Indonesia wants to facilitate access to the economy, health and education for the people of Papua and West Papua. The government allocated Rp 2.3 trillion to encourage infrastructure development, especially roads building in Papua.

Health Program

The Head of Manokwari Branch Health of BPJS (Badan Penyelenggara Jaminan Sosial or Social Security Organization), Florinsye Tamonob, said that currently 97.07% of the 1,180,658 total population of West Papua have participated in the National Healthy Card-Indonesia Health Insurance Program (JKN-KIS). At present, all residents of indigenous Papuans, especially in the Province of West Papua have been registered in the Health Insurance Program and all contributions will be financed by the Regional Government whose budget comes from Special Autonomy funds.

One Fuel Price

In 2017, Indonesia President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) instructed his staff to implement a one-price fuel oil policy (BBM) in all parts of Indonesia. This policy has also been applied for Papua and West Papua. The purpose of this policy is to make the fuel prices in Papua and West Papua can similar as in Java. This policy reduces the price of fuel which could have been around 60,000 to 100,000 per liter to 8,000 – 9,700 per liter.

Electricity Development

The government together with PT PLN (Persero) has a target to supply electricity to 1,200 villages throughout the provinces of Papua and West Papua until 2018. Now, the addition of electricity has been carried out to 435 villages. The government is trying to make the amount of drainage and electricity availability in the province reach 95% in 2018 and 100% by the end of 2019. Nowadays, Indonesia is still in conflict with separatist groups. However, several former separatists have even acknowledged themselves as a part of Indonesia now, such as Herman Yoku, a former OPM (Organisasi Papua Merdeka, or Free Papua Movement) activist, who revealed that the separatist movement of Papua was camouflage arranged by the Dutch and not the true voice of Papuan people. Indonesia cannot change the history. The Republic of Indonesia with 17,504 islands, 1,340 tribes, and 742 languages requires support from Asia Pacific countries to maintain the sovereignty of the country.



The Promise for West Papua's Independence

On August 17, 1945, Soekarno officially proclaimed Indonesia's independence and declared its freedom from the exploitative colonizers that had occupied the archipelago for more than 4 centuries. The struggle to establish a sovereign country and abolish colonialism from Indonesia has been a long and arduous journey since 1509, from the time when the Portuguese colonized Maluku, followed by France, Britain, the Netherlands, and Japan, who alternately controlled various regions of the archipelago.



Struggle for Sovereignty

The independence proclamation during the final years of Japanese colonization did not run without hurdles. The Dutch attempted to reoccupy Indonesia several times through military aggressions. The Dutch, who wanted to defeat the Japanese army, eventually rearmed their soldiers who were previously Japanese prisoners.

At the time, for security reasons, President Soekarno and Vice President Hatta moved to Yogyakarta and moved the capital city to Yogyakarta starting from 4 January 1946 until the end of 1949. In order to handily regain control of Indonesia, the Dutch government launched a *divide et impera* political strategy and divided Indonesia into several puppet states.

Among them were :

1. The State of East Indonesia (NIT), formed based on the Denpasar Conference which took place on December 18-24, 1946, with Tjokorda Gde Raka Sukawati as the president of NIT
2. The State of East Sumatra, formed on March 24, 1948, with Dr. Tengku Mansyur as the president
3. The State of Madura, formed on February 20, 1948, with R. A. A. Tjakraningrat as the president
4. The State of Pasundan, formed on February 16, 1948, with R. A. Wiranatakusumah as the president
5. The State of South Sumatra, formed on August 30, 1948, with Abdul Malik as the president
6. The State of East Java, formed on November 26, 1948, with R. T. P. Achmad Kusumonegara as the president; and
7. Autonomous regions consisting of West Kalimantan, Dayak Besar, Banjar, Southeast Borneo, Central Java, Bangka, Belitung, and Riau, with Sultan Hamid Aljadrie II as the president.

Democracy in the Beginning of

After the second military aggression, the transfer of sovereignty from the Netherlands to Indonesia was officially signed on December 27, 1949. Indonesia then began to improve itself and establish a sovereign government. According to the 4th principle of Pancasila, democracy guided by the inner wisdom in the unanimity arising out of deliberations amongst representatives, Indonesia held its first election in 1955 in which Indonesia chose the people's representatives and constituents tasked with drafting a new constitution in lieu of the Provisional Constitution of 1950 (UUDS 1950). Members of the assembly began to confer on November 10, 1956, but had not succeeded in formulating the new constitution until 1958.

For this reason, added with pressure from the people, President Soekarno issued the 1950 decree to revert the 1950 Constitution to the 1945 Constitution. The second election was held in 1971 to elect members of the House of Representatives (DPR) and Regional House of Representatives (DPRD), while the Indonesian president was elected by the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR). The history of democratic practices in Indonesia has since been the same. The president was elected by the MPR on the elections of 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 1999. Since 2004, Indonesia began to elect their president directly through the one man one vote mechanism.

PEPERA, Sovereignty, and Democracy

When the Dutch recognized Indonesia's independence on December 27, 1949, Papua had yet to be reintegrated with Indonesia, as the Round Table Conference (KMB) conducted in Den Hague on August 23, 1949, agreed that all territories of Dutch colonies were to be part of the Republic of Indonesia, except for West Papua that would be returned to Indonesian jurisdiction 2 years later.

In reality, the Dutch later violated the agreement, as they still occupied Papua in 1961. They even planned measures to separate Papua from the Republic of Indonesia. The Papuan National Council (DNP, or Dewan Nasional Papua), the forerunner of the Free Papua Movement (OPM, or Organisasi Papua Merdeka), was hastily formed by the Dutch, followed by the declaration of a puppet state on December 1, 1961.

The cunning Dutch formed a puppet state in Papua, similar to what they had done in other regions of Indonesia, certainly causing an outrage among the Indonesian people. Hence, on December 19, 1961, at the North Town Square of Yogyakarta, Indonesian President Soekarno announced the People's Triple Command (Operation Trikora) as an attempt to reunite West Irian with the Republic of Indonesia. After tough diplomatic efforts facilitated by the United Nations (UN), the Dutch finally succumbed and signed the New York Agreement (NYA) with Indonesia on August 15, 1962. Indonesia was represented by Soebandrio and the Dutch was represented by Jan Herman van Roijen and C. W. A. Schurmann.

The content of the agreement was essentially a roadmap for the attempt to resolve the dispute over the Papua/West Irian region. Five days later on September 20, 1962, the exchange of the ratification instrument between Indonesia and the Dutch was carried out, but that did not make it automatically come into force, because the UN was involved. Therefore, the UN brought the agreement to the UN General Assembly (UNGA), and it was then accepted and ratified through the UNGA Resolution 1752 which came into force on September 21, 1962.

According to the NYA, the transfer of authority over West Papua from the Dutch to Indonesian government would be conducted indirectly. The Dutch would hand it over to the UN first, then the UN would hand it over to Indonesian government through a referendum known as PEPERA (Penentuan Pendapat Rakyat, or Determination of the People's Opinion). Ultimately, on October 1, 1962, the Deputy Governor General of the Netherlands H. Veldkamp surrendered his authority over West Papua to a UN agency specifically formed to deal with the Papuan dispute, named the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA).

UNTEA then prepared the referendum. On May 1, 1963, UNTEA finally handed over the governing of West Papua to Indonesia. Hollandia, which had been the center of power of the Dutch kingdom in Papua, was renamed to Kota Baru. The day is now commemorated as the Day of Return of Papua to the Republic of Indonesia. The history of Papua's return to the Republic of Indonesia was also clarified by a historical witness, Herman Yoku, in recent years.

Lawsuits Against PEPERA Referendum

Three days later, precisely on May 4, 1963, Soekarno set foot on the land of Papua. In the presence of thousands of Papuans in Kota Baru, Soekarno delivered a passionate speech, "West Irian, since August 17, 1945, has been a territory of the Republic of Indonesia. People sometimes talked about bringing West Irian into the territory of Indonesia."

That's wrong! No! West Irian has always been a territory of the Republic of Indonesia..." (footage of Soekarno's speech in Kota Baru, Jayapura, May 4, 1963). On September 5, 1963, West Papua was declared a "quarantined area". Indonesian government disbanded the Papuan Council and prohibited the Papuan flag and national anthem created by the Dutch. This decision was opposed by the OPM. The preparation for the referendum took seven years. Only in 1969, the referendum (PEPERA) was held, witnessed by two UN envoys.





As a result, Papua finally returned to the Republic of Indonesia, becoming the 26th province of Indonesia under the name of Irian Jaya upon the wishes of the Papuan people. This decision, however, was again opposed by the OPM and several independent observers provoked by the Dutch. To this day, OPM still has successors and propagates their version of history in order to bring about the ideals of a Free Papua. The assumption that the Dutch gave them independence has continued to be the foundation for this organization to act. In reality, the same promise of independence has also been offered to other Indonesian puppet states such as Yogyakarta, etc.

The separatist group, backed by the Dutch since the founding, sued the PEPERA for not truly representing the voice of the Papuan people as it did not implement the one man one vote mechanism. However, we cannot deny that the practice of democratic representation has become a part of the democratic culture in Indonesia as well as Papua. In the democratic culture of the Papuan people themselves, there is a system known as Noken, within a community in the Central Mountains of Papua, in which the vote is represented by the tribal chief.

The PEPERA Deliberation Council (DPM, or Dewan Musyawarah PEPERA) of 1,026 members became representatives of the Papuan population, which at the time were 815,904 residents. The DPM members consisted of traditional element (tribal chiefs) as many as 400 people, 360 people from the regional elements, and 266 people from various interest groups. The result, as stated within the acclamation of DMP representatives, was to remain within the Republic of Indonesia. Resolution 1504, stating that Papua is a legitimate territory of the Republic of Indonesia, was approved by 80 UN member states with 20 abstinent states.

There was no country that refused the integration of Papua into Indonesian territory. Therefore, Papua was de facto recognized and legitimate as a part of the territory of the Republic of Indonesia. Today, what is worth wondering is actually the legitimacy of the OPM—whether OPM is genuinely the voice of the Papuan people, or only the specific interest of the separatist group—as there is no reliable method that can really ensure whether what they are doing is truly on behalf of the Papuan people.



Is It True the Highest Human Development Index Across Melanesian Countries is in East Indonesia?

Radio New Zealand reported that the **HDI** for both **Papua** and **West Papua** provinces in East Indonesia has been **increasing** for the past two years, with an increase of **1.3% for Papua** province and an increase of **1.5% for West Papua** province from **2018 to 2019**.

On **2020**, the HDI in Papua and West Papua Provinces are, respectively **60.44** and **65.09**, surpassing other Melanesian countries such as the Solomon Islands of **56.7** and Papua New Guinea of **55.5**.

And since **education** improves the **welfare of the people**, another exciting progress can be seen through the **increase** of students' **school length** where students in **West Papua** are expected to **stay in school** until **20 years old**.

This is supported by the facilities for tertiary education, **West Papua** is at the top in Pacific with **67 universities**, where there are only 49 universities in the rest of **Melanesian countries**.



A **center for developing creativity and startups** business for young Papuans called the **Papua Youth Creative Hub** was also launched to bring **100 new startups** from East Indonesia.

Sumber: Radio New Zealand, UNDP

Construction of Trans-Papua Road has Reached 908 KM



The administration of President Joko Widodo from 2015 to 2019 has a focus on finishing the Trans Papua road. In addition to building the main road, the district and city roads will also be connected to the main road. Construction of this road is expected to open isolated areas immediately. At the end of 2014, Trans Papua in Papua Province had only reached 2,343 km. The remaining roads that have not been connected to the main road are 865 km. While Trans Papua in West Papua Province just reached 920 km. The remaining roads that have not been connected to the main road are 151 km. Based on data from the Directorate General of Highways of the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing, the total length of Trans Papua roads that have been built is 908.8 km from 2015 to 2018. The constructed road is 761.57 km in Papua Province and 147.23 km in West Papua Province. At present, Trans Papua in West Papua Province has been built entirely, which is 1,071 km long. In 2015-2018, 153.62 km of the road was built.

In 2017, Trans Papua in Papua Province has reached 2,907 km of the total 3,259 km planned. From 2015 to 2019, the road constructed was 865 km long. The government's target is to complete all of the remaining uncovered Trans Papua, which is 1,066 km long, by the end of 2019. That means, there are 865 km of new road construction in Papua Province and 151 km in West Papua Province waiting to be completed. In 2018, there was still 1,678 km of unpaved roads, namely 379.39 km in West Papua Province and 1,298.61 km in Papua Province; whereas the total length of the Trans Papua road reaches 4,330 km. The construction of national roads in the two provinces of Papua has reached 1.982 km from 2015 to 2018. The total length consists of 791 km in 2015, 477 km in 2016, 345 km in 2017, and 369 km in 2018. Road maintenance during 2015 to 2018 is targeted to reach 14,367 km, which consists of 2,933 km in 2015, 3,625 km in 2016, 3,969 km in 2017, and 3,840 km in 2018.

HOW THE WEST PAPUA ARMED SEPARATISTS ARE SIMILAR TO ISIS



If ISIS killed non-Muslims, then the West Papua armed separatists killed non-Papuan.

The armed separatists operate just like ISIS:

1. Using Child Soldiers

Associated Press has proven that the armed separatists used child soldiers just like ISIS



2. Raping Women

The armed separatists held 15 medical staff and teachers hostage in Nduga for 2 weeks (3/10/18). They viciously took turn in raping one of the female teachers. On 13 September 2021, the rebels also stabbed and raped nurse Gabriella Meilani to death in Pegunungan Bintang regency.



3. Had killed 395 people from 2010-2020 (Gadjah Mada University)

2021

There were **46** shooting cases by Free Papua terrorists in West Papua, **9** people died.

2020

There were **29** people died, killed by Free Papua terrorists

2019

There were **23** shooting cases by the armed separatists in West Papua, **20 people died**: **10** civilians and **10** security officers

2018

There were **26** shooting cases by the armed separatists, **killed 29 people**: **22** civilians and **7** security officers

Throughout December 2019, 4 soldiers died in ensuring the safety of West Papua and the sovereignty of Indonesia

Why does the world act blind and deaf to the armed separatists' crimes against civilians, women, and even children?

From IDR 100,000, Papua's Fuel Price Now is IDR 6,450 per Liter

If previously the price of fuel (Bahan Bakar Minyak or BBM) in Papua was a lot higher from other Indonesian regions, Papua today can enjoy the much lower price through BBM Satu Harga (One Fuel Price) Program announced by the government. The same fuel price applied in other regions in Indonesia. Before this program, fuel price in some parts of the Papua can soar very high above the government's regulation. It was started from IDR 70,000 and can reach IDR 100,000 per liter. One Fuel Price Program was instructed under President Joko Widodo's policy, who wanted to decrease the inequality of prices in Eastern Indonesia.

During his visit to Jayapura, President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) revealed the unbalance in fuel price happened in Papua. The price was considerably higher than in Java, where we can get a liter of petroleum with IDR 6,450 and a liter of diesel fuel with IDR 5,150. "There is an injustice. (It is) only IDR 7,000 in Java. Mr. Kapolda (Kepala Kepolisian Daerah or Regional Police Chief) here has said that above or in the Papua mountains,

It can reach IDR 100,000 per liter. In Wamena, it can reach IDR 70,000 per liter," Jokowi stated while attending the inauguration of six electricity infrastructure for Papua and West Papua, at Waena Substation, Jayapura, Papua in Monday, October 17, 2016.



By the application of this program, the fuel price in Papua will be the same as it was set by the government, which is IDR 6,450 per liter for petroleum. This program came into effect on October 18, 2016. Meanwhile, Minister of Badan Usaha Milik Negara (BUMN or State-Owned Enterprises) Rini Soemarno said that the effort to reduce fuel prices was carried out by PT Pertamina in various ways. Starting from mapping the price conditions in the region to providing infrastructure so that it can help reduce the fuel price. Finally, the government has been able to suppress the fuel cost in Papua by the end of August 2016.

"So, in some regions, the fuel price has been already the same with the national price. The President will also inaugurate them all," Rini said. She admitted that to be able to realize this plan, the government through the help of PT Pertamina (Perusahaan Tambang dan Minyak Negara or State Mining and Oil Company) imposes cross-subsidies. Hopefully, with equal fuel price, local community welfare will get better and better. "I am confident that by doing so, we can do a lot of things for the community, helping the less fortunate, disadvantaged, to the place where previously inaccessible," she concluded.

First Time since the Independence

Minister Rini Soemarno also said that the decrease in fuel price had become Jokowi's commitment as he had been seeing a very big gap between several regions in Indonesia, such as Papua. "Alhamdulillah, with the BUMN teamwork, efficiency, and BUMN for the Country, we can realize one of our dreams in Papua (that is standardized) fuel prices, and this (policy) has only been applied for the first time since the Republic's Independence, that the fuel price can be the same (reached the government standard) in Papua," Rini explained. The government's struggle to reduce fuel price in Papua and other regions was not easy. Pertamina Marketing Director Ahmad Bambang pointed out, this condition is like what happened in Intan Jaya, Papua. Pertamina's plan to reduce fuel price has gotten resistance from several parties.

"The last one is Jalan Intan Jaya, while the others had already applied in August. I hope it will come into effect in Intan Jaya in September but there were some oppositions. There are unscrupulous fuel businesses that benefit from high fuel prices. So if the supply drops, their business is lost. This person is someone influential, so the struggle in Intan Jaya is much harder, even though others support it," Ahmad said in Jayapura, Papua.

Applied in 8 Papua Regions in 2017

One Fuel Price Program set by the government can be enjoyed by the locals in eight Papua regions. They are Mountains District (West Papua), Puncak, Membramo Raya, Nduga, Membramo Tengah, Yalimo, Tolikara, and Intan Jaya. The residents of these regions can buy petroleum and diesel fuel according to market price set by PT Pertamina. "These eight regions can be said (indicated) in red. The fuel price in the red area ranged from IDR 20,000 to IDR 60,000 (per liter). There were even cases where it reach IDR 100,000.

We want this (fuel price) to go down similar to other (area)," PT Pertamina Marketing Director Ahmad Bambang said. Through One Fuel Price Program, the government want similar price for fuel throughout Indonesia. The impact for this policy is to alleviate the community's burden, related to the purchase of fuel and the affected objects such as daily necessity cost. "With the fuel price going far cheaper and reach the national standard, the logistic costs can be cheaper. So, the price for other goods can also drop. Thus, the community can (focus to) make life improvement and to be able to catch up," he said.

The Target has been Realized throughout Indonesia in 2017

PT Pertamina targeted the same fuel price in all regions in Indonesia by 2017. This was in line with the implementation of One Fuel Price Program rolled out by the government. In 2016, some regions in Indonesia still sold fuel with the price above the standard of IDR 6,450 per liter for petroleum and IDR 5,150 per liter for diesel fuel, just like what happened in Kalimantan and Papua. The fuel price in this regions ranged from DR 10,000 to IDR 100,000 per liter, making the living cost soar high. "The areas that did not have fuel distributor due to the difficult access to the regions should have built fuel distributor (such as Agen Premium dan Minyak Solar (APMS or Petroleum and Diesel Fuel Agent) and Stasiun Pengisian Bahan Bakar Umum (SPBU or Public Fuel Station). In these area, fuel price is about IDR 20,000 to IDR 60,000 per liter. There are even one that reach IDR 100,000 per liter because the expensive transportation costs to there regions. To (solve) that, Pertamina should provided fuel distributors in those areas so that the price can get cheaper according to the government standard," Pertamina Marketing Director Ahmad Bambang said in Jayapura.

He said, in this program Pertamina will cover all costs such as transportation costs or provision of infrastructure facilities that are determined referring to the conditions of the region. "The cost of supplying fuel to the entire region, whether by general or special aircraft, via river and land, is the responsibility (subsidies of) Pertamina. This is a part of Pertamina's marketing program. Because as a state-owned enterprise, Pertamina should be an agent of development," he said. The fuel price, which is much cheaper than the previous one, turned out to have a considerable influence on Papua. The decline in fuel prices has caused transportation costs between regions to be lower. This has triggered a decline in daily commodity prices as well.

Not only that, with the addition of fuel distributors in various regions, people can easily bought fuel. The houses became bright at night because the fuel for the generator could be accessed by all people. Children are happy to study at night, no longer in the dimness of candles. Walking at night is no longer scary because the streets are brighter. In 2018, the One Fuel Price Program is still running in Indonesia, from Sabang to Merauke. The government has also started to supply electricity to Papua. Although its reach is still limited, there is no harm in hoping that later Papua will become more advanced.



What They do not Talk About When They Talk About Human Rights Issues in West Papua



The story of Indonesian human rights and Papuan issues is like a man and his shadow. The human rights violations in West Papua involving Indonesian government is an undeniable fact. Even if the development of Indonesian goes better or even if the West Papua province is intensively support for its people's prosperity, Indonesia will always be followed by its dark history there. It seems like there is no other way to be forgotten, let alone forgiven. However, is it true that the Indonesian government do horrible things to Papuan people? Some facts should be straightened here because there are still many facts that are being twisted and unclarified on Papuan issues.

Since the era of Indonesian founding fathers, every presidency had their own focus on building and developing Papua. It was not because of the dark history that follows but because West Papua is always a part of Indonesia since Soekarno and Hatta declared our independence in August 1945. As a part of Indonesia, West Papua and its people have the same rights to prosper just like other citizens in the country.

Soekarno's Era



For Soekarno, Indonesia without West Irian (the name before West Papua) is like a human body without its fingertip. As written in his autobiography by Cindy Adams, *Sukarno: Penyambung Lidah Rakyat Indonesia*, Sukarno questioned if there is someone that would not fight back when other people hurts one of his body features. He was also asked if there is someone that would not scream out loud when their fingers are cut. His analogy is as hurts as it sounds if West Papua is still being colonized by the Dutch.

For Soekarno, Indonesia without West Irian (the name before West Papua) is like a human body without its fingertip. As written in his autobiography by Cindy Adams, *Sukarno: Penyambung Lidah Rakyat Indonesia*, Sukarno questioned if there is someone that would not fight back when other people hurts one of his body features. He was also asked if there is someone that would not scream out loud when their fingers are cut. His analogy is as hurts as it sounds if West Papua is still being colonized by the Dutch. Soekarno's statement is not coming up without some supporting facts. Since the colonial era, it is already determined that West Irian (West Papua) is a part of Dutch East Indies which would be recognized as a part of Indonesian Republic.

During the process of transition, the Dutch broke the negotiation in The Roundtable Conference (KMB) on 1949. The Dutch refuse to transfer West Irian province as a part of Indonesian Republic because they believed that West Irian has different ethnicity and culture with the rest of Indonesian people. "Sukarno has instructed Hatta not to return from KMB in The Hague (to Indonesia) without West Irian," wrote Mavis Rose in *Indonesia Free: A Political Biography of Mohammad Hatta*.

The discourse brought by the Dutch. Were strongly refuted by the Indonesian government because Indonesia is an independent country with ethnic diversity from Sabang to Merauke. There was never one ethnicity and culture that could represent Indonesia because the country was built based on *Bhineka Tunggal Ika* (Unity in Diversity). The fact that West Papua is a part of Indonesia was also supported by the statement from Representatives of BFO (Federal Consultative Body) for the Eastern Indonesian State (*Negara Indonesia Timur*), *Ide Anak Agung Gde Agung*, which says that West Irian is a part of the Sultanate of Maluku-Tidore a few decades ago.

In Soekarno's era, the fight for West Papua represents the Indonesian dream of being independent and free from colonialism. Of all the facts that exist, the Dutch still encourages the establishment of the State of Papua together with the national anthem instead. Further, the strengthening of the military fleet was carried out by the Dutch by bringing the aircraft carrier of Karel Doorman to West Papua. These irresponsible Dutch movements triggered Soekarno to declare the *Tri Komando Rakyat* (Trikorra) Operation on December 19th, 1961.

Trikora's operational command was called Mandala Command for the Liberation of West Irian with Major-General Soeharto, serving as the commander. In preparation for the planned invasion, the Mandala command began making land, air, and sea incursions into West Irian. Here, the battles between Indonesian's army and the Dutch's army were inevitable to seize West Papua.

This condition creates two camps within Indonesian soldiers. There were Indonesian joins The Royal Netherlands East Indies Army (Koninklijk Nederlands Indisch Leger; well known as KNIL) and also some who joins the National Army of Indonesians (TNI). Therefore, the Papuans that became the victims in this era is the one that supports the Dutch's army.

Soeharto's Era



After a long fight of Trikora Operation and the historical voting of PEPERA, on August 1969, the second elected Indonesian Presiden – Soeharto – declared West Papua as a part of Indonesia. In that occasion, Soeharto also presented the Law no. 12/1969 on the Autonomy of West Irian Province. Through the initiative on giving West Irian Province its own autonomy, Indonesian government shows a tendency to treat West Irian as a part of Indonesia where it has their own rights to be developed side by side just like other Indonesian provinces.

There was one story that explains why in Soeharto's era, the name of West Irian changed to Irian Jaya. During the process of West Papua liberation, many neighbouring countries were found supportive to Indonesian initiative in fighting the Dutch. For one of them is Papua New Guinea (PNG), the country that shares the same land with West Irian. When the Minister of Information from PNG comes to visit Indonesia, he was warmly welcomed by Boediardjo, the Indonesian Minister of Information at that time.

Over beers, they talked casually just like an old friend. Until the Minister of Information from PNG asked a spontaneous question to Boediardjo when they were in the toilet to pee, "If you name it (the West Irian Province) like that, would there will be East Irian Province in the future?" Boediardjo was shocked by the questioned.

As he understands the worries from his colleague. Boediardjo ensured the Minister of Information from PNG to not worry about that because Indonesia will always respect PNG as an independent country. In the morning after, Boediardjo consoled to President Soeharto on his talk with PNG's minister. Although the people of West Irian preferred to have Papua as their province, Soeharto responded PNG's concern and change the province's name into "Irian Jaya". This story tells us that even though Indonesian's government decision seems to be ignorant for the West Papua's people, it truly presents the Indonesian tendency to respect other countries, especially the neighbouring countries.

There is no way that Indonesia would like to occupy another country like PNG through the liberation of West Irian because the fight is never about colonialism but purely about nationalism. Moreover, it is important to understand that in Soeharto's presidency, there is one huge historical decision that affects Papua and West Papua until today. Soeharto is known to support foreign investment activity in this country. Therefore, through his fondness for foreign investment, Soeharto decided to welcome Freeport to be the sole company to manage the mine area in Timika. His decision caused a long polemic that relates to various issues, including the human rights issue.

There were several conflicts between local people in Timika and Indonesian army because the local did not agree with the existence of Freeport in their area. However, it is important to note that Soeharto's dictatorship affected local politics all over Indonesia. The human rights violation was not merely happened in West Papua only but also in other places. Still, the violation happened in this era was never about the West Papuan's races instead it is pure Soeharto's oppression.

Gus Dur's Era



The fall of Soeharto's presidency was a new era of Indonesia. For after more than thirty years, the New Order finally comes to an end. Abdurrahman Wahid or known as Gusdur filled the fourth place of Indonesian president after the short period of BJ. Habibie. In Gus Dur's presidency, it is not just the name of West Irian that changes into Papua and West Papua in January 2000, but there other several breakthroughs worth to mention during his period.

First, he treats Papuans like they wanted to be treated. According to the administrator of the PBNU Human Resources Study Institute (Lakpesdam), Eman Hermawan, the Papuan people still remembers Gus Dur's statement, while visiting West Papua. "My eyes really can't see, but my heart can feel the tears and fears of the Papuans, so, O Papuans, today I will return your pride as an integral part of the Republic of Indonesia," said Gus Dur.

Second, Gus Dur lets the Papuans to held their Papuan People's National Congress II which was attended by 5000 participants and heard by hundreds of thousands of people via radio broadcast. Gus Dur gave the freedom for the people to pursue their aspiration on discussing the importance of resolving various cases of human rights violations in Papua and West Papua

As well as pursuing the economic, social and cultural development of the Papuan people. Third, Gus Dur fights for the renegotiation of Freeport agreement in order to fulfil the vision of Papuan People's National Congress II. Although he had a short period of a presidency,

Gus Dur has shown his strong alignments with the Papuans. Up until today, he is the only Indonesian president that is known as "the Father of Papuans".

Megawati and SBY's Era



The era of both Megawati and SBY's presidency is the era of building infrastructure and economic development in Papua and West Papua. Following her father's mission in developing Papuans, Megawati initiated several plans to build the road, bridges and other hard infrastructure. So as SBY's era, in his first speech after elected, SBY has three main agenda regarding Papua. The three agendas are the reconstruction of Law No. 21/2001 towards the 'Special Autonomy Plus' for Papuans, the agenda for resolving the conflict related to Papua,

And the agenda to continue the development of Papuans in a comprehensive and extensive way. During ten years of SBY's presidency, SBY still not satisfied with the progress in Papua. He hopes that Jokowi's presidency will continue to focus on several things such as the improvement of public trust in Papuans grass-root community, the advancement of security in Pegunungan Tengah because it is still disrupted and the establishment of Jakarta-Papua dialogue is urgently required to strengthen political condition in Papua. One thing that is important to realize is every presidency has their own way dealing with West Papuan's issues. The people of West Papua cannot blame Indonesian government's act towards their community as something permanent from time to time. There are many factors playing including the president's policy in each era.

Despite the mistakes happened, it is clearly shown that Soekarno's vision of Papua has reflected in every presidency. The prosperity and the security of Papuans is still a main priority for the government because as the fifth point in Pancasila stated, justice for all Indonesian people. Sabang to Merauke, which includes Papuans and its land. Our government keeps learning and moving forward to reach the goal.

Jokowi's Era



Although Gus Dur's spirit on people to people approach seems to hinder in two era of Megawati and SBY, the spirit seems to travel back again in Jokowi's era. Without any tendency to disrespect the Megawati and SBY's era, Gus Dur's approach on the people appears strongly in the era of Joko Widodo as he widely known with his "blusukan" (impromptu visit and meet the people in the grassroots) signature style. Jokowi has counted to visit West Papua for eight times in his fourth year as a president.

In one of his interview with New Ireland's journalist, Fransiscus Orlando, Jokowi said firmly that his concern is to know the real condition of the community and the infrastructure in Papua, not only from the report of his ranks. Jokowi even hired a special staff directly from Papuans young leader, Lenis Kogoya to be his advisor for West Papua. Lenis Kogoya's appointment is the reflection of Jokowi's presidency in involving pursuing the development for Papuans people. Another breakthrough from Jokowi is when he visited the Gunung Merah region, Sentani to distribute 3,331 land certificates for the Papuans people.

Land issue has always been a critical problem for Papuans. It involves various rebellion and separatism cases which leads to the human rights issue. However, Jokowi's presidency has moved beyond other presidencies before to resolve the case by distributing the land to its official owner. His act walks his talk to prioritize Papuans human rights and its land. Finally, the tendency of each presidency in dealing with West Papua issue is improvement over time.

There was never a tendency to denied the violation towards human rights issues but there is always a vision to guard the Indonesian sovereignty as a country. It is initial to realize that we should focus on the future by looking at the progress we had from Gus Dur's era and today's era, in Joko Widodo's presidency. The Free West Papua movement often recalls the mistake Indonesian did at the past. However, there was never a spirit of moving forward to develop a better West Papua. Recalling the past would never improve the West Papuan's community; better education, infrastructure and health access will do.

Must-See Natural Wonders in Papua, the Island of Paradise



The archipelago of Indonesia is blessed with numerous attractive and beautiful natural sites. It also applies to Papua, the easternmost island in the archipelago. Entitled as the Island of Paradise, a multitude of fascinating natural wonders spread throughout the island of Papua. Below are brief reviews of six tourist destinations in Papua with their various beauty and uniqueness.



Raja Ampat Islands

The most well-known tourist destination in West Papua, Raja Ampat Islands, offer the beauty of exotic sea and beaches, as well as thousands of species of fish and sea turtle. Raja Ampat has been broadly known as the island with the largest variety of sea ecosystem. Diving becomes one of the exciting activities to do while visiting the islands. Compared to other months of the year, October and November are considered the best time to visit Raja Ampat Islands, especially those who come to dive. At the end of the year, the nice weather will create the clearer sky, allowing the divers to look more closely at the beautiful living creatures under the sea.

Mount Jayawijaya

Another natural wonder in Papua that is impossible to resist is Mount Jayawijaya. The mountain top of Jayawijaya is always covered in snow. Snow covering the peak of the mountain is a surprising, yet exciting occurrence, considering that Indonesia is a tropical country. People often refer to the snow on the top of Jayawijaya Mountain as the eternal snow, making it one of the most incredible hiking destinations for travelers from around the world. The mountainous range of Jayawijaya belongs to the area of Lorentz National Park. Carstensz Pyramid, the highest peak of Jayawijaya Mountain is included in the world's top seven summits that record it as one of the most incredible and beautiful mountain tops in the world.





Baliem Valley

Baliem Valley lies around the mountainous range of the Jayawijaya Mountains, lying 1,600 meters above sea level. As a mountainous region, the weather in Baliem Valley is obviously nice and pleasant, but sometimes, it can be a little chilly at the temperature of 10-15 degree Celcius. The valley is inhabited by three ethnic groups of Papua: Dani, Yani, and Lani. In addition to its spectacular panoramic view, Baliem Valley offers the uniqueness of the ethnic groups' traditional living. The annual festival, namely the Baliem Valley Festival, is held for three days in August. The festival shows a traditional performance containing historical scenes of ethnic warfare that happened in the past.

Biak Island

Biak Island is actually one of the two islands that belong to Biak Regency with Numfor Island as the neighboring area. Located near Cenderawasih Bay, Biak Island is well-known because of its admirable scenery and pleasant weather. Moreover, it also has a number of interesting places to visit. One of them is Amoi Village, a beautiful village that offers a breathtaking panoramic view. Fifteen kilometers from Biak, lay Bosnik Beach, another natural wonder with a lot of undersea beauty to offer. Besides Raja Ampat, this tropical beach is also a favorite destination for travelers who are looking for the perfect place for snorkeling and diving.





Lake Sentani

Lake Sentani is probably the most popular lake in Papua. The beauty of this inland water has been admitted not only by the locals, but also by foreign travelers. The lake is surrounded by 21 highland areas with the height of 75 meters. Each year, Lake Sentani Festival is held on June. The festival shows various cultural traditions of Papua, including traditional ceremonies, cultural dances, and culinary festival. There are so many interesting things to do around Lake Sentani. The lake is open for swimming activity. Moreover, the visitors can also go fishing in the special area of the lake as well as wander around the lake by boats. Several restaurants and food courts are available in the tourist area where the visitors can enjoy lovely taste of Papuan culinary delights.

Lake Paniai

Besides Lake Sentani, Lake Paniai is another beautiful lake in Papua that should be visited by those who value the wonder of nature. Having the area of 14,500 hectares, this large lake lies 1,700 meters above sea level. Lake Paniai is indeed located in the highland range. While spending time in the lake area, the visitors can enjoy the attractive scenery as dusk falls, or looking at the groups of birds flying in the sky over the lake. In 2007, Lake Paniai was acclaimed as one of the world's most beautiful lakes at the World Lake Conference that was held in India. The site of Lake Paniai can be reached through the city of Enarotali or by a Cessna plane which boards across the area of the lake. With so many natural wonders surrounded the island, the title "Island of Paradise" has clearly become the right title for Papua. Just like any other areas that belong to the Indonesian archipelago, the country's easternmost island and province also has great potential for tourism development.





Indonesia's big development push in Papua: Q&A with program overseer Judith J. Dipodiputro

- Papua and West Papua provinces are among President Joko Widodo's top focus in his ambitious infrastructure development program for Indonesia's remote and under-developed regions.
- Not everyone supports the program, however, due to the environmental impact it poses and the cost to local communities.
- Mongabay speaks with Judith J. Dipodiputro, who heads a special presidential working group for Papua and West Papua, about progress, challenges and solutions in both provinces.
- Dipodiputro believes infrastructure development is crucial for realizing equal rights for Papuans.

When Indonesian President Joko Widodo took office in October 2014, he made it clear that one of his key domestic policies was to develop and upgrade infrastructure across the archipelago.

The president, popularly known as Jokowi, was confident that his programs to build toll roads, railway lines and more would boost the local economy and raise living standards for communities in the nation's remotest regions.

High up on his list are the provinces of Papua and West Papua, on the island of New Guinea, where human and infrastructure development lag the rest of the country, despite this region being one of the richest in the world in terms of natural resources. The number of residents living below the poverty line in both provinces is more than 25 percent of the population, more than double the nationwide rate of 10.7 percent, according to March 2017 data from the Central Statistics Bureau.

"If the infrastructure is good, roads and seaports are good, then Papua's economy will grow faster as logistics distribution for goods and people improves,"

the president said during a visit to the region in 2015.

Some of Jokowi's ambitious development plans include the Trans Papua highway, expected to go into operation in 2018; full electrification across Papua and West Papua by 2019, from the current 47 percent; and building seaports that are part of his nationwide sea tollway program.

The amount the government is spending on these programs is significant. Last year alone, Jokowi is reported to have allocated 85.7 trillion rupiah (\$6.4 billion) to fund development projects in Papua and West Papua.

In July, he reiterated the importance of the programs for Papua and West Papua, and called on his cabinet and local governments to accelerate infrastructure development in both provinces.



" Such massive potential [in Papua and West Papua] must be utilized as much as possible for the people's welfare, **"**

Jokowi said

Not everyone supports a full-on development spree in Papua and West Papua, however. Some experts and conservationists argue that Jokowi's infrastructure push will damage protected areas in the region and benefit big businesses at the expense of local communities.

The programs also have to contend with an armed independence movement there that has waged a low-level insurgency for decades. In September, a petition demanding a free vote on independence for the two provinces was presented to the United Nations. The petition reportedly bore 1.8 million signatures — representing more than 70 percent of the region's inhabitants — and was banned by the government in Jakarta. It was eventually rebuffed at UN on a technicality.

During the transition period leading up to Jokowi's inauguration three years ago, a working group called Pokja Papua was created to guide his promises on development in the two provinces. The organization is headed by Judith J. Dipodiputro, a public relations professional with experience in the public and private sectors, as well as civil-society organizations.

Dipodiputro previously served as vice president of PR for the Indonesian arm of oil and gas giant Total, leaving in 2012. Prior to that, she was an expert adviser to the Kutai Kartanegara district administration in East Kalimantan province, and before that a part of the PR team at the then-Ministry of Environment.

Before Pokja Papua, which became an independent NGO when Jokowi's transition team was dissolved, Dipodiputro held influential roles at organizations such as the Javan Gibbon Foundation and the local economy empowerment group Rumah-Indonesia Foundation.

Mongabay recently met with Dipodiputro to talk about the progress of the president's development programs, the environmental impact, and the government's solutions for the challenges in Papua and West Papua.

Mongabay: Pokja Papua was initially created by Joko Widodo's transition team. Why did you agree to head?

Judith J. Dipodiputro: At the time, our duty was to meet the promises [made] by Bapak[Mister] Jokowi during his campaign. But after he was inaugurated, the transition office was dissolved and we were asked by the Ministry of State-Owned Enterprises to continue [working on] promises that hadn't been [fulfilled], and most specifically for Papua, starting by the Mama-Mama Market [a micro business program for women]. But it was not about meeting promises of infrastructure.

We have to really trigger, be a catalyst, that is why infrastructure should become a catalyst. We know that today and for many, many years it has been a challenge to bring out products from one village to the outside. People will say, oh yeah, it's only like 100 kilometers, but if it's facilitated it will be a real motivator, and the community needs to see this, especially in Papua.



Our duty is more to ensure that local communities and tribes could be chaperoned in order to be included in the development. Development is done in different areas, specifically in remote, in border areas, which are usually the poorest. And the issue was that development was done, roads were built, bridges were built, but the economic benefit was not immediately felt by the poorest of the poor. So really, our duty was to chaperone and help them be included in this development that is happening.

And why is Papua a priority for infrastructure development?

Because in reality, infrastructure is needed for Papua. You cannot do like chicken and egg which starts first?

You cannot wait for the community to develop and then we build the infrastructure.

The local tribes worked very hard on electing Pak Jokowi as president, meaning that they elected a leader who they believe will take care of them. So I think it is just fair that now they say, "Pak Jokowi, we want to see where you're building, where you're really showing, proving to us." And if you see, infrastructure that's being built in Papua is not only about roads and bridges, it's also about revamping, finishing infrastructure. Part of the electricity is already there then finish it, improve the quality. Health infrastructure, education infrastructure, they're also being completed or improved, or even adapted. Making it more adaptable for the people.

For example: because of the low density of the population, sometimes not all villages have a junior high school, and because of that, children have to travel long distance to go to school. You have to go through a river, not only crossing a river with a bridge, but by boat ... We want to bring quality of education. When you want to give equality, it means you give the same thing. That is the concept of Nawacita [the Widodo administration's nine-point priority agenda]. It's not only, "OK, everybody has access to schools," and that's it. Equality means access to the same quality. So how to access quality to very, very remote areas in Indonesia? It's through technology.

We have to really trigger, be a catalyst, that is why infrastructure should become a catalyst. We know that today and for many, many years it has been a challenge to bring out products from one village to the outside. People will say, oh yeah, it's only like 100 kilometers, but if it's facilitated it will be a real motivator, and the community needs to see this, especially in Papua.

Papua presents its own challenges, such as geography, and socio-cultural conflicts including a separatist movement. How do you see the government resolving these challenges while ensuring

The paradigm of this cabinet is very different because the generations who are in the cabinet today [have] very strong backgrounds, and most of them come from non-government backgrounds. Most of our ministers are really professionals and from private sector. So this mix is enabling to have a complete picture. That's my observation. They have the complete picture, really viewing all the problems from all different angles. And this is allowing them to really integrate all the challenges into finding the solutions.

Personally I've been involved as an observer in environmental issues, back since the '80s. So for me, definitely environment is a very, very, very important issue.

But we also have to understand that we need to develop Indonesia fairly for every Indonesian. I don't think, and I would not want my government to be saying, "OK, because you are in remote areas, and your village has less than 30 families" — and this is the case in Papua — "therefore we cannot think about your rights to access to transportation," for example. Now, we cannot do that. But what I'm seeing is a very big effort in accessing the right solution, which you can also see from the structure of the team overall.



Jokowi is the Papuans' Father of Infrastructure

Dominggus Yable, Chairperson of the Regional Leadership Council of the West Papua Province Democracy Struggle (or Repdem Papua Barat), stated that the performance of President Joko Widodo for four years was good. For him, Joko Widodo's role is so significant that in the future Indonesia will become increasingly respected by the world.

One of the agenda reached by Joko Widodo underlined by Yable is the success of the President to subdue PT Freeport Indonesia. In the Government of President Jokowi, finally, PT Freeport was obedient and willing to follow the rules of the Indonesian State.

"In the Old Order (President Soekarno) and the New Order (President Soeharto), and the leadership of the next president (before Joko Widodo), it is natural that we say that foreigners control PT Freeport.

West Papua Province Democracy Struggle Volunteers: Seizing PT Freeport, Jokowi is Indonesia's Future

However, it is different in President Joko Widodo era, because [during his leadership] PT Freeport's shares had been re-controlled by the state and had answered the demands of the 33rd 1945 Constitution,"

Yable explained.

Yable deemed that the people of Indonesia should consider the acquisition of PT Freeport's ownership shares. The negotiation process to get 51% of PT Freeport's shares is indeed through a long and complicated legal

"I am sure that the acquisition of up to 51% of PT Freeport's shares must be considered by all the people, from Sabang to Merauke. Because then, we can stand on a par with first world countries who have captured and controlled [our] natural resources for decades," Yable stressed.

Yable also saw that President Joko Widodo was not afraid even though he was attacked by many politicians who had been plundering Papua's natural resources.

" President Joko Widodo received various kinds of hate speech, slander, and hoaxes but he managed to win a position in the ownership of PT Freeport; which is from 9% to 51%."

This acquisition, Yable believed, will be the beginning of many changes in various fields and lines of Indonesian society.

" We, on behalf of the Papuan people together with the Democratic Struggle Volunteers, firmly stated that Jokowi (President Joko Widodo) was a leader that should be maintained for two periods,"

Yable added.

Yable also mentioned that Jokowi was called the Father of Infrastructure by the Papuans.

" And [he] is also worthy to be called the Father of Development,"

he concluded.



WHO'S BEHIND THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE FREE PAPUA ISSUE?

It turns out that Papuan separatists, political parties, and companies from the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, South Africa, the Pacific Islands, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand with economic and political motives have raised the Free Papua issue. But who are they?





The Return of East Yapen, the Impact of Development in Papua

Yapen Timur (East Yapen) is a small district in Yapen Islands Regency. The Yapen Islands themselves are a group of small islands in the north of Papuan mainland. With an area of 18,746 km², this archipelago has only 96,238 inhabitants. Yapen Islands Regency was formerly known as Yapen Waropen Regency. But after the division of the area from the original regency to the Autonomous Regency of Waropen, the people of Yapen Waropen decided to change the name of their own regency so there will be no duplicate name.

Along with other areas in Papua, East Yapen had also sponsored a separatist group calling itself Organisasi Papua Merdeka (OPM or Free Papua Organization). While still active in guerrilla warfare in East Yapen, this group was chaired by Kris Nussy who also had another name Corinus Sireri. Kris has been a member of the organization since 1997. Since then, Kris must be willing to guerrilla in the jungle. They were actively opposed the government, hiding in the depth of forest and mountain. Although their work was sporadic and on a small scale, the group always tried as much as possible to bring down the Indonesian military serving in East Yapen. Indeed, at that time, development in Papua was not as extensive as it is today.

The condition of Papua, which is still largely in the form of tropical jungle, has made it difficult to distribute various clothing, food and shelter needs. This had also caused Papua to be far behind other Indonesian provinces. The price of food and fuel were several times more expensive than the prices commonly found in Java. These difficulties had caused Papuan to feel miserable and feel unnoticed by Indonesia. This further fostered the propaganda of the Free Papua Organization and succeeded in inciting many young Papuans to become part of the separatist group. Propaganda has spread to various universities in Papua and West Papua. The Morning Star attribute is often incorporated on the new student admission event.

Even though several people were already investigated, this kind of incident is still occurred nowadays. Kris just realized that he and his men had been deceived by certain parties who incited them with the promise of Papuan independence. Kris and his members had been fighting for “freedom” for 20 years but until the moment he surrendered to Indonesia there had been no actual result. Not only did he experience loss of time and energy, Papuan also hated him. He had a very hard time to meet his own family. He had to leave his wife and six children in Mamarimp Village. His family also had a hard time living because of his status as separatist group member. He could not support his family due to his condition, he lost a lot of memories of his children growing up. Kris decided to finally surrender and return to Indonesia after he saw concrete evidence of development in Papua. Various infrastructures that have slowly built in Papua in the past decade have brought many benefits to the people of Papua and West Papua. The economy are moving faster, the distribution of daily necessities has become easier, various prices of basic commodities have decreased, even electricity has begun to reach villages in remote Papua. “I see the development is going well. I heard car sounds, I saw others have beautiful houses,” Kris said.

Finally on August 15, 2017, Kris and 12 of its members surrendered to the Yapen Islands Regent. Kris also handed over 12 firearms owned by his troops. On August 17, 2017, Kris and his members officially returned to the Republic of Indonesia. The ceremony was held at Wadafi Hills, Wadamom District, East Yapen. A lot of people came with Indonesian flag attributes. Kris and his members also wore them. The ceremony was attended by Head of the Regional Intelligence Agency and also Yapen Island Regent. The atmosphere became quiet and solemn when the pledge to return to Indonesia was declared.



As the military and ex-separatists held hands at the end of the ceremony, they repeatedly shouted “We are Indonesia” loud and clear. People erupted in cheers. The return of these OPM members has taken place several times over the past decade. Hundreds of them have realized that their struggle has been futile. Nobody really could guarantee their prosperity even if they really managed to seize the land of Papua from Indonesia. On the contrary, the Indonesian government actually proves its commitment to continue building Papua and West Papua. Although history has long recorded Papua as part of the archipelago, there are still many separatists who do not heed the fact that Papua is also the forerunner of the establishment of Indonesia. The formation of a separatist group like the Free Papua Organization is a test for the unity of the Indonesian people. Papua has been a part of this nation since the Majapahit era and will remain a part of this nation forever. *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika, Unity in Diversity.*

Papua and Indonesia First President Ambition

For Soekarno, Indonesia without Papua is like a body without fingers.



Only the width of a human palm. That was how Bung Karno saw Papua compared to other islands of Indonesia. Even so, the first president of the Republic of Indonesia continued to believe that half of the archipelago's eastern tip was always a part of Indonesia. At that time, in Indonesia, Papua was still called West Irian. Netherlands called them Nederland Nieuw Guinea. "But West Irian is a part of our body," Soekarno told the writer Cindy Adams in his autobiography *Soekarno: Penyambung Lidah Rakyat Indonesia*. "Will someone let one of his limbs be cut off without resisting at all? Will people not cry out in pain if they cut their fingertips even if there are only a little?" Soekarno's claim was not without foundation. Since colonial era, Papua was part of the Dutch East Indies, which in recognition of sovereignty would become part of the United Republic of Indonesia. However, the Dutch violated this agreement. In the Round Table Conference (KMB) negotiations at the end of 1949, the Dutch Government refused to hand over the territory. Their reason was that, ethnically and culturally, the people of West Irian are different from Indonesia. So, there was no reason for Indonesia to claim Papua as one of them. "Why not?" Soekarno asked. "Are they (the people of Papua) look more like the Dutch with red cheeks, blonde hair, and freckles?"

The Center of Disputes

In Soekarno's observation, Papua was a very undeveloped region. Its nature is in the form of dense forests with vast mountains and swamps. According to Soekarno, Papua had a little benefit for the Dutch. The profits obtained by the Dutch from petroleum mines were not comparable to the cost of process. Special expenditures must have also been allocated to build the community welfare. The Dutch wanted Papua only for psychological reasons as one of the imperialist countries that still want to rule. "In addition, the Dutch are stubborn," said Soekarno. The Netherlands was not as naive as Soekarno said. From an economic standpoint, the Dutch had already made some calculations. Since the colonial period, besides oil – the Netherlands had realized the large mineral content stored under the soil of Papua. This review of Papua's natural wealth was recorded in the report of resident chief Jan van Eindhoven entitled "Nota Inzake de Economische Toekomst van Nieuw-Guinea" (Note on the Economic Future of New Guinea). "The discussion about mineral mining is almost entirely through The Hague (the Dutch Government in the mother country), while discussions about timber extraction and fisheries generally include governorates in Hollandia (the center of Dutch government in Papua)," said Dutch archivist, Pieter Drooglever, in the *Tindakan Pilihan Bebas: Orang Papua dan Penentuan Nasib Sendiri* (Free Choice Act: Papuans and Self-Determination). The Dutch government, according to Drooglever, was indeed determined to strengthen their economic base in Papua. At the same time, Indonesia fought for the territory to be integrated in the Republic. For thirteen years, Papua had been a center of disputes between the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Like a Dagger

Soekarno himself never changed his principle "from Sabang to Merauke" as the basic integrity of Indonesian sovereignty. Papua is a fixed price. How much did Papua mean in Soekarno's eyes? Soekarno had described it during a speech at Banteng Square on November 18, 1957. In his speech entitled "Djangan Ragu-ragu Lagi!" (Don't Hesitate Anymore!), Soekarno said that in the Constitution, there is a written text about the territory of the Republic of Indonesia. "What is Indonesia? Indonesia consisted of all the islands between Sabang and Merauke," Soekarno said. This is the legal basis of Indonesia's demands for Papua, which was legally based on law through negotiations and agreements between Indonesia and the Netherlands. So, did Soekarno really not aware of how rich Papua's natural resources? "If there were really nothing, why do they (Dutch) so hung up upon West Irian? What for?" Soekarno said. In fact, Soekarno was very well aware of Papua's economic potential. Citing the report of his geological team, Soekarno said West Irian was rich in petroleum. The latest investigation at that time even mentioned the presence of uranium. "Similarly, according to the latest information, West Irian is rich in uranium. Uranium is now valuable in the atomic century," Soekarno said. "So, brothers and sisters, it is very clear that the Dutch in West Irian are taking our wealth. And we also have economic reasons to demand the return of West Irian into the Republic."

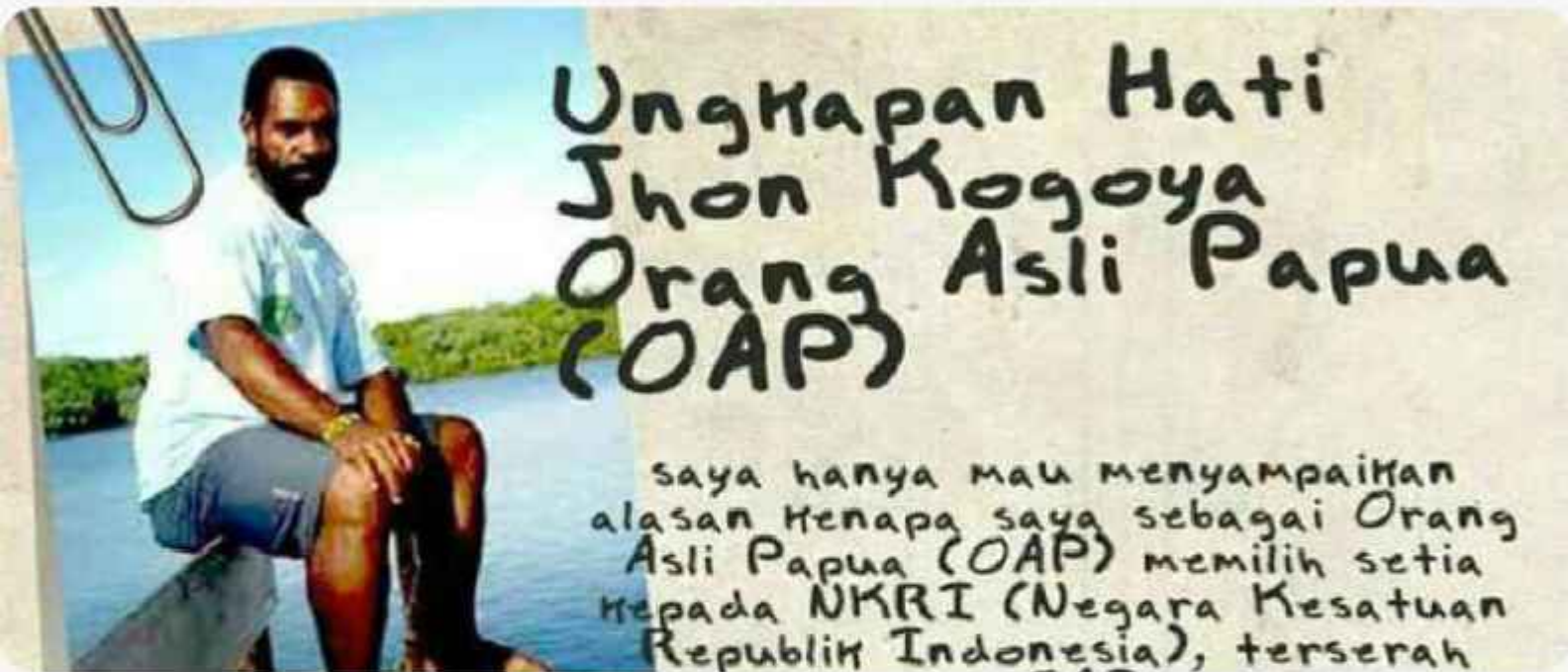


Besides that Soekarno mentioned two other reasons, namely the security and the principle of anti-colonialism. In terms of security, the Dutch presence in Papua is like a dagger that threatens to stab Indonesia from the back. The existence of the Dutch there also symbolized the existence of imperialism. Soekarno said, "If Dutch imperialism is still hanging out there, we would feel as if there is a dagger behind our back. There is a dagger behind us, brothers. " That is why, when the West Irian conflict escalated, Soekarno was determined to free Papua in any way. The call was declared by Soekarno during a speech in Palembang, April 10, 1962. According to Asvi Warman Adam, the historian of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia or LIPI), with or without the allure of his natural wealth,

Soekarno would still fight for Papua because the region is within the scope of national sovereignty. "Soekarno would fought for West Irian with or without considering Papua's natural wealth," Asvi told Historia. "Since the KMB was signed at the end of December 1949, Bung Karno felt that Indonesia's independence had not been territorially integrated. That's what he fought for until 1963."

The Heart of A Papua Son (A Letter from Jhon Kogoya)

I can't force anyone to agree with me. Please each do according to their own opinions and thoughts. I just want to convey the reason why I, as an OAP (Orang Asli Papua or Papuan Native), chose to be loyal to the Republic of Indonesia, it is fine (for me) if a small part of the OAP considered me as a traitor. However, these here are some of my very basic reasons:



1. Since I was born to this world, I have never felt colonized by anyone, incidentally I was not born during the Dutch or Japanese colonization. I am free everywhere in all parts of Indonesia without any interference.
2. I have never been discriminated against by my friends of any ethnicity. In fact, I see many OAP brothers married to ethnic other than Papua.
3. None of the rights possessed by other Indonesian that is not owned by OAP in living the nation and the state. On the contrary, there are many special rights owned by OAP that are not applied for other citizens. I have traveled to almost all of the regions of the Republic of Indonesia. In those places, Papuans have never been called immigrants. However, there are terms of "immigrants" and "indigenous people" in Papua.

4. In Papua, it is rare to see an OAP owning a kiosk, there are rarely who can farm in a modern way or become a big fisherman, doing a job as a handyman like other citizens (from different island). This means if Papua was to be separated from the Republic of Indonesia, Papua civilization will go back two centuries to the past. Papuan can only "jual pinang" (literally means selling pinang or Betel nut). Because of that, I want to encourage our Papuan people to learn well, to work hard so that all OAPs can achieve a better standard of living.



5. I have already traveled to many neighboring countries in the Melanesia region, I have never found any country in the Melanesia region that is more advanced and more prosperous than Papua. Even the entire basic needs of Papua New Guinea (PNG) citizens are supplied from Papua. (This is) because our brothers in Melanesia are controlled by foreigners.

6. Similarly, almost all of Papua's basic needs are sent from other provinces. So that if Papua get separated from the Republic of Indonesia, all of Papua's basic needs will be exported from outside, how hard will it be for Papua if this is happened and especially if we get to be embargoed (by Indonesia)

7. Historical facts prove that Papua has never stood alone as a state. There has never been any Papuan kingdom. They are but only deed of the cunning Dutch invaders who paid a group of traitors (that) were given the Bintang Kejora (Morning Star) flag and the song Hai Tanahku Papua (literally means "Hey, My Papua Land"), which was then considered as the national anthem. All symbols of the puppet state are purely made and created by the Dutch, not the works (that were) made or created by Papuan themselves. So, where is the actual pride and honor of Papua?

8. The Republic of Indonesia has always been accused of human rights violations and genocide against Papuans. However, in reality since our OAP ancestors until the modern times, there are always tribal wars. Just because of minor problems, we kill each other and eat each other. There were thousands that have fallen victim to tribal war. It is Indonesia that through their security apparatus had tried to reconcile us and to guide us into civilization.

9. In law and government, Papuans are not distinguished from other tribes. Many OAPs become ministers, many become generals, even all governors and regents/mayors (in Papua) are all OAP. I am optimistic that one day the Indonesian Presidency can also be held by OAP if we want to study hard to hone our skills and insights.

10. I am in love and very proud of Papua but I am more proud of being a part of the Republic of Indonesia. Because if I only become Papuan, then my growth will be very stunted. However, if I am a part of the Republic of Indonesia, I become rich. I have Java, Bali, Sulawesi, Kalimantan, Maluku, Sumatera, etc. And I have brothers from thousands of ethnic groups and various religions in Indonesia. (This is) because the NKRI was formed not on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, etc. but was formed on the basis of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (Unity in Diversity).

SAVAGE!

Free Papua Terrorists Killed 29 People in 2021!

Free Papua armed groups have brutally killed 29 people in 2021. Therefore, the Free Papua rebels deserved to be called terrorists.

1. Free Papua terrorists used children as soldiers that violate international law.
2. Free Papua terrorists raped and harassed women at will.
3. Free Papua terrorists deliberately killed civilians to perpetuate the Free Papua conflict.



2021

February

- | Shot and burned the **MAF airplane** (01/02)
- | Shot and injured a migrant civilian Ramli (08/02)
- | Stabbed **a migrant driver** Rusman **to death** (09/02)
- | Shot 2 apparatus in Supaga District, Intan Jaya regency (12/2)
- | Hacked **a mother** in Puncak regency (16/2)
- | Killed **an indigenous Papuan** civilian Boni Bagau in Intan Jaya regency (30/02)



April

- | Killed two migrant teachers **Oktavianus Rayo dan Yonatan Renden** in Puncak regency (08/04)
- | Burned down 3 schools in Beoga, Puncak regency (08/04)
- | Burned down the headmaster and pastor Menas Mayau houses in Puncak regency (13/04)
- | Slaughtered an indigenous Papuan student **Ali Mom** in Ilaga, Puncak (15/04)
- | Killed an intelligence chief I Gusti Putu Danny in Beoga, Puncak (25/04)

June

- The murder of a **construction worker** from NTT named **Habel Halenti** in Ilaga District (03/06)
- The murder of a **village leader** Patianus Kogoya with his 3 family members in Ilaga District (04/06)
- Slaughtered 4 construction workers to death in Bingky Village, Yahukimo (25/06)



July

- The shooting caused injuries to 3 security officers in Nduga regency (06/07)

August

- Killed and burned alive the **2 migrant construction workers** Ronaldo and Dedi in a car in Yahukimo (23/08)



September

- Murdered 4 soldiers in Maybrat, Sorong (02/09)
- Raped and stabbed a nurse **Gabriella Meilani** to death in Kiwirok, Pegunungan Bintang (13/09)
- Attacked 11 medics in Kiwirok, Pegunungan Bintang
- Burned down the health center, schools, banks, market, and houses in Kiwirok, Pegunungan Bintang (13/09)
- Attack on the apparatus who evacuated the bodies of nurse Gabriella in Kiwirok, Pegunungan Bintang (21/09)

October

- Free Papua terrorists sent an ultimatum on Facebook to threaten the all Intan Jaya regency to immediately leave Intan Jaya or if they violated it, the terrorists would kill the residents to death (25/10).

November

- Burned down civilian houses, an ambulance, and water tanks in Sugapa District, Intan Jaya regency (29/10)
- Shot the oil tanks, attacked employee dormitories, and shot a migrant worker from Toraja in Nduga regency (16/11)