

STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

Year 2007, BI to Develop 'Our Village' Programme

YOGYA (KR-1/10) – Bank Indonesia has started to develop its 'Our Village' Programme in order to strengthen economic activities in villages. The first stage of this programme began in West Java, whereas the second stage will be developed in Yogyakarta in 2007 with Manding being the pioneer village. "The products involved do not belong only to its community but to the village as a whole," said the Manager of Bank Indonesia Yogyakarta, Djarot Sumartono, SE, to KR, Tuesday (31/10).

According to Djarot, this 'Our Village' programme is to be made sustainable and conducted for a minimum period of two-years for one village. For the Manding Village in Bantul District, Bank Indonesia has met with the Regent and conducted a direct site visit, one of which is to undertake the social activities.

259 households (KK) in the Manding Village have been designated to be developed by BI by prioritizing the strengthening and development of the local economic activities. It means that the physical needs and also the equipment that can be utilized by the wider village community will be provided by BI, including the requirements for training materials which are to be adjusted to the existing needs.

Djarot added that the 'Our Village' programme will be linked to Bank Indonesia Social Responsibility/BSR which constitutes the pilot project of the sponsored village.

Supervision will be directed towards the entire fields of economics, education, environment and health. "After 'Our Village' can stand alone, it is expected that there will be sharing of knowledge and skills in the surrounding villages so that there will have a multiplier effect," added Djarot. For the implementation of this 'Our Village' programme in Manding, BI established cooperation with ISEI of Yogya branch and NGO.

Concerning the other programmes handled by BI Yogya, Djarot Sumartono added that in Yogya there have been a number of Focus Group Discussions/FGDs between BI Yogya and banking, MSME, agencies, which include one set up through bazaar and the meeting on the MSME website development and MSME road show, bank, related agencies and academics.

As for the effort to establish cooperation with Regional Government and other related agencies, during 2005, BI Yogya has conducted a number of activities, including an integrated dialogue forum in the context of the development of MSME profile in DIY.

At a later date this profile will be brought into a seminar and subsequently included in MSME website that can be accessed by any parties who are in need of the data. (Rsv)