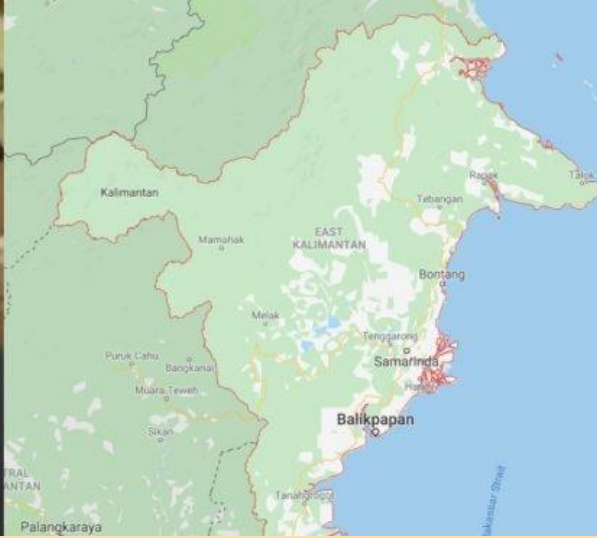




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Indon's new capital city project will proceed: Widodo

Indonesia will continue its plan to build a new capital city in East Kalimantan province on the island of Borneo despite the economic pressure due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, according to a Xinhua report.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo was reported to have declared the commitment at a meeting on Sept 8 in Jakarta with a senior minister and several business associations.

"The president said the development plan of a new capital city will continue to be carried out," Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto said after the meeting.

Widodo announced in August 2019 that a new capital city would be built between the districts of North Penajam Paser and Kutai Kartanegara in East Kalimantan province. With an area of about 127,000 square km, East Kalimantan is home to more than 3.7 million people.

The relocation of the capital city is highlighted in the 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan. It is motivated by rapid and widespread sinking of coastal Jakarta and rising sea level.

The ground-breaking was initially expected to be held in August 2020, but was put off due to the pandemic.

According to Hartarto, the project was estimated to fully completed in 20 years.