

## GAUNG KMAN II

Tanjung, 25 September 2003

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Main report

### The local government's contribution to KMAN II

KMAN II is coming to an end, but not many people know how the congress actually came about. At one time, the local organisers were wondering whether there would be enough funding to see it through. But help always comes when it is least expected and this is how it turned out for KMAN II.

The head of the local organising committee, Kamardi, says that he and his colleagues turned to the local government of the West Lombok district and the province of West Nusa Tenggara for support. Their request received an immediate response. The provincial government agreed to cover the costs of participants from West Nusa Tenggara up to 15 million Rupiah. Then the district government would not be outdone. Since they felt they were involved in hosting the event, they were also prepared to support it. A 30-seater bus and a fire engine were immediately made available. There were also 20 marquees and 1000 chairs taken to Supersemar square, Tanjung. More support came in the form of a reduction in electricity costs worth several tens of millions Rupiah as well as enough water from the local waterworks to cover the needs of the congress participants. That was not all. There was also the stage and sound system, which would have reached a rental cost of over ten million Rupiah. And more important than all that was the moral support for this event from both district and provincial governments.

The local government was prepared to officially inaugurate the congress' series of events and the security forces were involved in ensuring its success. Even the government at village level would not be outdone. They took it upon themselves to handle the food and accommodation despite their very limited budget. All participants of KMAN II stayed at local people's houses. So, for more than a week many houses saw their household members increased by three, four or five people. From people old enough to be called *embah buyut* [term of reference for great-grandparent-ed] to young people. This gave Tanjung its own special colour. Every day you could see groups of people from different ethnic origins talking to each other, each speaking in their own accent. The local people would not be left out in welcoming these hundreds of guests to their village. All kinds of souvenirs

and other items were on sale. Pearls, traditional *songket* woven cloth, jewellery, food and drinks.

For many participants of KMAN II, seeing so many pearls was a new experience. As it turned out, pearls are mass-produced in Lombok on a large scale. They are not expensive. All those legends about pearls being worn around the necks, and on the fingers and ear lobes of queens and nobility were put to rest here. The price for pearls ranges from five thousand to twenty thousand Rupiah. It is the *songket* cloth with its local patterns that is more expensive. From morning till night the square was filled with a tumultuous crowd of traders just as busy as the congress participants. They put up with the heat in order to sell their products. Some items sold really well, others no more than usual. It was interesting to see the determination of some traders who went from door to door around the houses hosting congress participants. From six o'clock in the morning they would be walking back and forth in front of the house or even be sitting in front of the house offering their pearls or cloths. And the participants really had to be good with words to get off without buying anything because they had no money or to get a good price because they had only a little money. Life in Tanjung has seemed more intense this week. More people, more public transport, including *cidomo* (light horse-drawn carts), more food stalls and snack sellers. "It is true, isn't it", said Djekat, a former member of AMAN's council, who was often in the press room, "everybody here, from government to local people, is so enthusiastic about this event. That's because this is the first time and it's so unique." That is true. Unique, because starting from the conversations on the streets to the debates in the meeting hall, Sasak people have never seen so many people from different ethnic groups nor heard so many voices shouting: "masyarakat adat" (indigenous peoples). (Gaung/eml)

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## Miscellaneous

The sun shines again

Beautiful morning  
Of clear and bright light  
The birds chirp  
Dance and sing joyfully

When evening comes  
dusk falls  
The darkness of the night  
Brings us sleep

Clamorous night  
Lost in dreams

Morning brings the cock's crow  
The sun shines again

All creatures are full of joy and happiness  
To witness nature's beauty  
The land of Selaparang  
Befits AMAN

By: Iton - AMA West Kalimantan

*Sayonara* (good bye) to all participants of AMAN's second congress in Tanjung, West Lombok. See you again at AMAN's third congress

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Article 1

### **Adat market, People's Market**

At dusk, the atmosphere of AMAN's second congress becomes more lively. While during the day there are more participants than visitors, at dusk, people from around Tanjung start arriving. Apparently, they don't just want see what the atmosphere of the congress is like, but they also want to enjoy the noise and bustle in Tanjung village.

Since the beginning of the congress, the organisers have opened stands for a people's market for vendors to use. There are vendors selling clothes, food, traditional clothes and jewellery. Most vendors booked their stands many days in advance, which was easily done by registering with the organisers. According to the vendors, the stand is not provided for free. They have to pay 25% of their sales as a commission to the organisers. According to Pepi, a member of the team responsible for organising the exhibition, this doesn't include all articles for sale, because some of them are so expensive, that the organisers feared that if a commission was payable on top of the price, the items would not be sold.

Apart from those renting a stand, there are also many vendors who display their items on the floor, especially those selling children's toys and clothes. All items are in Lombok style and range from *sarong*, T-Shirts, shirts, jewellery, small bags, to table accessories.

All of them are sold at very affordable prices. Medium quality *sarongs* with Lombok designs are sold for 25.000 Rupiah each. T-Shirts and other shirts are sold for 10.000 Rupiah. More costly are the traditional Lombok woven cloths, none of which costs under 100.000 Rupiah.

"*Alhamdulillah* (Thank God) we have had quite a few customers since yesterday." Says Syahrir, a clothes vendor. But not all vendors share his luck. Some said that they had not managed to sell anything yet.

The buyers need to bargain and take a close look at the quality, especially when buying pearls. If you cannot tell true pearls from false ones, you should ask one of the organisers who can help you out. There are so many vendors, if you end up buying from the wrong one, you may regret it.

What this market does not show, is the diversity of products from places outside Lombok. Although there aren't many, these items are displayed in the organisers' exhibition room. Some people had imagined this to be a market specialised in selling items for *adat* rituals, but this *adat* market actually is a people's market, where people buy and sell whatever is needed. (Gaung/hnp)

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Article 2

### **Of male and female *cidomo* horses**

Many participants are staying too close to come to the congress by motor vehicle, but too far to walk. So they take a *cidomo*, the traditional Lombok horse-cart, of which there are many in Tanjung.

Most of the *cidomo* passengers do not pay much attention to the horses, preferring to enjoy the view or to chat with their fellow passengers. Sometimes they are startled when the horses neigh.

If you like to take a ride on a *cidomo*, take a good look at the horse. Is it male or female? If you cannot see the discerning "thing", try observing the horses' behaviour. If the horse pulling the *cidomo* you are riding passes by another horse and neighs, then your horse is a male horse.

Male horses neigh when they come across a mare. The mares do not respond. Maybe they are just putting on airs. They trot along elegantly, swaying their tail, without putting it down or between their two hind legs. Their behaviour is cheerful.

If a male horse meets another male horse or a mare another mare, neither of them neighs.

This description is the result of close observation by the Gaung KMAN team. Unfortunately, we have not been able to check whether the male horses also neigh when coming across a female KMAN participant.

But there is a possibility (which the Gaung KMAN team will explore) that male KMAN participants neigh when running into female KMAN participants. (gaung/sur)

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Announcement

The organiser's exhibition stand is opened until noon today. For those with items on display, please contact the organisers of the exhibition immediately!

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### **Recommendations from the *adat* youth caucus**

The young generation is an important and inseparable part of the indigenous peoples' movement of the archipelago. Therefore, the young *adat* generation needs to be more actively involved in the fight for the indigenous peoples' sovereignty, and the maintenance and recognition of their rights.

At present, there are still constraints on the involvement of *adat* youth in supporting the indigenous peoples movement in the archipelago. Amongst those constraints are a shift in *adat* values, culture, and spirituality; a generation gap in the knowledge about *adat* values, culture, and spirituality; and a lack of interest by the young generation regarding *adat* issues and their culture, causing some of us not to feel proud anymore to identify ourselves as indigenous peoples.

At present, the young generation of indigenous peoples is in the process of becoming globalisation's coolies who are used as instruments and objects of powerful interests that destroy the livelihoods of indigenous peoples. Because of that, the active role of the young generation, as heirs to the indigenous peoples' movement in the archipelago, must be restored.

Therefore, we from the *adat* youth caucus, appeal to the Second Congress of the Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Archipelago to agree to:

1. create a special programme for the young *adat* generation within AMAN's work programme for the next term
2. invest a special representative for *adat* youth to sit on AMAN's Council.

Tanjung, 21 September 2003

Members of the caucus:

Arifin Saleh, Aswan Taulo, Daud Arung, Erma S. Ranik, Elisabeth Lilis Suuryani, Hadiya, Marlina, Oktavianus Samon, Rukka Sombolinggi, Rusdi Nasir, Suryanto Tungkut, Sualiman, Srikandi M. Mandra and Taryudi.

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*(Translated from the Indonesian by Eva Castaner for DTE)*