

TRADE DEAL

ASEAN to send envoys to break RCEP deadlocks

ASEAN economic ministers have agreed to have representatives from Indonesia and Thailand, as well as ASEAN Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi, engage with Indian officials over deadlocks in the negotiations of the bloc's most strategic trade agreement.

Indonesian Trade Minister Enggartiasto Lukita said his ASEAN counterparts had agreed to communicate intensively with the six non-ASEAN countries involved in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations, particularly India.

Started in 2012, the RCEP is a trade agreement that includes all 10 ASEAN member states plus China, India, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea. However, disagreements between regional rivals, mainly between China and India over access to India's giant consumer market, have undercut talks in recent months.

"ASEAN ministers have assigned a troika consisting of Thailand as [this year's] ASEAN chair, the ASEAN Secretary-General and Indonesia as the country coordinator [of RCEP negotiations] to meet with India immediately, especially because of its newly formed government," Enggartiasto, who represents Indonesia in the troika, told reporters after an ASEAN economic ministers working dinner on Friday evening in Bangkok. "So it would be the best time to address the issues we have with India."

The troika was still trying to find the best time to engage with Indian officials, according to Enggartiasto.

"We're trying to, maybe, meet them in Osaka [during the G20 meeting late this month] or if they're not available [during the G20] we can meet them in Delhi [instead]," he said.

On Saturday, all 10 ASEAN economic ministers met in Bangkok for a special session on the RCEP, where another team called the Trade Negotiation Committee (TNC) presented their assessment of the progress and problems of the negotiations.

The committee flew to Australia on Sunday as they will start to negotiate again on Tuesday for the 26th round of RCEP talks in Melbourne, ahead of the deadline set by ASEAN to conclude the RCEP by the end of this year.

"We, the 10 ASEAN ministers, have agreed that we remain committed to 'substantially conclude' this negotiation this year. There are no other choices, especially in the midst of this global situation," Enggartiasto said, adding that "substantially conclude" meant that all market issues must be resolved.

AFP reported that Thailand, which is chairing ASEAN this year, rallied against global protectionism and called for urgency in concluding talks on the RCEP.

"The winds of protectionism are hurting our multilateral trading system," Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said on Sunday.

"ASEAN must hold our hands tightly in negotiating [...] the RCEP, so it is concluded this year. It will help offset any impact from the ongoing trade conflict."

— JP/DIAN SEPTIARI

Under protection



AFP/Sai Aung Main

People attend the funeral of a person who died of the H1N1 influenza virus at Yay Way cemetery in Yangon, Myanmar, on Saturday. Three people have died from H1N1 influenza in the city and four others have been diagnosed with the virus, the Health Ministry confirmed on Wednesday.

RI, Vietnam speed up EEZ delimitation

Dian Septiari

THE JAKARTA POST/BANGKOK

Indonesia and Vietnam have agreed to speed up maritime delimitation, while at the same time starting fresh talks to establish "provisional common guidelines" to prevent fishing incidents.

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo met his Vietnamese counterpart, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, on Saturday at the 34th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok, where they agreed to accelerate the ongoing negotiations on the delimitation of their exclusive economic zones (EEZ), said Foreign Minister Retno LP Marsudi.

"The negotiation has taken a long time, and the two leaders stated that efforts to resolve this negotiation should be accelerated, otherwise we would experience incidents like we have experienced so far," Retno said on Saturday.

The EEZ delimitation with Vietnam is one of five active border negotiations Indonesia is currently engaged in. The talks have been going on for years without results. The two countries previously reached an agreement on a continental shelf boundary in 2003 — after 30 years of negotiations.

Earlier this year, the Indonesian Navy reported that a vessel belonging to Vietnam's Fisheries Resources Surveillance (VFRS) Agency had rammed one of its corvette-class warships to obstruct the impounding of a Vietnam-flagged boat suspected of fishing illegally in Indonesian waters. Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti has lamented that was not the first such incident.

Experts have suggested that the two countries establish temporary standard operating procedures to deal with the disputed waters both sides claim as part of

Decision to speed up delimitation talks made during Jokowi's meeting with Vietnamese counterpart

Two countries may establish provisional guidelines to prevent incidents at sea

their EEZs, as the ongoing delimitation negotiations have yet to produce results.

To solve this particular problem, Retno said, officials of the two countries would meet to address various issues regarding EEZs and possibly devise interim guidelines for the disputed waters.

"We will probably discuss the provisional common guidelines temporarily, which will regulate the area being negotiated while waiting for the negotiations to be completed. This is to prevent unnecessary incidents," she said.

Meanwhile, the Philippines ratified an EEZ delimitation agreement with Indonesia earlier this month, concluding the entire negotiation process as the two foreign ministers formally exchanged the ratification documents in August.

The agreement sets out boundaries in the overlapping EEZs of the Philippines and Indonesia in Mindanao and Celebes seas.

When President Jokowi met Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte in Bangkok on Saturday, they praised the resolution of the issue.

"The agreement provides legal certainty on the EEZ boundary between the two countries," the two leaders said.

The ratification by the Philippines followed a similar move by Indonesia in 2017, when Indonesia ratified the maritime deal over the EEZ boundaries in the Min-

danao Sea and the Celebes Sea. The agreement itself was signed in 2014 after 20 years of negotiations.

The Indonesian Foreign Ministry's legal affairs and international treaties director general, Damos Agusman, said the agreement was the first maritime boundary agreement between the two largest archipelagic states. The agreed line, he said, was drawn from the respective archipelagic straight baselines using a set of innovative provisions of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

"The next agenda point would be the negotiation of the continental shelf in the same area covering the agreed EEZ to demonstrate that the EEZ lines and the continental shelf lines are two different legal regimes, for which different negotiations are absolutely required," Damos said on Sunday.

AROUND THE WORLD

Thailand bans pig imports from Laos

THAILAND: Thailand will ban pig imports from Laos for 90 days after its neighbor confirmed the first outbreak of deadly African swine fever (ASF), an official notice said.

The ban would cover live pigs and carcasses in an effort to prevent the disease from spreading into Thailand, said a notice on the Thai Department of Development of Livestock on Friday.

The move follows a similar ban on Friday by China. Laos on Thursday confirmed its first outbreaks of deadly African swine fever — which is fatal to pigs but does not harm humans — in its southern province of Saravane, the Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) said on Thursday.

Lao authorities reported seven outbreaks of ASF in villages in Saravane, which led to the deaths of 973 animals, the OIE said on its website, citing information from Laos' Agriculture Ministry.

Millions of pigs have been slaughtered in China, Hong Kong and Vietnam to try to stop the spread of the disease. — Reuters

Militants free nomads seized off Borneo

PHILIPPINES: Suspected Islamic State (IS)-linked militants in the southern Philippines have set free nine nomadic fishermen abducted off the Malaysian part of Borneo island, Philippine and Malaysian authorities said Saturday.

The men told police that the Abu Sayyaf group, which funds its bombings and other armed attacks against security forces and civilians through ransom kidnappings, released the fishermen off the coast of Jolo island on Friday evening.

"They ordered us to jump off the boat," said one of the men, who identified himself as Gan Tuban. Much to their relief, he said, the water was shallow and the men, who were snatched at sea early Tuesday, walked until they ran into a Philippine police patrol on a street near the town of Talipao.

Sabah Police Commissioner Omar Mammah confirmed the release of the nine to the Malaysian state news agency Bernama on Saturday. "They walked in a group after being released by the kidnappers, who knew they had no money to pay," he said.

The southern Philippines is home to numerous armed groups, and Abu Sayyaf is notorious for kidnapping foreigners.

The militants, who demand large ransoms and have beheaded several hostages, have pledged allegiance to the IS group.

Omar said 10 nomadic sea gypsies were kidnapped Tuesday, but the fate of the other victim was still unknown.

The freed men told AFP they were not aware of a 10th captive. — AFP

Sri Lanka extends emergency

SRI LANKA: A state of emergency was extended by Sri Lanka's president Saturday, going back on pledges to relax the tough laws introduced after the Easter Sunday attacks that killed 258 people.

Maithripala Sirisena said in a decree he believed there was a "public emergency" in the country, and was invoking provisions of the public security act extending the state of emergency.

The tough laws, granting sweeping powers to police and security forces to arrest and detain suspects, were due to expire on Saturday. Just over 100 people, including 10 women, are in custody in connection with April's Easter Sunday suicide attacks against three churches and three luxury hotels in Colombo.

In late May, Sirisena told diplomats — from Australia, Canada, Japan, the United States and European states — the security situation was "99 percent back to normal" and he would allow the emergency laws to lapse by June 22.

He assured diplomats security forces had either detained or killed all those directly involved in the attacks, blamed on a local jihadi group and claimed by the Islamic State group.

There was no immediate word from the government why Sirisena changed his mind, but security remains tight in the capital.

The emergency can be declared for a month at a time, and parliament must ratify it within 10 days. — AFP

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ANNOUNCEMENT SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS PT BANK CENTRAL ASIA Tbk

PT Bank Central Asia Tbk, domiciled in Central Jakarta (the "Company"), hereby announces that the Company has held an Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders (the "Meeting"), with the minutes as summarized below:

Day/Date : Thursday, 20 June 2019
Venue : Grand Ballroom, Hotel Indonesia Kempinski –11th Floor
Jalan M.H. Thamrin No.1
Jakarta 10310
Time : 10.42 - 11.12 Western Indonesia Time
Agenda : Approval of the acquisition plan (*rencana akuisisi saham*) in relation to the Company's plan to acquire the shares of PT Bank Royal Indonesia.

Attendance of Members of the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Directors of the Company :
All members of the Board of Directors and the Board of Commissioners of the Company were present at the Meeting, namely:

Board of Commissioners
President Commissioner : Mr. Ir. Djohan Emir Setijoso
Commissioner : Mr. Tony Kusnadi
Independent Commissioner : Mr. Cyrilus Harinowo
Independent Commissioner : Mr. Dr. Ir. Raden Pardede
Independent Commissioner : Mr. Sumantri Slamet

Board of Directors
President Director : Mr. Jahja Setiaatmadja
Deputy President Director : Mr. Armand Wahyudi Hartono
Director : Mr. Ir. Suwignyo Budiman
Director (concurrently serving as Director of Compliance) : Mr. Tan Ho Hien/Subur a.k.a Subur Tan
Director : Mr. Henry Koenafi
Independent Director : Mr. Erwan Yuris Ang, SH, MH
Director : Mr. Rudy Susanto
Director : Ms. Lianawaty Suwono
Director : Mr. Santoso
Director : Ms. Inawaty Handoyo
Director : Miss Vera Eve Lim

Chairperson of the Meeting :
The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Ir. Djohan Emir Setijoso as the President Commissioner of the Company in accordance with Article 22 paragraph 1 letter a of the Company's Articles of Association and on the basis of the appointment by the Board of Commissioners as evident in the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners' Meeting dated 29 May 2019.

Attendance of the Shareholders :
The Meeting was attended by the shareholders or proxies for the shareholders representing 21,704,803,950 (twenty-one billion seven hundred four million eight hundred three thousand nine hundred fifty) shares or equal to 88.034% (eighty-eight point zero three four percent) of 24,655,010,000 (twenty-four billion five hundred fifty-five million ten thousand) shares, being the total outstanding shares of the Company.

Opportunity to Ask Questions and/or Express Opinions :
The shareholders or the proxies for the shareholders were given the opportunity to ask questions and/or express opinions on the Meeting agenda item, but no shareholder or proxy for the shareholder asked any question and/or expressed any opinion.

Mechanism for Adopting Resolutions :
The resolution was passed through deliberation for a consensus, and if the consensus could not be reached, the resolution was passed by means of voting.

Voting on the proposal specified in this Meeting was conducted verbally by means of vote pooling, in which the shareholders or their proxies that cast negative votes or abstained on the proposal gave a show of hands and submitted their ballot papers, which were then counted by PT RAYA SAHAM REGISTRAR as the Securities Administration Bureau of the Company, and the counting result was further verified by Notary Christina Dwi Utami, S.H., M.Hum., M.Kn., as an independent public official.

Adopted Resolutions :
The Meeting has adopted the resolutions as described in "Notarial Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting of Shareholders of PT Bank Central Asia Tbk" Number 62 dated 20 June 2019, drawn up by Christina Dwi Utami, S.H., M.Hum., M.Kn., a Notary of Jakarta, as summarized below:

The Agenda
As regards the agenda item, there were no shareholders asking questions, and the voting outcome is as follows:

Affirmative Votes	Negative Votes	Abstentions	Questions
17,919,918,203 (82.562%)	3,407,313,822 (15.688%)	377,571,925 (1.74%)	-

Accordingly, the number of affirmative votes was more than ⅔ (three-quarters) of the total voting shares present at the Meeting.

The Meeting resolved as follows:

- Approving the acquisition plan (*rencana akuisisi*) in relation to the Company's plan to acquire all the subscribed and paid-up shares of PT Bank Royal Indonesia (whether directly or indirectly through the Company's controlled subsidiary, i.e. PT BCA Finance), including the draft acquisition deed, as appended to the acquisition plan, which had been distributed to the shareholders or proxies for the shareholders as materials for discussion at the Meeting.
- Approving the Company's action to purchase 2,871,999 (two million eight hundred seventy-one thousand nine hundred ninety-nine) shares from the shareholders of PT Bank Royal Indonesia or representing 99.99% (ninety-nine point nine percent) of the total subscribed and paid-up shares of PT Bank Royal Indonesia.
- Granting power and authority to the Board of Directors of the Company, with the right of substitution, to take any and all actions required or deemed necessary in relation to the acquisition of the subscribed and paid-up shares of PT Bank Royal Indonesia in accordance with the Meeting's resolution, including but not limited to determining the terms and conditions for the acquisition, as well as preparing, drawing up, making, procuring to be made, and signing the necessary documents including the acquisition deed, filing applications, and/or requesting approvals and/or filing the Meeting's resolution with the competent authorities, in accordance with the prevailing laws and regulations.
- Stating that the grant of power and authority under point 3 of this resolution will be effective as of the date on which the proposal on this agenda is approved by the Meeting.

Jakarta, 24 June 2019
PT BANK CENTRAL ASIA Tbk
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

POLITICS

Istanbul votes in test for Erdogan, Turkish democracy

Fulya Ozerkan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/ISTANBUL

Istanbul returned to the polls on Sunday in a rerun of the mayoral election that has become a test of Turkish democracy as well as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's continued popularity at a time of economic trouble.

Election authorities annulled the first vote in March after Erdogan's ruling party alleged corruption.

Critics say Erdogan simply did not like the result, after a little-known former district mayor, 49-year-old Ekrem Imamoglu, snatched victory for the opposition by just 13,000 votes.

The city of 15 million is Turkey's economic powerhouse and has been a crucial source of patronage for Islamic conservatives since Erdogan himself won the mayoralty a quarter-century ago.

Imamoglu, of the secular Republican People's Party, has become a household name since being stripped of his victory, depicting the rerun as "a battle for democracy."

"Today our people will make

the best decision [...] for the sake of our democracy, for Istanbul and also for the legitimacy of all future elections," he said after voting.

His upbeat message under the slogan "Everything will be fine" is in contrast to the usual aggressive name-calling of Turkish politics.

At a voting station in the trendy Beyoglu neighborhood, 31-year-old architect Begum said: "I voted against injustice and those who seek to polarize this nation."

Imamoglu faces Binali Yildirim, a mild-mannered Erdogan loyalist who oversaw several huge transport projects and served as prime minister.

He struck a conciliatory tone on Sunday, saying: "If we have wronged, knowingly or unknowingly, one of our fellow Istanbulites or our challengers, if we have done something unjust, I ask for your forgiveness."

The March election showed Erdogan's party remains the most popular nationwide, adored by millions for overseeing dramatic growth, fiercely defending the country's interests abroad and allowing religious conservatives a

seat at the table.

But double-digit inflation and rising unemployment have dented Erdogan's reputation for economic stewardship and the AKP lost control of both Istanbul and the capital Ankara.

Analysts warn he faces a "lose-lose" situation with the Istanbul rerun: a second defeat would undermine his image of invincibility and embolden rivals within his party, while a victory would forever be seen by the opposition as stolen.

But many AKP supporters have wholly accepted the line that there was fraud in the March vote.

"If there's something like stolen votes, I think it's better to re-do the election in the name of democracy," said 45-year-old Huseyin as he queued to cast his ballot.

The controversy surrounding the rerun may explain Erdogan's relative silence, with no repeat of the tireless rallying last time, when he made 102 appearances in just 50 days. Erdogan maintained his allegations of irregularities as he voted on Sunday, saying the last election "should not have happened like that".