

Media Update

31 August 2022

President Jokowi Appreciates Freeport's Role in Establishing Papua Football Academy

Jayapura – Republic of Indonesia's President Joko Widodo expressed his appreciation of the role played by PT Freeport Indonesia (PTFI) in developing Papuan human resources through the sport of football, by establishing Papua Football Academy (PFA). In the sidelines of his working tour to Papua, President Jokowi attended and personally officiated at the launching of the PFA program that was held at Lukas Enembe Stadium on Wednesday (31/08/2022).

During this event, President Jokowi was accompanied by several Onward Indonesia Cabinet ministers including Sports and Youth Minister Zainudin Amali, Investment Minister/ Head of Investment Coordination Agency Bahlil Lahadalla, and Public Works and Public Housing Minister Basuki Hadimuljono.

"Thank you to the President for attending and officiating at the PFA Program launching. This is an outstanding form of support and solicitude," PTFI President Director Tony Wenas exclaimed. Tony said Papua Football Academy was a vehicle for young Papuans to delve into the science of football while at the same time acquiring formal education that is provided under the program. Students are primed and instructed to become competitive and creative individuals.

PTFI initiative to establish PFA was inspired by Papua Province's successful execution of the 20th National Games (PON XX) in 2021, on top of PTFI commitment to social investment towards assisting development of Papuan human resources. Through the sport of football, PTFI holds the expectation that PFA will restore Papua's glory with regard to football, and help to develop young, talented, and more professional Papuans in the domain of sports.

"Under the PFA program, we place emphasis on three aspects in the character building of program participants, namely opportunity, expectations, and joy. We provide education and optimize the talents of young Papuans to become intelligent, competitive, self-confident, and adaptive, as well as offering them the opportunity to become professional football players at home and globally," Tony Wenas said.

PFA Director Wolfgang Pikal added, the training structure in the academy is organized with a holistic view of the science of football in mind: technical aspects of the sport, analysis, nutrition, psychology as it applies to sports, physiology, and injury management. Formal schooling and skills courses are an evaluation factor in student development and are delivered through creative and innovative instruction.

Indonesian Football Philosophy or Filanesia forms the basis of Papua Football Academy's curriculum. Lessons are taught on application of techniques and astuteness in football. "The academy is run in accordance with FIFA Children Safeguarding Principles, to ensure young players are comfortable playing football," Wolfgang said.

In its first year, PFA selected 30 Papuan youths through a competitive and transparent talent search conducted in three cities: Timika, Merauke, and Jayapura, in June 2022. All students are on full scholarship to learn football for a period of two years.

All students live in a professionally managed dormitory and train in the best facility, at Mimika Sports Complex that was developed by PTFI. In addition to participating in excellent football training, students are still required to follow formal education in comfortable, specially appointed classrooms. A recreation and fitness area is also provided in the dormitory.

In the spirit of “From Papua for Indonesia,” Papua Football Academy is expected to demonstrate Papua’s contribution to the nation’s advancement.

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