



The 18th Asian Games 2018 torch relay; Merpati Putih Denpasar ignites the spirit

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ABSTRACT

After waiting for 50 years, finally, Indonesia is going to host the 18th Asian Games 2018. In response to the mandate, the Indonesian government established INASGOC or Indonesia Asian Games 2018 Organizing Committee as the official committee, who is responsible for preparing all requirements for the event that lastly held in Indonesia in 1962. In welcoming the game, many projects are being conducted both in Jakarta as well as Palembang. Besides, a torch relay event is traveling throughout 54 cities and provinces in Indonesia, including Bali. It was launching from Yogyakarta on

July 18, 2018, and it is scheduled to reach its finish point at Gelora Bung Karno on August 18, 2018. As a series of torch relay event visiting Bali, PPS Betako Merpati Putih, Branch Denpasar, one of the nation's cultural assets, became one of sports training centers in Bali that had the opportunity to receive appreciation from PT Telkom Indonesia Tbk. Furthermore, all Indonesian citizen expect that Indonesian athletes can do their best in giving a contribution to the nation. Thus, Indonesia on the Asian games 2018 would be the host and house of the champion.

Keyword: Asian Games 2018, Torch Relay, Merpati Putih Denpasar

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BACKGROUND

The World Cup Russia's euphoria is over. However, the anticipation is building towards an upcoming continental multi-sport event that firstly held in 1951. After waiting for 50 years, finally, Indonesia is going to host the 18th Asian Games 2018. This quadrennial event firstly held in Delhi, India, from March 4 to 11, 1951 by the Asian Games Federation. In 1982, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) organized the following games. The International Olympic Committee acknowledges it as the second largest multi-sport event after the Olympic Games. The recent 17th Asian Games took place in Incheon, South Korea. At that time the number of participants simultaneously increased as the popularity of this prestigious sports event. The number of athletes reached 9,501 participants from 45 National Olympiad Committee. They competed to be the best, for a total of 1,454 medals.

official committee, who is responsible for preparing all requirements for the event that lastly held in Indonesia in 1962. Since 2016, INASGOC has been focusing on revitalizing and building venues for the game in Jakarta and Palembang. INASGOC also recruited around 15,000 volunteers to assist on pre-event and the main event.¹

Three indigenous animals of Indonesia have been chosen as mascots, to represent the spirit of the games; the Cendrawasih bird (*Paradisaea Apoda*) representing a strategy, the Bawean deer (*Hyelaphus Kuhlii*) representing the speed, and the one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) representing the strength. These animals symbolize the theme of the Asian Games 2018 'The Energy of Asia.' The spirit of "Energy of Asia" lies in the diversity of cultures, languages and historical relics. The unity of these elements creates the force that will echo throughout the world.² The philosophy which Indonesia strongly treasured, known as *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*.

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INDONESIA TO HOST THE 18TH ASIAN GAMES 2018

The results of the Olympic Council of Asia Meeting in Incheon, South Korea on September 19, 2014, Indonesia was appointed to host the 18th Asian Games on August 18 to September 2, 2018. In response to the mandate, the Indonesian government established INASGOC or Indonesia Asian Games 2018 Organizing Committee as the

PREPARATIONS IN JAKARTA AND PALEMBANG

In welcoming the event, many projects are being conducted both in Jakarta as well as Palembang. In Jakarta, Jakarta Tourism and Cultural Office is ready to deploy professional and licensed guides who are incorporated in the Indonesian Tour Guide Association (HPI) branch Jakarta to support the event in the capital. After the Asian

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Figure 1 President Jokowi in one of the interview³

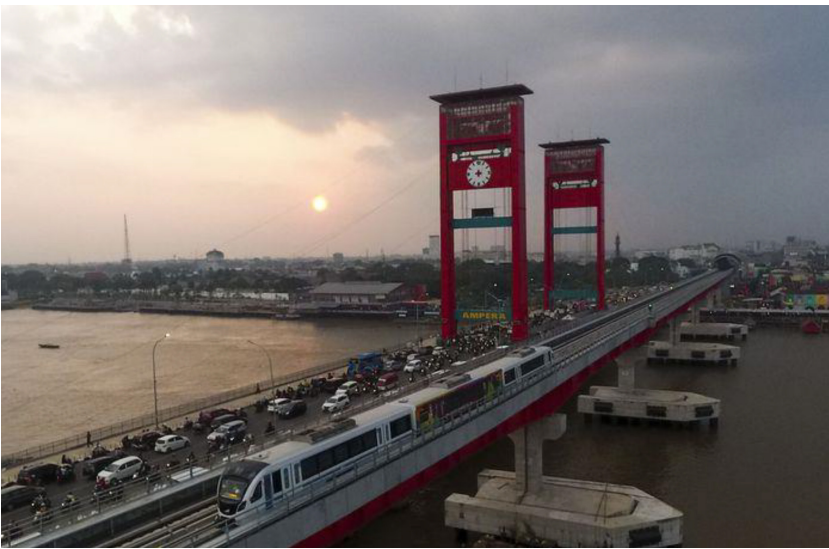


Figure 2 The Central Government through the Provincial Government of South Sumatra provides newly built LRT transportation facilities⁸

Games 2018 in Jakarta, it will be followed by Asian Paragames, a sporting event for the disabled, on October 8-16, 2018.⁴ President Joko Widodo also reviewed the preparation of *Gelora Bung Karno* (GBK) site, in Jakarta, on Monday afternoon, June 25, 2018, primarily the venue to be used during the upcoming Asian Games 2018. President Jokowi observed starting from the pedestrian on the side of Sudirman Street, then he continued his inspection at the statue of Ir Soekarno at the GBK Gate V, and some venues located within the GBK. At the end of his assessment, President Jokowi expressed his satisfaction with the progress of the current project.⁵

Meanwhile, the developments in Palembang, South Sumatera, focusing on the construction and renovation of the Asian Games 2018 venue, are practically complete. The main site is *Jakabaring Sports City* (JSC) Palembang. Few minor repairs are still being worked on at some point, for

instance, the final touch for the exterior in shooting venues, as well as the equipment installation. From the total of 40 sports in the Asian Games 2018, ten are going to be situated in Palembang; women's football, basketball, tennis/soft-tennis, volleyball, canoe/kayak, rowing, shooting, triathlon, *sepak takraw*, and rock climbing. All Sports are going to take place on JSC except for women's soccer is scheduled at *Bumi Sriwijaya Stadium*. Also, five additional buildings for the athletes' resident have nearly reached its completion. Previously, in Jakabaring, there were three buildings available when hosting the SEA Games 2011. Nowadays, The JSC may accommodate approximately three thousand athletes.⁶ Operational manager of Athletes' Resident for Asian Games 2018, Bambang Supriyanto explained "In total with zone 3, we can accommodate more than three thousand people," he said.⁷

Regarding transportation, the Central Government through the Provincial Government of South Sumatra delivers freshly constructed LRT transportation facilities. The LRT construction has been worked on since 2014, with consideration, Palembang city traffic will reach its brim in 2019. Another matter that has taken into account is with the election of Palembang as the venue of the Asian Games 2018 event; it is necessary to provide mass transportation that can support access in the city.

THE TORCH RELAY

The torch relay event to welcome the 18th Asian Games 2018 is undoubtedly an event that should not be missed. The fire deliberately imported from India since the country hosted the first Asian Games in 1951. It is a symbol of a vibrant spirit to maintain togetherness, friendship, and passion for achievement. The light was brought from India to Yogyakarta on Tuesday, July 17, 2018. The fire is specially treated due to it should not be extinguished until it arrived in Indonesia. The light was transported by Boeing 737 400 aircraft, owned by TNI AU (Indonesia Air Force). Boeing 737-500 TNI AU aircraft was carrying the flame for Asian Games 2018, escorted by five T-50 Golden Eagle fighter aircraft making their journey from India to Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

The eternal flame from India then united with eternal fire taken from *Mrapen, Grobogan*, Central Java. The Eternal Flame of *Mrapen* is a natural phenomenon due to natural gas coming out from the center of the earth, which never goes off until today. After the unification, the unified fire was brought to the *Ngayogyakarta Hadiningrat Palace* by running. The light would be delivered no longer



Figure 3 The Unification of Eternal flames from India and Indonesia on Wednesday, July 18, 2018, at Prambanan Temple, Yogyakarta⁹

in a tinderbox, but by torch,” said Virza Reskyana Indra, Torch Relay Organizer of Asian Games 2018. The 18th Asian Games’ torch is going to be relayed around 54 cities and regencies in Indonesia. The routes are as follows: Yogyakarta-Semarang (July 18) Solo (July 19-20) Blitar-Kepanjen-Malang (July 20) Bromo-Probolinggo-Situbondo- Bondowoso (July 21) Banyuwangi (July 22) Gilimanuk-Kuta-Tanah Lot- Tampak Siring-Denpasar-GWK Bali (July 23-25) Mataram (July 25) Raja Ampat-Sorong (July 26-27) Tanjung Bira-Makassar (28-29 July) Banjarmasin (30 July) Aceh (31 July) Lake Toba -Tobasa-Tapanuli Utara (31 July-1 August) Pekanbaru-Siak (August 1) Bukit Tinggi (2 August) Jambi (2 August) Palembang-Musi Banyuasin-Panukal Abab Ilir-Prabumulih-Ogan Ilir-OKI August 8th) Purwakarta-Bandung-Garut (10-12 August) Cianjur-Bogor (13-14 August) Bogor palace-Gelora Bung Karno Jakarta (15-18 August). In Yogyakarta, the torch was traveling around Yogyakarta, from *Pagelaran Keraton* to Yogyakarta Monument on Thursday, July 19, 2018.¹⁰

TORCH RELAY VISITING BALI

In Bali, Torch Relay Asian Games 2018 made its journey across the seven best destinations on the island of a thousand temples, from July 23 to 25, 2018. After launched from Gilimanuk in Jembrana, on Monday, July 23, torch relay moved towards Kuta Beach, Tanah Lot, and Tampaksiring Palace. Then continued to Subak Ecotourism, Bajra Sandi Renon, and finished at Garuda Wisnu Kencana (GWK).¹¹ Previously, the torch visited Malang and Banyuwangi during the last weekend.

Bali Governor, I Made Mangku Pastika who

participated the entourage in Kuta Beach revealed, Bali is honored with the arrival of the torch. He hopes the national athletes can do their best to be a champion. “To the Coordinating Minister and her staff, I welcome you. Hopefully, your arrival provides motivation to the athlete, and by the grace of God, Indonesian’s athlete will be shining brightly in their upcoming matches” said Pastika.¹² As a series of Torch Relay Event on the island of Bali, PT Telkom Indonesia (Persero) Tbk (Telkom) managed an event entitled ‘Energi Merah Putih’ at the Garuda Wisnu Kencana Park Festival, Badung, Bali on Tuesday, July 24, 2018. Minister of Youth and Sport, Imam Nahrawi, Head of the House of Representatives, Bambang Soesatyo, and Director of Telkom Enterprise & Business, Dian Rachmawan attended the torch’s final tour in Bali. The ‘Energi Merah Putih’ event aims to ignite and promote the Asian Games spirit in Balinese society.

On occasion, PPS Betako Merpati Putih, Branch Denpasar became one of sports training centers in Bali that had the opportunity to receive appreciation from PT Telkom Indonesia Tbk. Merpati Putih (MP) is one of the martial arts school which focus on empty-handed self-defense (PPS Betako). It is one of the nation’s cultural assets. Therefore, it needs to be preserved and developed in harmony with the development and progress of scientific knowledge and technology today. This style of Pencak Silat originated from around the 1550s, owned by Sampeyan Dalem In Kang Sinuhun Kanjeng Susuhunan Pangeran Prabu Mangkurat In Kang Jumeneng Ing Kartosuro. This style was exclusively within the family and considered as elite self-defense for Royal Family. Until in 1963, the heirs, Mr. Budi Santoso Hadi Purnomo and Mr. Purwoto Hadi Purnomo decided to introduce the school to Kopassus (Indonesian Elite Army) and Police, then to communities. Currently, MP is a member of the Indonesian Pencak Silat Association (IPSI) and Martial Arts Federation For World Peace (MAFWP) and the International Pencak Silat Association or PERSILAT (International Pencak Silat Federation).

Merpati Putih Denpasar is under the protection of Bali Regional Chairman Ida Bagus Kiana, SH, is pleased to train and supervise the training process individually, not only focus on martial arts, but also moral teachings to its students. Learning martial arts is not for fighting, except for self-defense, and the priority is physical and spiritual health, which can increase the passion for learning. Furthermore respect for parents, because the secret of success life is in the blessing of the parents. “As soon as we speak of empty-handed martial arts, it reflects that in Merpati Putih’s self-defense, from the beginning



Figure 4 On occasion, PPS Betako Merpati Putih, Branch Denpasar became one of sports training centers in Bali that had the opportunity to receive appreciation from PT Telkom Indonesia Tbk ¹⁴

has been educated to learn breathing, which is related to power, vibration, or commonly known as inner power,” Kiana said. Facts on the ground, the student at a certain level, may have the ability to provide treatment. ¹³

Head of PPS Betako Merpati Putih, Branch Denpasar, I.B. Amertha P. Manuaba expressed his gratitude towards PT Telkom Indonesia Tbk. “We are grateful to be trusted as one training center which contributes to the development of the sport, especially Pencak Silat,” said Amertha in Denpasar. He believes that sports, including Pencak Silat, require creativity in its development, such as combining Silat which is well known as a traditional sport with modern sports sciences thus it could survive throughout the time.

The same appreciation also given to Merpati Basket Ball, Sasana Adi Swandana Boxing Camp, a former athlete with national achievement from Bali namely I Gusti Nengah Washa, an Athletics veteran who competed in the 1962 Asian Games, Ni Wayan Badengwati, a former world champion Pencak Silat fighter and Pino Bahari, a gold medalist boxing veteran in Asian Games Beijing 1990. ¹⁵

The next destination of Torch Relay are Mataram (July 25) Raja Ampat-Sorong (July 26-27) Tanjung Bira-Makassar (28-29 July) Banjarmasin (30 July) Aceh (31 July) Lake Toba -Tobasa-Tapanuli Utara (31 July-1 August) Pekanbaru-Siak (August 1) Bukit Tinggi (2 August) Jambi (2 August) Palembang-Musi Banyuasin-Panukal Abab Ilir-Prabumulih-Ogan Ilir-OKI August 8th) Purwakarta-Bandung-Garut (10-12 August) Cianjur-Bogor (13-14 August) Bogor palace and the finish point is at

Gelora Bung Karno Jakarta (15-18 August). As the torch making its way into Gelora Bung Karno, all people are starting to countdown the prestigious event right before their eyes. And now, what is left is a question, who is going to be the champion?

CONCLUSION

As the Host of the 18th Asian Games 2018 ‘The Energy of Asia’, Indonesia through Indonesia Asian Games 2018 Organizing Committee (INASGOC) is conducting any preparations for the event. Since 2016, INASGOC has built and revitalized several venues for the game in Jakarta and Palembang. In Jakarta, the provincial government through the related Department to prepare and check various facilities in regards to Asian Games. President Joko Widodo also spent his time inspecting the preparation in the capital city. Meanwhile, the developments in Palembang, South Sumatra, is practically complete, with several brand-new facilities such as Athlete’s Resident and LRT.

In welcoming the Asian Games 2018, a torch relay event is traveling throughout 54 cities and provinces in Indonesia, including Bali. It was launching from Yogyakarta on July 18, 2018, and it is scheduled to reach its finish point at Gelora Bung Karno on August 18, 2018. On occasion, PPS Betako Merpati Putih, Branch Denpasar, one of the nation’s cultural assets, became one of sports training centers in Bali that had the opportunity to receive appreciation from PT Telkom Indonesia Tbk. Furthermore, Indeed, all Indonesian people hope that Indonesian athletes can do their best in giving a contribution to the nation. Thus, Indonesia on the Asian games 2018 would be the host and house of the champion.

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