

## Media Update

13 September 2024

### **Kamoro Artists Visit Central Java on Cultural Tour to Introduce South Papuan Culture**

**Magelang, 13 September 2024** — For the very first time, from 4 through 13 September a troupe of artists and artisans from the Kamoro Tribe in Central Papua Province embarked on a cultural tour to Central Java, sponsored by PT Freeport Indonesia. They introduced and presented the wealth of Coastal South Papua arts and culture to the local population and engaged in collaboration with local artists.

Eight artists from the Kamoro Tribe, accompanied by the foundations Yayasan Maramowe Kamorowe (YMWK) Timika and Yayasan Atma Nusantara Jati (Atsanti Foundation) Magelang visited two hamlets located in the Candi Borobudur temple area, namely Desa Kebonsari and Desa Dukun. In Desa Kebonsari, the Kamoro artists exchanged experiences in conducting their artistic profession with fellow artists from the Komunitas Bambu society, who offered instruction on carving bamboo and crafting *wayang siladan* bamboo puppets. Reciprocally, the Maramowe troupe instructed their local colleagues on Kamoro wood carving.

“This cultural exchange was highly valuable for the two artistic communities. We held dialogs and traded experiences on crafting bamboo and wood respectively into works of art. Conversely, the trip afforded us a great opportunity to gain insight and knowhow on establishing a tourism village and on product marketing,” Yayasan Maramowe founder Luluk Intarti said.

The next destination on the tour was the Sanggar Gadhung Sari studio in Desa Dukun, to meet with painter, sculptor, and musician and dancer Ismanto, who offered instruction on the gilding of carving tools and techniques on carving with rocks and stone as media. At this studio, the Kamoro artists collaborated with tens of young dancers and *gendang* drum players apprenticing at the studio, to perform the “Taware” social dance before village residents, who enthusiastically came to meet with the artists from Papua.

Still in Magelang, the Kamoro were huge stars during the Festival Bhumi Atsanti (FBA) 2024. This annual festival provides an occasion for artists across the nation to meet and congregate with Central Java artists. The theme for this year’s festival was “Hayuning Roso” (roughly, adorning the senses) or beautifying the world. The Kamoro artists demonstrated their skills in carving and weaving, and performed folk songs and dances, such as the Tari Mbikao or mask dance, Tari Yamate Eyaro, and the ‘Wakuru’ song, followed by the Wautu dance. They also collaborated with Yogyakarta musician “D+ Project” to perform the ‘Nuru Ai Pani’ Kamoro folk song.

“We were so happy to be at the Bhumi Atsanti cultural festival, we were warmly welcomed by all participants. I and my Kamoro colleagues got to know other cultures, to exchange thoughts and

views, and to learn from them. Likewise, we showcased our culture, the culture of the Kamoro, how we carve, weave, dance, and sing,” Yayasan Maramowe chairman Herman Kiripi said.

PTFI Director & EVP, Sustainable Development, Claus Wamafma said Freeport Indonesia is committed to engaging in concrete endeavors to conserve Kamoro culture. “We expect this cultural tour to Central Java to provide Kamoro artists with experience to perform on cultural stages and introduce the beauty of Kamoro art to wider audiences, to expand their networking with other local artists and artistic communities, to gain greater access to collaboration among artists, and to offer opportunities for reciprocal learning on promoting culture and embracing the younger generations who inherit our traditions,” Claus said.

After participating in the Festival Bhumi Atsanti in Magelang, the Kamoro troupe of artists continued their cultural tour with a visit to the Surakarta Indonesian Institute of Art (Institut Seni Indonesia /ISI Surakarta) from 10 through 13 September. At this institution, they shared information and engaged in discussions with lecturers on Kamoro Tribe culture, and documented Kamoro dances with students towards preserving Kamoro culture by means of audio visual media. This activity was a collaboration with several ISI Surakarta discipline departments joined under the Faculty of Arts and Design.

“This activity afforded valuable opportunity to strengthen the relationship between traditional arts and academia in ISI Surakarta,” Luluk said.

PHOTO	CAPTION
	<p>A Yayasan Maramowe representative (right) presenting a memento to painter, sculptor, and musician and dancer Ismanto (left) during a visit to the studio Sanggar Gadhung Sari in Desa Dukun Magelang, Central Java as part of a tour from 4-19 September 2024</p>
	<p>Kamoro artists performing during the Festival Bhumi Ashanti in Magelang, as part of the Kamoro Tribe Artists Cultural Tour to Central Java from 4-13 September, 2024</p>



YMWK conducting a workshop and discussions with lecturers on Kamoro Tribe culture at the Indonesian Institute of Arts (ISI) on 10-13 August 2024



Kamoro dancers performing the Tarian Mbikao dance before ISI Surakarta students in an endeavor to preserve Kamoro culture through use of audio visual media, at ISI on 10-13 August 2024