

Media Update

Health Minister Conducts Observation Tour of Freeport Indonesia's Malaria Control Program

Timika, 19 September 2024 – As part of a working trip to Mimika Regency, on Wednesday (18/09) Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin conducted an observation tour of PT Freeport Indonesia's (PTFI's) Malaria Control Program in Kuala Kencana PT Freeport Indonesia (PTFI).

"The Entomology lab is excellent, so is the Insectarium lab. Endemic regions should have laboratories like these. In this manner we are enabled to find ways to halt or deter the dispersal of larvae, to study which larvae pose a threat, and then study the mosquitoes themselves, to control the mosquito population. All of this is researched here, and what Freeport is conducting in Timika to control the mosquito populations is a vital undertaking," the Health Minister stated.

PTFI Director & Executive Vice President (EVP) for Sustainable Development, Claus Wamafma, and members of PTFI Senior Management were present to greet the Health Minister on his arrival. During this visit, the Health Minister toured and observed up close PTFI's endeavor in handling malaria, with visits to the Entomology laboratory and the Insectarium laboratory.




The Health Minister said the Malaria Control Program serves to continually cut down the harmful mosquito populations. He voiced the hope of this endeavor by Freeport Indonesia being applied in other regions that remain endemic to malaria.

Claus Wamafma conveyed, PTFI is committed to improving quality of life for communities residing near the company's operating site, among others in the area of health. Malaria is a company focus, given that it is the most prevalent disease afflicting residents and PTFI workers. The malaria control undertaking by PTFI has been in place in Mimika for more than 25 years.

"PTFI, together with Mimika Regency Health Office, the foundation YPMak, and other stakeholders continually strives to carry out prevention, treatment, promotion, and educational measures with campaigns targeting schoolchildren, healthcare cadres in villages, and the general public," Claus said.

PTFI has a malaria control program in place to provide assistance in all PTFI industrial sites in the lowland areas and the eight villages closest to the PTFI operating site.

A Basic Health Research conducted in 2022 by the Mimika Regency government and Freeport Indonesia found high incidence rates of malaria and stunting among infants and children under five years of age in Mimika Regency. According to Mimika Regency Health Office data, in 2023 there were 145 thousand recorded cases of malaria, with a rising trend observed over the last four years. Meanwhile, an Indonesia Health Survey (SKI) conducted in 2023 indicated a stunting prevalence in Mimika of 24.7 percent, higher than the national incidence rate average of 21 percent.

PHOTO	CAPTION
	<p>Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin and Papua Acting Governor Ribka Haluk being greeted by PTFI Director & Executive Vice President for Sustainable Development Claus Wamafma and PTFI Senior Management upon arriving at the PTFI Malaria Control Program area on Wednesday (17/8).</p>
	<p>Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin, accompanied by Papua Acting Governor Ribka Haluk and PTFI Director & Executive Vice President for Sustainable Development Claus Wamafma listening to a presentation from an Entomology laboratory officer.</p>
	<p>Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin observing a Malaria Control Program process to identify the mosquito species populating a ditch in the Kuala Kencana area.</p>



dr Firdi Permana delivering an explanation on the malaria medicines administered during standard treatments carried out in the PTFI operating site.