

Joint Press Statement

Stop Cirebon 2 coal plant project for people safety from Covid-19

BANDUNG. The Cirebon 2 Coal-fired Power Plant (CPP) project continues although most of the workers are infected by the Corona Virus or Covid-19. Instead of feeling concerned, PT. Cirebon Energi Prasarana (CEPR) as the project pioneer is grateful of the ongoing project development that runs smoothly.

As it has been said in the media and public, 69 workers of Cirebon 2 CPP has been confirmed to be positive of Covid-19. Some of the infected workers are foreign workers. These workers are a part of the PT. Hyundai Engineering Construction which is based in South Korea.

This should be of concern due to the massive amount of Covid-19 infected workers are local contract workers from the villages surrounding the project. According to the information of the Covid-19 Task Force of West Java Province, Cirebon regency is categorized as a red zone. A new cluster within Cirebon is accrued with the confirmation of Covid-19 infection in Cirebon 2 CPP and Cirebon 1 CPP that has started to operate.

According to the information from the people of Kanci Kulon Village, there are people from the vulnerable groups that has been treated in the hospital due to Covid-19 infection. According to them, it is most likely that the infection started from their people who work at the Cirebon 2 CPP project.

Leader of local organisation called Environment Savior People (*Rakyat Penyelamat Lingkungan/RAPEL*) Moh. Aan Anwarudin also highlighted the incident. "Actually, we have warned them long before Covid-19 pandemic took over Indonesia. For Cirebon Regency, we must be cautious for infection coming from foreign workers who work on the steam power plant project," Said Aan. He added that the Regent of Cirebon must take firm action due to the increasing amount of infections among the workers of the steam power plants.

On the other side, the head of Cirebon Ansor Department of Environment, Riki Sonia, also gave a similar statement. According to him, the spread of the corona virus in Cirebon's steam power plants must be taken seriously. Steam power plants has created a new cluster. Therefore the project must be stopped. "The regent has to take firm action, because this is a serious matter. Don't be selective. The regent seems to ignore how the steam power plants has turned into a new cluster. When at the same time he dared to close health and education facilities, " explained Riki.

Meanwhile the West Java WALHI Campaigner, Wahyudin, said that PT.CEPR as the project initiator must be held accountable. They should not give the responsibility away to the construction company when it comes to the amount of Covid-19 infected workers.

Therefore, Cirebon Regency GP Ansor, RAPEL, and WALHI West Java is concerned and requests for:

- 1.PT. CEPR and PT. Hyundai Engineering Construction to stop the development and construction activities of Cirebon 2 CPP for the safety of the workers and villagers surrounding the project.
- 2.The Regent to immediately order the discontinuation of Cirebon 2 CPP project to stop the spread of Covid-19 for the sake of public safety.

Cirebon Regency GP Ansor, RAPEL, and WALHI West Java asks for every side to favour the safety of the people. Coal-fired steam power plants in Cirebon are not everything. The assurance of a good and healthy lives for the people and the environment must be put first before economic interests.

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