

Free face masks distributed in forest-friendly campaign

29 August 2019



Lush vegetation in a virgin rainforest in the Aru islands, Maluku (Shutterstock/Stephane Bidouze)

Up to 30,000 facemasks were distributed for free at seven public transportation points in Greater Jakarta from Monday to Wednesday.

The words *Hutanku Napasku* (my forest, my air) are written on the face masks, which are part of a campaign initiated by Hutan Itu Indonesia (Forest is Indonesia) organization.

"Hopefully those wearing the face masks will remember, and remind people around them, of how wonderful the forests really are. Although far away, they always protect our lives," said Hutan Itu Indonesia (HII) co-founder Riry Silalahi in a statement as quoted by *kompas.com* on Tuesday.

The seven public transportation points where the face masks were distributed are Commuter Line stations in Depok, Bekasi, Palmerah, Sudimara and Manggarai; Lebak Bulus MRT station; and the Jakarta International Velodrome, from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

A previous campaign was held at Atma Jaya Catholic University in South Jakarta and the University of Indonesia in Depok, West Java.

"We need young people to raise their voices and show that they care about Indonesia's forests," said Astrid, a singer who has supported the movement since 2016.

Indonesia has the world's third-highest expanse of tropical rainforests, which hosts a vast variety of flora and fauna, making the country one of the richest regions in biodiversity.

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo on Aug. 7 signed a new regulation to ban the issuance of new permits to open land in primary forests and on peatland in a bid to protect the forests.

"We propose that the signing day of the regulation be declared Indonesian Forest Day, so that we have one special day every year to celebrate this richness of ours," said HII chairman Andre Christian, adding that more than 1.4 million people had already signed a petition on the proposal. (ran/kes)

Source: <https://www.thejakartapost.com/life/2019/08/29/free-face-masks-distributed-in-forest-friendly-campaign.html>