

Flood victims demand Jakarta governor's resignation

Friday 23 February 2007, by [Detik.com](#), [Liputan 6](#) (Date first published: 8 February 2007).

Detik.com - February 8, 2007

Jakarta — Around 200 residents who said they were flood victims protested at the House of Representatives (DPR) building in South Jakarta demanding that Jakarta Governor Sutiyoso resign from his post.

The majority of the demonstrators were housewives and children from the Jakarta Residents Forum (Fakta). They shouted and gave speeches while holding up sheets of cardboard with the writing "Jakarta is constantly flooding, we're tired okay", "Flood Bang Yos [Brother Sutiyoso]" and "Sutiyoso I am your victim".

"Jakarta floods every five years, it should be able to be anticipated. If [you] are indeed incapable then just resign", said Fakta coordinator Azas Tigor Nainggolan during a speech behind the DPR building in Senayan on Wednesday February 7.

The protesters said they deplored the slowness of the Jakarta provincial and central governments in assisting flood victims. As a consequence many children have been unable to attend school and have come down with illness. In addition to this they have been unable to obtain food or a suitable place to be evacuated to.

"Our things are all gone, the children's school uniforms have also gone. Where is the government's promise to help", said Halim resident Sri Sulistyowati.

During breaks in the demonstration small children could be seen enjoying the shady and luxurious trees spread across the rear grounds of the DPR. Unlike their parents, the children were instead playing and singing.

After demonstrating for around 30 minutes since

11am, the protesters were finally allowed to enter the DPR complex. They were received by the deputy chairperson of Commission VII from the Democrat Party, Sutan Batoegana from the Justice and Prosperity Party, Ade Daud Nasution from the Reform Star Party and Sonny Keraf from the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle.

"Floods are a mutual mistake, because of this it must also be handed jointly", said Batoegana when he met with the demonstrators. (ndr/nrl)

[Translated by James Balowski.]

Flood victims protest over statement that floods are being exaggerated

Liputan 6 - February 7, 2007

Jakarta - Hundreds of flood victims demonstrated at the House of Representatives (DPR) in Jakarta on Wednesday February 7. They were protesting a statement by the Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare, Aburizal Bakrie, who said that reports on the floods in Jakarta are being exaggerated by the mass media.

The flood victims were resident from the Cipinang area in East Jakarta. They said that they hoped that legislators would listen to the heartfelt cries of those who are in difficulty. The residents also said they do not expect any thing from state officials except statements of sympathy for the grief they are suffering.

Bakrie's statement has also been focused on by legislators. DPR speaker Agung Laksono said that he believes that Bakrie's statement is an example of government official's insensitivity to the suffering of the people. Whereas the floods have inundated almost 70 percent of Jakarta.

In a similar tone, DPR Commission V member Alvin Lie believes that Bakrie's statement could rub off onto President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono who is currently building a good image. Bakrie's comment also indicates that the government has no empathy with the ordinary people.

Meanwhile, a number of student groups demonstrated at the offices of the Jakarta Governor demanding that Sutiyoso apologise to residents for his incompetence in handling the floods. The demonstrators said that the central government had also been ineffective in assisting flood victims.

[Abridged translation by James Balowski from two Liputan 6 articles.]