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No More Building Malls in Jakarta

<http://en.tempo.co/read/news/2013/09/19/080514860/No-More-Building-Malls-in-Jakarta>

The spread of malls in the capital city has more brought more disadvantages than benefits. Aside from causing more traffic congestion, shopping centers have also contributed to the death of traditional markets. Therefore, Jakarta Governor Joko Widodo's plan to stop issuing permits for the development of malls is right on the mark.

As many as 173 modern shopping malls is more than enough for Jakarta's 660 square kilometers. Meanwhile, there are other more important necessities, such as green open air spaces and public areas, which have not been realized. Low-cost apartments have been difficult to construct due to lack of available land.

During Governor Fauzi Bowo's era, a mall moratorium was often promoted, yet it was merely a discourse. New supermarkets continued to pop up making Jakarta more and more crowded. The lack of decent public transportation resulted in people using their personal vehicles to travel from one place to another, including malls that have obviously contributed to traffic congestion.

Now, Governor Joko, more popularly known as Jokowi, is hoped to be firmer. If he cannot entirely stop the construction of malls, he should at least be extremely selective in who gets a permit. For example, in certain areas that do not have too many malls, such as East Jakarta, or the construction of a mall that includes a mass public transportation station. Especially considering that Jokowi has another mission. His goal is not only to prevent more traffic congestion. He is also attempting to reorganize traditional markets, which have lost their stature compared to malls. He also encouraged the people of Jakarta to shop in traditional markets more often, and not in malls.

Taking sides on this matter is nothing new. It is even included in the President's Regulation No. 112/2007 on traditional markets and shopping centers. The government has attempted to protect traditional markets from the attack of modern shopping centers. A year later, the trade minister also issued a more detailed regulation, which stated that a mall or supermarket is obligated to partner up with micro, small and medium businesses.

The problem is that these regulations have not been completely adhered to. Only a few modern shopping centers are willing to take in small businesses, especially street vendors. New malls do not even consider the existence of the traditional markets surrounding them. Some shopping centers are even constructed next to traditional markets.

Local officials tend to believe that issuing a permit to construct malls means more income for the region despite the fact that markets can provide more retribution if managed well. Jokowi was able to prove this when he was the mayor of Solo.

So don't be confused if now Jokowi prefers to side with traditional markets compared to malls. This needs to be supported because he is able to make good use of street vendors – something a mall cannot do – despite the fact that street vendors are obviously one of the reasons that contribute to chaos and traffic congestion. (*)

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No	Original article	Your paraphrase
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