

Indonesia, Timor Leste share experiences in family planning



Closer ties: First Lady Cidália Lopes Nobre Mouzinho Guterres of Timor Leste speaks during her brief visit to Kampung KB in Kalijodo, North Jakarta, on June 28. (JP/Istu S.)

First Lady Cidália Lopes Nobre Mouzinho Guterres of Timor Leste paid a brief visit Thursday to Kampung KB (Family Planning Village) at a child-friendly integrated public space (RPTRA) in Kalijodo, North Jakarta, where she and her Indonesian counterparts spoke about sexual and reproductive health rights.

Children and students who wore white and red uniforms greeted Cidália when she entered a meeting hall at 4:30 p.m. Family Welfare Movement (PKK) members gathered at the meeting hall to welcome the First Lady.

Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan's wife Fery Farhati Ganis, North Jakarta Mayor Husein Murad, West Jakarta Mayor Anas Effendi and National Population and Family Planning Board (BKKBN) head Sigit Priohutomo attended the event.

"Children face many challenges in this era. Children have often become victims in various ways," Cidália said through an interpreter. "It's amazing that there's such a place like the BKKBN that can guide children to a better future."

"This rare opportunity is very good for me," Cidália said. "Visiting such a great place like this could be a lesson for us."

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo welcomed Timor Leste President Francisco Guterres and the First Lady at the Bogor Palace on Thursday morning. This was Guterres' first official visit to Indonesia since his inauguration last year.

"We see Timor Leste as one of the closest neighboring countries," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Arrmanatha Nasir told journalists during a press briefing in Jakarta. "We have close relations in terms of history, economic cooperation, as well as people to people contact. (stu/ebf)