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RI offered return of historical objects from Delft museum

Bambang Muryanto, thejakartapost.com, Yogyakarta | National | Mon, October 19 2015, 1:00 PM



Preserving cultural heritage: The Nusantara Museum in Delft, the Netherlands, plans to return around 14,000 historical objects to Indonesia. (*delft.nl*)

The Indonesian government has received an offer for the return of around 14,000 historical objects from the Nusantara (Archipelago) Museum in Delft, the Netherlands.

"I received the [offer] letter this week," the Culture and Elementary and Secondary Education Ministry's director general of culture, Kacung Marijan, said on Sunday evening.

He was speaking to journalists after he opened a workshop on the management of cultural heritage in Yogyakarta.

Kacung said that based on information he received, the Nusantara Museum in Delft intended to return its collections to Indonesia due to financial difficulties it was currently facing.

The 100-year-old museum is the only museum in the Netherlands dedicated specifically to art and cultural objects from Indonesia, a former Dutch colony. A shadow puppet master from Yogyakarta, Ki Lejar Soebroto, has often been invited to perform at the museum.

Kacung said that next month, the government would send an expert team to the Netherlands to further investigate the historical objects and examine on how to bring them back to Indonesia. The expert said he did not yet have more detailed information on what the historical object collections consisted of and how old they were.

"I've heard that some of the Nusantara Museum's collections to be returned are made of gold and silver," said Kacung. As soon as they arrived in Indonesia, he said, the historical objects would be kept in a one-hectare-square- meter historical object warehouse, which was being built at the Taman Mini Indonesia Indah (TMII) complex in Jakarta.

"The historical objects will become the collection of the National Museum, Jakarta," said Kacung. He said that during the last five years, the Indonesian government had continued to renovate museums in several areas across the country. There were around 100 museums being surveyed and mapped out in various areas, he added. "These [survey and mapping results] will become our basis to improve our museums," said Kacung.

Museum officials and cultural heritage experts participated in the "Museum Interpretation and Audience Management of Cultural Heritage" workshop, which was held by UNESCO Jakarta.

See more at: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/10/19/ri-offered-return-historical-objects-delft-museum.html#sthash.ioE2DcXv.dpu>

6 comments on this webpage:

Oct 20, 2015

1. Items in the collection connected to the history of Yogyakarta should go to the Sultan museum there.
2. hope we care for them better than the other things in our museums#
3. Great news. Truly best news I've heard all day
4. The Dutch may be short of money to keep these 14,000 items, but Indonesia definitely lacks the skills to achieve effective curation and management of museum collections. It can be expected that much of this treasure will be neglected, except, perhaps, the gold and silver artifacts that so much seem to fascinate ministry official Kacung Marijan.

I urge the Delft museum to keep all artifacts from West Papua. First, West Papua is not exactly part of Indonesia (despite Indonesia's outrageous claims to the contrary). Second, for the last 53 years, Indonesia has repeatedly attempted to erase any testimony of the cultural and social life in West Papua.

5. And.....hopefully in the near future , The Republic will not becoming A Sharia State, and will eagerly destroys its own heritage, like ISIS do/did in Afghanistan, Palmyra ,(Syria) etc.. –

6. Will indonesia return Papua?