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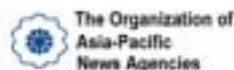
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## Indonesia to Build 46 Lighthouses on Outermost Islands in 2006

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**Jakarta (ANTARA News) - The Communications Ministry will build 46 lighthouses on Indonesia's outermost islands in 2006 to spur economic activities in remote islands and their surroundings and to symbolize the sovereignty of the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia.**

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**Communications Minister Hatta Rajasa said here Thursday, that in the construction of the new lighthouses the government will give priority to the outermost islands, in areas near the border with other countries, which are vulnerable to conflicts with other countries.**

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**The twelve of the 46 new lighthouses to be built this year will be located near the border with Malaysia, 15 near the border with Australia, five near the border with the Philippines and two near the border with Timor Leste.**

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**Besides building lighthouses and posting lighthouse keepers, the government will also develop settlement sites on those islands complete with the required facilities, and the Communications Ministry will increase the frequency of passenger ships in visiting those remote islands to foster the development of economic activities in border areas.**



**Actually, the state-owned shipping company PT Pelni has operated small passenger ships to serve transportation from and to a number of outermost islands. There are 92 small islands located in border areas.**

**For the construction of the 46 new light houses in 2006, the government has allocated Rp150 billion, he disclosed after attending a limited coordination meeting on political, legal and security affairs which was headed by Coordinating Minister of Political, Legal and Security Affairs Widodo AS.**

**The meeting was attended by 11 cabinet ministers, including Marine and Fishery Minister Freddy Numberi, Communications Minister Hatta Rajasa, Home Minister M. Ma'ruf, Law and Human Rights Minister Hamid Awaluddin and Navy Chief of Staff Marshal Slamet Soebijanto. (\*)**

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