



# Yayasan Bali Bersih

Akte notaris Nyoman Oka SH., M.Kn, nomor 60 - 30 Nopember 2015  
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SK nomor: AHU-0027701.AH.01.04.Tahun 2015  
NPWP: 94.961.135.4-905.000

Perihal: **Reaction towards article**

Seminyak, 22-7-2020

Nomor: 2020/NYT/REACTION/001

Kepada Yth :  
Nyimas Laula, Richard C. Paddock, Dera Menra  
Sijabat  
[nyimaslaula@gmail.com](mailto:nyimaslaula@gmail.com), through website  
NYTIMES.

Dear Nyimas Laula, Richard C. Paddock, Dera Menra Sijabat,

Hereby I react to your article *With Tourists Gone, Bali Workers Return to Farms and Fishing* published on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July, 2020.

I am of the opinion that the article does not correspondent with the truth. Below I will explain why.

- The articles title, probably what most people read and remember, does not reflect the current situation on Bali. People are not returning to farms and fishing, simply because of the fact that many do not have farms or the possibility to fish. Many people can be qualified as a secondary victim of COVID-19. They lost their job due to no tourists arriving on the island because of COVID-19. Many of those come from the urbanized parts of Bali and do not have land to grow crops on. Fisherman are in dire straits as many hotels and restaurants are closed and the market for selling fish is not apparent. Those who according to your article resort to fishing do this for their own meal, as a desperate act to still be able to eat. Not to make a living out of fishing. As Ricky Putra also mentions in your own article, some go back to their village to do farming or fishing. That is not what the title of the article suggests. Also, growing crops is not a short-term solution. Seedlings of today are not an edible plant tomorrow.
- You should understand that many NGO's are struggling every day to raise funds to help those people in need. The title of your article may cause a wipe out of donations, as the title is suggestive and ambiguous and does not reflect the truth.
- Subsequently, the article does ignore the many, many migrant workers on the island. Many are from Java, Lombok, Sumba and Flores and have no possibility to resort to farming or fishing for a living. The current situation causes that many of these migrant workers, due to registration issues or terms of selection either on the Government or on the NGO end, do not receive much needed help.
- The article mentions '*thousands of workers*'. Where is this number based on? The impact is much larger, based on 4.4 million people living on Bali, of which the largest part of the population is employed in tourism or a tourism related job.
- You claim that the corona outbreak is more devastating than the effects of the Bali bom, SARS and the eruption of Gunung Agung (in which you ignore the Lombok earthquakes, having quite some effect on Bali's tourism, specially seen this happened in the high season). Where do you



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base this statement on. The economic effects of Corona have not yet been measured in detail and cannot be indefinitely measured as the crisis is ongoing.

- You claim facts about Indonesia, *'Indonesia has surpassed China in the number of cases to become the country hit hardest in East Asia, with more than 88,000 cases and 4,200 deaths as of Monday'*. Your article focuses on Bali. Why are the number of Indonesia relevant, if only for setting a certain disposition?
- You continue claiming that *'On Bali, the number of cases has doubled, to 2,781, and deaths have quadrupled, to 44, in a little more than three weeks'*. This is indeed a fact, but again you try to set a scene, without relating this number to any other island our country within the ASEAN region. In fact, a death rate of 0,001% should be underlined as positive in your article. Do you understand what the tendency in your article can do to future tourism, now the island likely will open for international tourism after September 11<sup>th</sup>?
- You mention *'Across the island, some communities give food aid to the unemployed, such as rice, instant noodles, cooking oil and sugar. But recipients say it is not enough to live on. Many also have debts, like installment payments for motorbikes, a common mode of transportation on the island'*. Can I suggest to the authors that it would have been sensible to talk with an NGO or community that hands out food? if you want to practice good journalism, isn't it least paramount to look at effects from different perspectives?

To conclude, I am disappointed that your article is not reflecting the current, desperate situation on the island, creates the wrong tendency towards current funding for NGO's and communities trying to relieve those effected by the emergency and the fact that the article sets a disposition for future tourism which is unjust.

I would appreciate a revision of the article as published online.

Best regards,



**Dr. Rodney Westerlaken M.A., B.Ed**  
Chairperson Westerlaken Foundation  
Ketua pembina Yayasan Bali Bersih