

Performance art mocks waste mismanagement

Concerned with the chronic garbage crisis, hundreds of residents and dozens of NGOs claiming themselves the Residents Victimized by Garbage (Markosam) expressed their criticism by pantomime performance art on Monday.

After holding rituals and mass prayers at the Heroes Cemetery on Jl. Kusumanegara, Yogyakarta, where they scattered flowers, they paraded around the city while performing pantomime acts led by local artist Jemek Supardi.

They carried an offering-like pileup of 4,382 empty instant noodle packages. After the parade, they handed over the “offerings” to Yogyakarta Mayor Herry Zudianto with the hope that they were reminding the government about the importance of an integrated waste management policy.

“This symbolizes that waste can pile up and pose serious problems without efforts to tackle it,” said event coordinator Agus Hartono from Lestari, an NGO concerned with the environment.

Speaking about the city’s waste management, Agus said the government had only relied on the Piyungan landfill in Bantul, whose usage period was expected to expire in 2012.

“Without integrated waste management, where would we dump our waste next?” Agus said.

Despite the law on waste management, the issue remains cause for grave concern in the city.

“Without efforts to reduce waste, the threat of floods in Yogyakarta would become imminent by 2012,” said Agus.

He added that garbage would accumulate in various parts of the city if the government failed to address the issue immediately, as the Piyungan landfill could no longer hold waste.

“The municipality should start taking measures and formulate an integrated waste management policy,” he said.

Another participant, Hendro Pleret, said waste management should involve every stakeholder, including the NGOs that were concerned with waste and the residents who produce waste.

“The local administration should be able to facilitate applying technology,” said Hendro.

He said the rally also aimed at bringing awareness to the residents about the need to preserve a clean environment.