

W. Java environmental destruction continues

West Java Governor Ahmad Heryawan, West Java Police chief Insp. Gen. M. Iriawan and High Prosecutor's Office head Ferry Wibisono signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on integrated environmental law enforcement, as part of efforts to resolve cases of environmental violations in the province, at the Gedung Sate City Hall in Bandung on Thursday.

A similar cooperation had been taking place since 2009, but it ended in June this year.

“Law enforcement is a benchmark of national competitiveness. Environmental destruction that faces no law enforcement can impact investment,” Ferry said.

According to data from the West Java Environmental Management Agency (PBLHD), there were 36 companies who faced administrative sanctions for violating environmental licensing as of July this year.

In 2011, some 19 companies also faced administrative sanctions, while two other companies were tried in court.

To date, a number of high-profile environmental cases in the province remain unresolved. They include the blockage of the Cikijing River by the Kahatex textile company group, illegal buildings in a catchment area in northern Bandung and the Djuanda Grand Forest Park, as well as destruction in a limestone area in Pangkalan, Karawang regency.