

Media Monitoring August 4th Week (24 - 30 August 2026)

Highlights the issue in the media:

1. Opposition to PP 28/2024 and the Draft Plain Packaging Regulation Continued Across Industry, Legislative, and Regional Government Actors

Pushback against Government Regulation (PP) No. 28/2024 and its derivative plain packaging regulation remained a dominant theme in media coverage this week. The Surabaya Cigarette Manufacturers Association (Gapero Surabaya) Chairman Sulami Bahar called on the government to review PP 28/2024, specifically objecting to maximum nicotine and tar content provisions and citing impacts on the supply chain from farmers to manufacturers, a position echoed by APTI Jatim in the same coverage cycle. The Bandung Regency DPRD Deputy Speaker M. Akhiri Hailuki opposed the Ministry of Health's restriction plans, warning that reduced tobacco excise revenue could lower DBHCHT allocations and affect thousands of workers in the regency's tobacco farming and processing sector, and urged enforcement against illicit cigarettes as an alternative to restricting legal products. East Java DPRD Commission B member Arbayanto stated the DPRD Jatim had coordinated with tobacco farmers for several months, including a working visit to Kediri, to push the central government toward revising PP 28/2024. East Java Deputy Governor Emil Dardak stated the regional government urged the central government to consider the tobacco industry's sustainability amid budget efficiency measures, citing Finance Minister Purbaya Yudhi Sadewa's visit to Surabaya to discuss the sector's contribution to regional development. The Ministry of Law's Arif Susandi confirmed the plain packaging draft would undergo further inter-ministerial harmonization due to unresolved provisions. Separately, P3I Chairman Susilo Dwihatmanto reiterated concerns that plain packaging would erode advertising spending across the supply chain, and Komunitas Kretek published an opinion piece criticizing the conversion of a university smoking area into a Smoke-Free Zone.

2. DBHCHT Funds and Industry-Linked Sponsorships Continued to Support Tobacco Workers, Farmers, and Local Programs

Tobacco Excise Revenue-Sharing Fund (DBHCHT) disbursements and industry sponsorships were reported across several regions. In Situbondo, the Social Affairs Office, represented by Hj. Eviana Anggriasih, prepared cash assistance (BLT) for 4,444 tobacco worker families. In Magetan, Baperida Head Eko Muryanto confirmed Rp3 billion in DBHCHT-funded assistance targeting 1,000 cigarette factory workers, 500 tobacco farm workers, and 988 extremely poor residents. In Lumajang, Dinsos P3A Head Indriono Krishna Murti reported that despite a reduction in recipients from 6,937 to 4,293 due to budget efficiency measures, assistance continued to be allocated to tobacco farm and factory workers, with validation coordinated alongside the local tobacco farmers association. In Pamekasan, CV Ayunda Permata Sejahtera, a cigarette company mentored by Bea Cukai Madura, served as the main sponsor of a farmers' technology event, with Director H. Bambang Budianto expressing hope the event would be replicated across districts. Another Bea Cukai Madura-mentored company, PR Sekawan Mulia, opened recruitment for hand-rolling positions. In East Lampung, Regent Hj. Ela Siti Nuryamah visited the HS cigarette factory alongside CEO Danang Setia, framing the visit around regional economic growth. In Rembang, the Ministry of Agriculture's Abdul Roni Angkat highlighted the Tobacco Farmer Partnership Program, involving more than 10,000 farmers across Rembang, Grobogan, and Wonogiri since 2009.

3. Civil Society Groups and Local Reports Raised Allegations of Official Involvement in Illegal Cigarette Circulation and Selective Enforcement

Several reports this week alleged official complicity in illegal cigarette distribution or uneven enforcement of tobacco-related regulations. In South Sumatra, EWNCW coordinator Solahudin MK alleged that authorities had failed to conduct structured enforcement against illegal cigarette distribution channels, naming several brands and three individuals suspected of involvement, a claim received by Sumbagsel Regional Customs Head of Public Relations Kuswandanu, who pledged follow-up. In Jambi, LSM Semut Merah Chairman Aldi Agnopiandi alleged the involvement of law enforcement officials and a Customs Jambi public relations staff member in illegal cigarette distribution, referencing an alleged group called "Baron," a claim received by Ministry of Finance representative Andi, who committed to an internal audit through the Inspektorat Jenderal. In Belitung, Bapenda Head KA Azhami and Satpol PP Head Yasa confirmed enforcement action against approximately 30 cigarette advertising banners displayed in violation of Regional Regulation No. 1/2018, though a source alleged an influential local figure had intervened to allow the banners to be reinstalled after initial removal.

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Monitoring tobacco industry activities relevant to tobacco control.				
Monitoring Area	Date (DD/MM/YY)	Headline (Source)	Summary	Spokesperson
Tobacco Industry Participation in Policy Development	sindonews.com (24/08/2026)	Gapero Surabaya Requests Review of Government Regulation 28/2024, Says It Impacts Tobacco Farmers	The Surabaya Cigarette Manufacturers Association (Gapero Surabaya) called on the government to evaluate and review the implementation of Government Regulation (PP) No. 28/2024, which regulates addictive substances in tobacco products and e-cigarettes. Sulami Bahar, Chairman of Gapero Surabaya, argued that tobacco control policy, while important, must consider the balance between public health interests and economic, social, employment, state revenue, and industry sustainability aspects. He specifically objected to provisions requiring producers to meet maximum nicotine and tar content limits, calling for these to be reviewed considering the industry's capacity and impact on the supply chain from farmers to manufacturers. • (SINDOnews, 24 Agustus 2026) APTI Jatim Minta Pemerintah Kaji Ulang PP Nomor 28 Tahun 2024 • (Wartakota Tribunnews, 24 Agustus 2026) Soroti Dampak ke Industri Rokok, Gapero Minta PP 28 Nomor 2024 Dikaji Ulang • (Wartakota Tribunnews, 24 Agustus 2026) Soroti Nasib Petani Tembakau, APTI Minta PP 28 Tahun 2024 Ditunda dan Dikaji Ulang • (Tribunnews.com, 24 Agustus 2026) Gapero Surabaya dan APTI Soroti PP 28/2024 soal Tembakau, Ini Permintaan ke Pemerintah • (VOI.id, 24 Agustus 2026) Ketua Gapero Surabaya Minta Pemerintah Kaji Ulang PP Nomor 28 Tahun 2024 soal Tembakau	Sulami Bahar – Chairman of the Surabaya Cigarette Manufacturers Association (Gapero Surabaya)

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			(TvOneNews, 24 Agustus 2026) Tuai Sorotan, Pemerintah Diminta Evaluasi PP soal Pembatasan Produk Tembakau	
	Bandung Berita 22/08/26	Bandung Regency Deputy Speaker of DPRD Rejects Restrictions on Tobacco Products	Deputy Speaker of the Bandung Regency DPRD, M. Akhiri Hailuki, opposed the central government's plan to introduce restrictions on tobacco products through a proposed Ministry of Health regulation. He argued that the tobacco industry contributes significantly to national and regional economies through tobacco excise revenue and provides livelihoods for tobacco farmers, agricultural workers, factory workers, and other industry stakeholders. Hailuki urged the government to carefully consider input from tobacco industry players, farmers, and workers before implementing the regulation. He warned that tighter restrictions could reduce tobacco excise revenue, threaten employment, and affect the sustainability of the tobacco industry. He also highlighted the importance of DBHCHT, which is allocated to regions for programs including improving tobacco farmers' skills and welfare, supporting the health sector, and combating illicit cigarettes. According to Hailuki, reduced tobacco excise revenue could lead to lower DBHCHT allocations and place additional pressure on regional fiscal conditions. For Bandung Regency, which is one of West Java's major tobacco-producing areas, Hailuki warned that the regulation could affect thousands of workers involved in tobacco farming and processing. He therefore called on the government not to rush the policy and argued that if the objective is to address illicit cigarettes, the government should focus on strengthening monitoring and enforcement against illicit cigarette circulation rather than restricting legal tobacco products.	M. Akhiri Hailuki – Deputy Speaker of the Bandung Regency DPRD
	komunitaskretek.or.id (24/08/2026)	AMIKOM Used to Have a Smoking Area. Now It's Become a Smoke-Free Zone	An opinion piece published by Komunitas Kretek criticized AMIKOM University in Yogyakarta for converting its designated smoking areas into a Smoke-Free Zone (Kawasan Tanpa Rokok/KTR), framing the change as a loss of "growth space" for students. The article profiled a student, referred to as Susanto, who expressed frustration that the campus's three smoking areas were phased out starting February 2026 and replaced with a new communal space called "Creativerse," now designated as smoke-free. The piece characterized designated smoking areas as a legitimate "win-win solution" between smokers and non-smokers, and portrayed the expansion of smoke-free zones as an imposition that smokers must simply "give in" to, without presenting any public health rationale for KTR policy or perspectives from non-smoking students.	Susanto – (pseudonym), AMIKOM student
	Kontan.co.id 21/08/26	Ministry of Law: Draft Plain Cigarette Packaging Regulation to Undergo Further Harmonization	The draft Ministry of Health regulation on plain cigarette packaging, which serves as a derivative regulation of Government Regulation No. 28/2024, will undergo another round of inter-ministerial harmonization. According to the Ministry of Law, several provisions have not yet been agreed upon by the relevant ministries and government agencies. Further discussions will collect input from various sectors and assess the provisions based on existing	Arif Susandi – Senior Legislative Drafting Expert, Ministry of Law

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			regulations and their potential impacts. The Ministry of Law stated that the harmonization process will seek to ensure that the regulation supports public health objectives while also considering economic interests. The process will take into account the potential benefits and impacts of the policy, as well as public welfare, fairness, and legal certainty. The proposed plain packaging regulation has faced opposition from stakeholders in the tobacco sector due to concerns about its potential impact on the tobacco industry, employment, and tobacco farmers. Tobacco-sector stakeholders have also warned that the policy could increase the circulation of illegal cigarettes, potentially reducing government excise revenue because illegal products are not subject to excise duties.	
	industri.kontan.co.id (25/08/2026)	Cigarette Plain Packaging Policy Feared to Erode Advertising Spending	On August 25, 2026, Kontan reported continued concern from the advertising industry. The advertising industry continued to express concern over the Ministry of Health's plain packaging plan for tobacco products, part of a Draft Ministerial Regulation (Permenkes) derived from Government Regulation (PP) No. 28/2024. The article warned that the restrictive policy would erode the sustainability of various supporting sectors within the tobacco industry ecosystem (IHT). Susilo Dwihamanto, Head of the Advertising Oversight Board at the Indonesian Advertising Companies Association (P3I), stated that although tobacco's share of advertising spending had already declined significantly over the past decade to under 10 percent, the new regulation remained a major concern due to its domino effect, particularly for electronic tobacco products. He argued that the policy would impact the entire supply chain from upstream to downstream, from tobacco farmers and hand-rolling workers to millions of small traders and the advertising industry itself.	Susilo Dwihamanto , Head of the Advertising Oversight Board, Indonesian Advertising Companies Association (P3I)
	Ntv News 21/08/26	Proposed Plain Packaging Regulation Seen as Potentially Affecting the Advertising Industry	The proposed implementation of plain packaging for tobacco products in the draft Ministry of Health regulation has raised concerns within the advertising industry. Susilo Dwihamanto of P3I said that advertising spending from tobacco and e-cigarette products has declined significantly over the past decade, with tobacco products currently accounting for less than 10% of total advertising spending. However, he said the proposed plain packaging policy could create further impacts on businesses connected to the tobacco industry, particularly because promotional opportunities for tobacco products have already been increasingly restricted. Susilo also argued that the tobacco industry is already heavily regulated through restrictions on television advertising hours, billboard placement, and excise policies. He expressed concern that plain packaging could place additional pressure on the industry and related sectors. He also highlighted the role of packaging in providing product information and building brand identity, arguing that standardizing visual elements could make different products appear similar despite differences in raw materials, quality, and price segments. Sutrisno Iwantono of APINDO said businesses understand the government's public health objectives but argued that the policy should also consider its potential economic, employment, and state revenue impacts . He said plain packaging could affect the wider tobacco industry ecosystem from	1. Susilo Dwihamanto – Chairman of the Advertising Supervisory Board, Indonesian Advertising Companies Association (P3I) 2. Sutrisno Iwantono – Chairman of Public Policy, Indonesian Employers Association (APINDO)

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			upstream to downstream, including tobacco farmers, factory workers, distributors, small retailers, and supporting sectors such as advertising. Related articles: (Kontan, 25 August 2026) Kebijakan Plain Packaging Rokok Dikhawatirkan Gerus Belanja Iklan	
	Pojok Kiri 27/08/26	East Java DPRD Calls for Revision of Government Regulation No. 28/2024 to Protect Tobacco Farmers	Member of Commission B of the East Java DPRD, Arbayanto, stated that the DPRD Jatim supports the interests of tobacco farmers and has been working with farmers to push for a revision of Government Regulation (PP) No. 28/2024. According to him, the revision is needed so that the regulation can better reflect the actual conditions and needs of tobacco farmers in the field. Arbayanto explained that coordination with tobacco farmers has been carried out for several months, including during a working visit to Kediri. The farmers' concerns and requests regarding the regulation have also been communicated to the central government, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture. He said the central government has already conducted a review concerning the possible adjustment of PP No. 28/2024 based on the aspirations raised by tobacco farmers. The East Java DPRD is now waiting for the central government to complete its assessment and determine the timeline for the proposed revision. Arbayanto emphasized that the regulation should be adjusted to accommodate the conditions and interests of tobacco farmers rather than being implemented without considering their situation.	Arbayanto – Member of Commission B, East Java Regional House of Representatives (DPRD Jatim)
	Akurat 26/08/26	East Java Regional Government Urges Government Not to Undermine the Tobacco Industry Amid Budget Efficiency Measures	The East Java regional government urged the central government to consider the sustainability of the tobacco industry amid fiscal restructuring, budget efficiency measures, and tighter tobacco control policies. Deputy Governor Emil Dardak stated that the tobacco industry remains an important part of the regional economy and provides livelihoods for communities across the supply chain, including tobacco farmers and workers in tobacco processing. Emil also welcomed the central government's efforts to maintain dialogue on the future of the tobacco sector. He cited Finance Minister Purbaya Yudhi Sadewa's visit to Surabaya to discuss how the tobacco sector could contribute more to regional development through improved excise management. According to Emil, the discussion was not about shutting down the tobacco industry, but about maximizing its contribution to development through better excise governance. Meanwhile, Situbondo Regent Yusuf Rio Wahyu Prayogo acknowledged that changes in the division of authority and budget allocation between the central and regional governments can create challenges for local programs. However, he emphasized that regional governments must continue aligning their programs with central government policies. He also stated that several previously adjusted budgets had been reallocated through sectoral programs, including those supporting village infrastructure and agriculture, while claiming that Situbondo's economic growth and poverty indicators remained positive.	Emil Dardak – Deputy Governor of East Java Yusuf Rio Wahyu Prayogo – Regent of Situbondo

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			Related articles:	
			(Ketik.com, 27 August 2026) Emil Dardak Bicara Blak-blakan soal Tembakau Jatim, Bupati Mas Rio Singgung Nasib Petani Situbondo	
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Activities	detikzone.id (26 Agustus 2026)	Cigarette Company Mentored by Bea Cukai Madura, CV Ayunda Permata Sejahtera. Becomes Main Sponsor. Pushes Pamekasan Farmers to Upgrade	CV Ayunda Permata Sejahtera, a cigarette company mentored by Bea Cukai (Customs) Madura and owned by H. Bambang Budianto, served as the main sponsor of a Technology and Farmers Market Meeting event organized by the Pamekasan Regency Agricultural Extension Center on August 22, 2026. Bambang expressed appreciation to the organizers and hoped similar events would be replicated across every district to benefit more farmers. The article framed the cigarette company's sponsorship entirely as a positive contribution to agricultural development and farmer welfare, alongside other sponsors including state fertilizer company PT Pupuk Indonesia, without any reference to tobacco's health impacts.	H. Bambang Budianto , – Director of CV Ayunda Permata Sejahtera.
Benefits to the Tobacco Industry	investigasi.news (24/08/2026)	DBHCHT Cash Assistance 2026 Prepared for 4,444 Tobacco Worker Families in Situbondo	The Situbondo Regency Social Affairs Office is preparing Cash Assistance (BLT) from the Tobacco Excise Revenue-Sharing Fund (DBHCHT) 2026 for 4,444 families of tobacco farm workers and cigarette factory employees. Hj. Eviana Anggriasih, Head of the Social Protection and Security Division at the Social Affairs Office, said the program is currently in the data verification stage, coordinating with the Agriculture Office to ensure accurate targeting. The article frames the assistance purely as a welfare and economic-support measure for the tobacco workforce, without connecting it to health or consumption-control objectives.	Hj. Eviana Anggriasih – Head of the Social Protection and Security Division, Situbondo Regency Social Affairs Office.
	jatim.tribunnews.com (24/08/2026)	DBHCHT Cash Assistance Recipients in Lumajang Drop by 2,644 People. Aid Amount Also Cut Due to Efficiency Measures	The number of Cash Assistance (BLT) recipients from the Tobacco Excise Revenue-Sharing Fund (DBHCHT) in Lumajang Regency dropped by 2,644 people in 2026 compared to 2025, from 6,937 to 4,293 recipients, due to central government budget efficiency measures and changes in national socioeconomic data classification (DTSEN). Indriono Krishna Murti, Head of the Lumajang Social, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection Office, explained that this year's 4,293 recipients consist of 3,525 tobacco farm workers, 250 cigarette factory workers, 250 disaster victims, and 268 impoverished residents, with a total budget of Rp 2.575 billion. He noted that the aid amount per recipient was also halved, from Rp 1.2 million (four months) in 2025 to Rp 600,000 (two months) in 2026. Data validation was conducted in coordination with multiple regional agencies, including the local tobacco farmers association.	Indriono Krishna Murti – Head of the Lumajang Social, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection Office (Dinsos P3A).
	Kontan 27/08/26	New Cigarette Excise Layer Awaits DPR Discussion as Government Targets Illegal Cigarettes	The government is preparing to introduce a new cigarette excise layer, including a proposed third excise tier for Machine-Made Kretek Cigarettes (SKM) . The proposal has not yet been discussed with Commission XI of the DPR RI and is	Purbaya Yudhi Sadewa – Minister of Finance

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			expected to be addressed after the ongoing budget discussions are completed. Finance Minister Purbaya Yudhi Sadewa said the new excise layer is intended to provide an opportunity for businesses involved in the illegal cigarette trade to move into the legal market and comply with excise obligations. Purbaya said he had also met with several illegal cigarette sellers and encouraged them to use the new tier once it is implemented, while warning that continued illegal activity would face enforcement. The government also anticipates the possibility of down trading, where consumers shift from higher-priced cigarettes to cheaper products. Purbaya said this would depend on market preferences, while the government plans to structure prices and product requirements so that the new layer does not directly compete with existing Group II cigarettes and maintains a sufficient price gap.	
	beritajatim.com (25/08/2026)	2026 Magetan DBHCHT Cash Assistance Reaches IDR 3 Billion, Targeting Cigarette Factory Workers and People in Extreme Poverty	The Magetan Regency government is preparing Rp3 billion in Cash Assistance (BLT) from the Tobacco Excise Revenue-Sharing Fund (DBHCHT) 2026, targeting cigarette factory workers, tobacco farm workers, and extremely poor residents. Eko Muryanto, Head of the Regional Planning, Research, and Development Agency (Baperida) of Magetan, said the allocation is still in coordination with relevant regional agencies. Of the total Rp3 billion budget, Rp2.8392 billion is allocated directly to beneficiaries: 1,000 cigarette factory workers to receive assistance over five months, alongside 500 tobacco farm workers and 988 extremely poor residents. The article frames the program purely as a poverty-alleviation and worker-welfare measure funded through tobacco excise revenue, without connecting it to tobacco-consumption control objectives.	Eko Muryanto – Head of the Regional Planning, Research, and Development Agency (Baperida), Magetan Regency.
	Serayu News 21/08/26	FSTVLST to Join Slank for the "Berani Kita Beda Tour" in Purwokerto	FSTVLST will perform at the Berani Kita Beda Tour Hey... Slank concert at GOR Satria Purwokerto on 30 August 2026, joining Slank and other musicians. The event is expected to attract alternative and rock music fans in Purwokerto and the surrounding Banyumas area. The organizer, through its Instagram account @pwtfestival, has not yet announced the full concert schedule, so attendees are advised to follow the account for updates on the performance times. The concert's entry mechanism also drew attention, as attendees are required to bring two packs of HS cigarettes as part of the entry requirements. Further details regarding the cigarettes and other entry conditions were provided through the organizer's official Instagram account.	-

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Unnecessary Interactions	https://wawainews.id/ (24/08/2026)	Regent of East Lampung Reviews HS Cigarette Factory in Nibung: Culture Continues, Economy Grows	The Regent of East Lampung visited the HS cigarette factory in Nibung Village, Gunung Pelindung District, to review its operational readiness. Danang Setia, CEO of HS Sumatra, thanked the regional government for its attention to the industry's presence. The Regent emphasized that economic progress does not have to sacrifice culture, framing the factory visit as part of a broader narrative of regional economic growth, job creation, and support for local industry, without addressing tobacco's health impacts.	Hj. Ela Siti Nuryamah – Regent of East Lampung; Danang Setia – CEO of HS Sumatra.
	jurnalis-indonesia.com (24/08/2026)	Bea Cukai Madura-Mentored Cigarette Company "PR Sekawan Mulia" Opens Job Opportunities for Hand-Rolling and Grinding Work	PR Sekawan Mulia, a cigarette manufacturer mentored by Bea Cukai (Customs) Madura and based in Sumenep Regency, opened job vacancies for hand-rolling and grinding positions, primarily targeting women. The recruitment poster listed requirements including responsibility, initiative, and teamwork, with training provided for inexperienced applicants. The article referred to the company by its official designation as a "Bea Cukai-mentored" enterprise, without any reference to tobacco's health impacts.	-
Transparency				
Conflict of Interest	aliainsinews.id (24/08/2026)	EWNCW South Sumatra Holds Protest at Regional Customs Office, Demands Thorough Investigation into Illegal Cigarette Circulation	The South Sumatra chapter of EWNCW, a civil society/anti-corruption watchdog group, held a protest at the Sumbagsel Regional Customs and Excise Office, demanding a thorough crackdown on illegal cigarette circulation in the province. Action coordinator Solahudin MK alleged that authorities had failed to conduct structured, systematic, and massive enforcement across distribution channels, collector warehouses, and retail markets, suggesting possible deliberate negligence or protection by officials. The group named several illegal cigarette brands allegedly circulating in the market and identified three individuals, referred to by the initials JR, APK, and RNT, whom they accused of being major owners or distributors of illegal cigarettes in South Sumatra. The Head of Public	Solahudin MK – Action Coordinator, EWNCW South Sumatra; Kuswandanu – Head of Public Relations, Sumbagsel Regional Customs and Excise Office.

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			Relations at Sumbagsel Regional Customs, Kuswandanu, received the protesters and pledged to follow up on the report. (Newshanter.com, 24 Agustus 2026) EWNCW Geruduk Bea Cukai Sumbagsel. Soroti Maraknya Peredaran Rokok Ilegal	
	sinergipos.com (24/08/2026)	Public Concert Allegedly Violates Belitung Regional Regulation No. 1/2018, Djie Toe Cigarette Banners Remain Standing	A public concert at Tanjung Pendam Beach, Belitung, allegedly violated Regional Regulation No. 1/2018, which prohibits tobacco product advertising within a 200-meter radius of tourist destinations. Around 30 promotional banners for Djie Toe Click Berry Breeze cigarettes, reportedly displayed as part of event sponsorship, remained standing throughout the event despite enforcement attempts. KA Azhami, Head of the Belitung Regional Revenue Agency, affirmed that the regulation must be enforced without exception. However, a source alleged that an influential figure or local official had granted permission for the banners to be reinstalled after initial removal, raising public questions about selective enforcement. Yasa, Head of the Belitung Civil Service Police Unit, confirmed a joint enforcement team was deployed but described the approach as persuasive, with the sponsor allegedly agreeing to voluntarily remove the banners, a commitment reportedly not fulfilled by the event's end.	KA Azhami – Head of Belitung Regional Revenue Agency (Bapenda); Yasa – Head of Belitung Civil Service Police Unit (Satpol PP); Agus Iswanto – Head of PPID, Belitung Satpol PP.
	Gaperta.id 26/08/26	LSM Semut Merah Demands Stronger Oversight of Illegal Cigarettes in Jambi. Urges Ministry of Finance to Investigate Alleged Official Involvement	The civil society group LSM Semut Merah held a protest outside the Ministry of Finance building in Jakarta, demanding the Directorate General of Customs and Excise (DJBC) and Jambi Regional Police strengthen oversight and investigate alleged illegal cigarette circulation in Jambi Province. Chairman Aldi Agnopiandi stated the group suspected involvement of certain law enforcement officials in the distribution of illegal cigarette brands found in Jambi warehouses and shops, and referenced an alleged group called "Baron" purportedly linked to securing illegal cigarette distribution, as well as alleged involvement of a Customs Jambi public relations staff member. A Ministry of Finance representative, identified as Andi, received the protesters and pledged to follow up with an internal audit team (Inspektorat Jenderal), stating that firm action would be taken against anyone found involved, including Customs Jambi personnel.	Aldi Agnopiandi – Chairman, LSM Semut Merah; Andi – Public Relations Representative, Ministry of Finance.
	Ntv News 24/08/26	https://www.ntvnews.id/news/01116157/kemitraan-tembakau-dorong-produktivitas-dan-kesejahteraan-petani-rembang	The Ministry of Agriculture conducted a field visit to the Tobacco Farmer Partnership Program in Rembang, Central Java, which has operated since 2009. The program brings together the government, tobacco industry, and farmers to improve productivity and tobacco quality through Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), technical assistance, and support for harvest absorption. Abdul Roni Angkat said the partnership helps farmers improve cultivation practices, manage production costs, and address challenges including limited access to technology, production inputs, unpredictable weather, and supply-chain issues. The program is also presented as supporting the local	Abdul Roni Angkat – Ministry of Agriculture Iris – Tobacco farmer and Head of Sukorejo Village, Rembang Arifin – Tobacco farmer from Rembang

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			economy through seasonal employment and related agricultural businesses. Farmers reported benefits from the partnership. Iris said it improved tobacco productivity and farmers' welfare, while Arifin said the program helped him use dry-season land productively and earn income without seeking temporary work outside the region. The partnership currently involves more than 10,000 farmers in Rembang, Grobogan, and Wonogiri. The Ministry of Agriculture is also supporting agricultural modernization through mechanization and programs for young farmers.	
Preventive Measures	Jombang 27/08/26	NU Smoking Book Discussion Explores Kretek Fatwa and the Protection of Young Smokers	Lesbumi PBNU held a book launch and discussion of <i>NU Smoking: Kedaulatan Islam Nusantara dalam Fatwa Kretek</i> in Jombang on 26 August 2026. The event was part of the activities leading up to the 35th Muktamar Nahdlatul Ulama and brought together the book's authors and representatives of LKNU PBNU to discuss tobacco from cultural, economic, religious, and health perspectives. The discussion highlighted the book's examination of cigarettes and kretek through cultural, economic, and religious perspectives. LKNU Chairman Zulfikar As'ad added a medical perspective, noting that the health dimension was not discussed extensively in the book. He stated that, from the religious perspective presented in the discussion, smoking has traditionally been considered <i>mubah</i> rather than <i>haram</i>, while also arguing that smoking should not be excessive and should be limited to those considered old enough. Zulfikar also emphasized the importance of protecting children and young people from smoking at an early age. He argued that early smoking is particularly concerning because young people are still developing physically, while health-related effects of smoking may emerge gradually over periods of 10, 15, or even 20 years. The event concluded with a discussion and question-and-answer session, with organizers highlighting the dissemination of ideas related to cultural sovereignty and the economic interests of the Nahdliyin community.	K.H. M. Jadul Maula – Chairman of Lesbumi PBNU and co-author of <i>NU Smoking</i> Dr. Gugun El Guyanie – Lecturer in Constitutional Law at UIN Sunan Kalijaga and co-author of <i>NU Smoking</i> Dr. dr. HM. Zulfikar As'ad, MMR – Chairman of LKNU PBNU

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N/A - Not Relevant to TII	Liputan 7 26/08/26	Seminar in Kudus Highlights Kretek as Indonesia's Cultural Heritage	A seminar in Kudus discussed kretek as part of Indonesia's historical and cultural heritage, highlighting its connections to local economic development, social life, traditional knowledge, and skills passed down through generations. The discussion emphasized that kretek heritage includes not only the product itself but also knowledge and practices such as tobacco and clove selection, <i>blending</i>, <i>mbatil</i>, <i>nglinting</i>, and social traditions such as <i>tingwe</i>, <i>kenduri</i>, <i>hajatan</i>, and <i>srawung</i>. A related Focus Group Discussion recommended pursuing recognition of Kretek Kudus as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Indonesia (WBTbl) through academic studies and documentation. It also called for the protection of traditional knowledge, tobacco and clove farmers, workers, and the wider supply chain. The article notes that cultural heritage recognition is not intended to promote cigarette consumption, while health, employment, environmental, and social considerations should remain part of the discussion.	1. Dr. Edy Supratno, M.Hum. – STAI Syekh Jangkung Pati 2. Dr. Sri Margana, M.Phil. – Historian 3. Budi Setiyono, S.S. – Historia.ID