Asean Corruption Conference Underway in Medan

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Medan. A former Australian parliamentarian joins Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Djoko Suyanto and several academics in the North Sumatra capital for a two-day conference focusing on corruption in Southeast Asia.

"Extra strong security [has been put in place] to anticipate the threat of terrorism," North Sumatra Police spokesman Sr. Comr. Raden Hero Parkoso said. “Around 775 personnel have been deployed.”

Southeast Asian Parliamentarians Against Corruption (SEAPAC) is being held at the Aryaduta Hotel in Medan on Oct. 22 and 23.

The event will hold delegations from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam in an effort to address specific issues as well as region-wide concerns.

Graft is never far from the spotlight in Indonesia, but the recent conviction of a police commander combined with the arrests of a former sports minister and the head of the Constitutional Court have caused public exasperation to plumb new depths.

The event will close with a speech by House speaker Marzuki Alie and dinner with the North Sumatra governor, Gatot Pujo Nugroho, who was questioned by the Corruption Eradication Commission earlier this year in connection with a beef procurement scandal.