

The Corruption Eradication Commission, or KPK, on Monday officially declared Jules Warikar, the head of Supiori district in impoverished Papua Province, a suspect in a graft case.

KPK spokesman Johan Budi alleged that Warikar had embezzled more than Rp 40 billion (\$3.72 million) from the district's coffers between 2006 to 2008.

"We charged him with violating Articles 2, 3 and 5 of the 1999 Corruption Law," the spokesman said, adding that the KPK had not taken Warikar into custody.

According to the Criminal Code, Johan said a suspect could, however, be detained if investigators felt the suspect might flee, tamper with evidence or repeat the alleged crime.

Last week, the commission also declared Suryadi, a businessman based in Jakarta, a suspect in the case.

On Monday morning, the KPK sent about 40 investigators, all wearing bright orange KPK-marked vests, in a convoy of eight vehicles to look for evidence relating to the case at four separate locations across Greater Jakarta.

Several of the investigators were deployed to Suryadi's construction company, identified only as "PT MMJK," on Jalan Balikpapan Raya in Menteng, Central Jakarta.

The rest were sent to search three houses. One team went to a house on Jalan S. Parman in Grogol, West Jakarta; another to the Taman Kebun Jeruk housing complex in West Jakarta; and the last to a house in the Mahkota housing complex in Ciledug, Banten Province.

It is not clear whose houses they were or what evidence was collected from the four locations.

Suryadi's company was said to be the developer responsible for building a market in Supiori.

Warikar allegedly gave Suryadi the contract without a bidding process while Suryadi was accused of inflating the costs of the project.

Supiori is the newest district in Papua, established little more than five years ago. It is located on the island of the same name about 100 kilometers north of the main island of Papua in the Cendrawasih Gulf.

The 528-square-kilometer little-known district has no known natural resources and the population was estimated to be only about 15,000 people in 2007.