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JAYAPURA, Papua: The Papua provincial administration received Rp 19 trillion (US\$1.72 billion) in development funds from the central government, to be disbursed to the provincial and regional administrations.

Papua Governor Barnabas Suebu presented the funds to mayors, regents and agency heads on Thursday.

Included in the package was a Rp 1 trillion general allocation fund (DAU) for the provincial administration and another Rp 8 trillion fund for the regency and mayoralty administrations.

The province also received a Rp 81.27 billion special allocation fund (DAK) while the regional administrations received Rp 2.6 trillion.

Papua also received a special autonomy fund of Rp 2.6 trillion and an infrastructure special autonomy fund of 800 million.

In addition to the funds disbursed to the provincial and regional administrations through regional budgets, the central government also provides some Rp 4.9 trillion for regional offices of various ministries including defense, national education, public works and transportation ministries and the National Police.

Barnabas said three priorities had been set in 2009: covering basic services and rural development; strengthening economic resilience through agriculture, enhancing the infrastructure and energy sector and enhancing anti-graft efforts, bureaucracy reforms, stabilizing democracy and improving security and defense. -- *JP*