



'Bu' Bariah: She has carved out a loyal following of people who love her food. Some have been loyal patrons for decades

IN YOGYAKARTA 3 WOMEN RUN 3 VERY DIFFERENT 'WARUNG'

Willow Paule
CONTRIBUTOR/YOGYAKARTA

Bariah, an earthy 57-year-old woman, is the owner of *Angkringan Bu Atik* on Jl. Manguyudan, near Jl. Parangtritis, in Yogyakarta.

Most *ankrangan*, which (literally) offer sidewalk dining, offer only basic fare.

However, *Bu Bariah* cooks six Javanese dishes a night, which she transports to the *angkringan* on her bicycle in a motley collection of recycled water bottles and coolers.

There are challenges to life as a small businesswoman in Yogyakarta, according to Bariah, who was born in the city. "I have debt, that's the hard part," she says. "Street sellers have a hard time paying off debts. But my dream is to buy a refrigerator

to store leftovers in the future." Bariah, who has been working on Jl. Manguyudan for 24 years, is an independent and smart entrepreneur who has counted on her own resourcefulness and resilience to forge a better life for herself and her family.

Space is cramped at the *angkringan*: a table and benches are set to the immediate right of the cart. However, *Bu Bariah's* customers are considerate, making room for anyone who comes along.

Some have been loyal patrons for decades, including taxi drivers awaiting calls, students who live in the neighborhood and *becak* rickshaw drivers, looking for an inexpensive, filling meal.

She offers a delicious *sayur lodeh*: creamy coconut milk, the sweet-and-sour taste of red melinjo berries

and greens, spicy green chilies, potatoes and jackfruit.

Local artist Mawardi, age 31, says he frequents the *angkringan* because of "good food, reasonable prices for large portions, varied vegetable dishes and the *sayur lodeh*."

Despite long days and hard work, Bariah says she enjoys her work and has never been bored. The secret to keeping loyal customers is attitude. "I'm friendly, so people keep coming," Bariah says. "I like speaking with my customers, and I don't forget to smile."

Nearby at Godomanan Intersection, another woman, Yogyakarta-born Mecrina, 49, has been serving *nasi sayur* for 17 years.

Before starting the business, Mecrina owned a large catering company. However, when an employee made off with Rp 700 million (US\$59,747) in monthly payments from seven large factory contracts, she lost her business.

Mecrina sold all her belongings and dismissed her nine helpers with double pay. After several months — and with an unemployed husband — Mecrina said that she had to get back to work. "I felt forced to start again, even though it was from zero. But I was grateful because to the left and right of me I had family support. My husband supports me 100 percent."

The *warung* (small street-side restaurant) is housed in a tiny green building that seats seven. A stationary cart in front holds the 35 dishes she makes daily.

"Although I wanted to go to college, we couldn't afford it," Mecrina says. "But saving money, helping my nephews and nieces, owning a motorcycle and buying land are all ways I define success in my life."

She is happy with the dynamic she has developed with her two employees. "My workers and I complement each other's strengths and weaknesses." Mecrina even pays school fees for one worker's child. "But once her kid is out of elementary school, she's on her own," Mecrina says, laughing.

As in the case of Bariah, some of Mecrina's customers have also been

visiting for decades. They say she remembers their names, what they like to eat and the details of their lives.

Meanwhile, Ida, a petite and natively dressed 53-year-old, has operated a small *warung* named "Pecel Madiun Bu Ida" near Kridosono stadium in Kota Baru for 10 years.

Ida stresses using fresh ingredients, and her peanut sauce has a tangy, sweet, spicy flavor. Pecel Madiun uses roasted peanuts instead of fried.

Although comfortably middle-class — Ida has a degree in chemistry and a background in mining and water consultation — she says she enjoys the variety her *warung* affords.

Ida wants to "give back to the community" through her *warung*, and she empowers others by employing two women and a man "who work for what they earn."

She is also interested in health and fitness — a passion she pursues in her work and free time. Ida said that she liked to use her chemistry background to create custom juices for herself and friends.

"When I was in college, I also took a food production technology class, because my hobby was going to the gym to keep myself healthy," Ida says. "Then I started making the juice. At first, the juice was just for me but then friends told me it was tasty. And so I studied more about how to make a healthy juice [...] I tried to find out how people could drink juice, but in a healthy way."

"I studied the properties of different vitamins in fruit. For example, apples: exactly what vitamins are in that fruit? And then I researched blood type A, for example. Are the intestines of people with that blood type wet or acidic?"

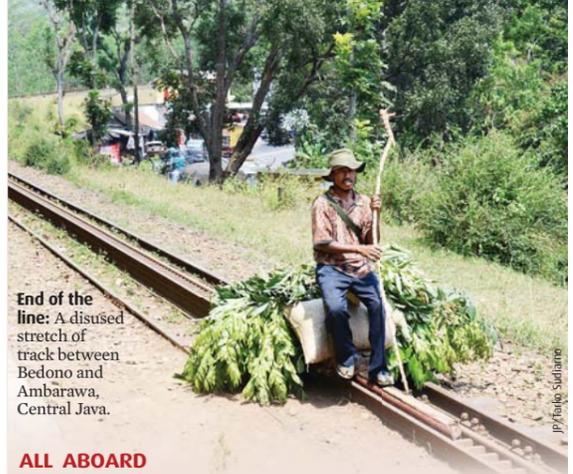
In 2012, she added tailored juices to the menu. "My friends convinced me to sell them at the *warung*."

When a customer comes in, she asks their blood type and makes a juice based on that information. For those with type-A blood, she mixes starfruit and tomato.

She says not every juice is suitable for every person, based on her experience and asking customers to trust her to make the right mix.

Although in time, women may be more equally accepted and treated in the workplace, these three women aren't waiting: They're empowering themselves and their employees now, creating change with each dish they serve.

— PHOTOS BY WILLOW PAULE



End of the line: A disused stretch of track between Bedono and Ambarawa, Central Java.

ALL ABOARD

Historic Ambarawa train station to reopen by year's end

Nadya Natahadibrata
THE JAKARTA POST/JAKARTA

The Ambarawa Railway Museum in Central Java is the site of one of the first train stations in the archipelago built by the Dutch some 140 years ago.

After almost four decades of life as a museum — complete with a vintage engine that chugs along a preserved section of track — the historic location, which lies about 40 kilometers south of Semarang, Central Java, is set to be reopened as a train station by the end of 2013.

"We are currently in the process of land acquisition to reactivate the railway. Hopefully by the end of the year, the train station will begin to operate again," Makmur Syaheran, the spokesman for state owned train operator PT Kereta Api Indonesia (KAI), told *The Jakarta Post* over the weekend.

Ambarawa, previously named the Willem I Train Station, was opened in 1873 to connect Semarang, the nation's first rail hub, with a Dutch military base, Willem I Fort, located nearby.

When the station closed in 1976 and became a museum, people started to build ersatz homes along the railway tracks that run from Kedungjati to Tuntang in Central Java.

"We are now cooperating with the Transportation Ministry to revive the 36.7-kilometer track from Kedungjati to Tuntang. The ministry is in charge in repairing the railway, while KAI is paying for the compensation for the residents," Makmur said, declining to reveal

the budget for land acquisition.

However, Makmur said that 110 families living in Kedungjati district and 127 families in Tuntang district have agreed to relocate from the area.

"We are currently in a negotiation process with 88 families living in Beringin district, which is located between Kedungjati and Tuntang. Another 126 families living near Ambarawa are also still compromising with us to move from the area," he said.

According to Makmur, reopening the station is aimed at boosting economic activity in the area, as well as easing traffic congestion.

"The reactivation of the track will stimulate the tourism potential in the area, which will inevitably support the province's hospitality and culinary industry, in addition to improving our service in providing public transportation," he said.

Transportation Ministry's director general for railway affairs Hermanto Dwiatmoko previously said that the ministry had allocated Rp 200 billion (US\$176 million) to reactivate several defunct railway stations to increase passenger numbers and supplies transported by train.

These would include the 45-kilometer track from Cianjur to Padalarang (West Java), the 33-km line from Surakarta to Wonogiri (Central Java) and the 9-km line from Jakarta Kota to Tanjung Priok (Jakarta).

According to data from the ministry, there is around 2,000 km of idle railtrack across the country.



Locomotion: Tourists and hawkers do business on the steam-powered train at the Ambarawa Railway Museum.

Guess what?

Ariel dyes hair for a mood change

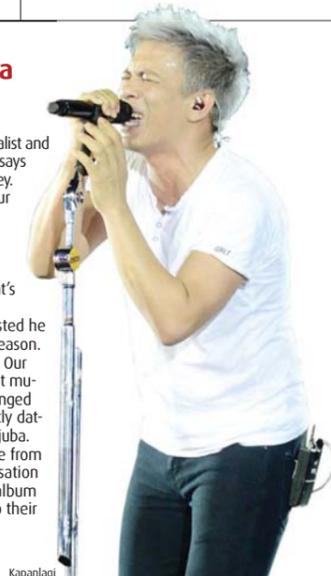
JAKARTA: Nazril "Ariel" Irham, vocalist and frontman of pop-rock band NOAH, says that he has dyed his hair silvery grey.

"We are currently recording our new album and we don't have many other activities," Ariel said in Jakarta as quoted by *kompas.com*, adding that he opted to go gray "to get a mood change; that's all."

The 32-year-old musician insisted he did not have any other specific reason.

"I wasn't inspired by anything. Our fans asked about it, but I said that music is changing, mood can be changed too," said the man who is currently dating model and actress Sophia Latjuba.

Members of NOAH, which rose from the ashes of pop-rock mega sensation Peterpan, has said that its new album would be "strange" compared to their previous works. **■**



Kapanlagi

Tika builds up muscle for boxing

JAKARTA: After playing Fatmawati — founding father Sukarno's wife, actress Tika Bravani is preparing to play a boxer in a new movie.

Tika says that she has to workout to turn her slender body into muscle.

"I need to get into a beefier shape for the part and also to help me get into character," the 24-year-old told *kompas.com* in Jakarta.

Tika, who won the 2010 Festival Film Indonesia (FFI) award for Best Actress, has been working out since she was chosen for the part in June.

"This is the kind of part that I want to get so I don't get typecast into a certain character," said the actress, who did not reveal more details about the new movie. **■**



Kapanlagi

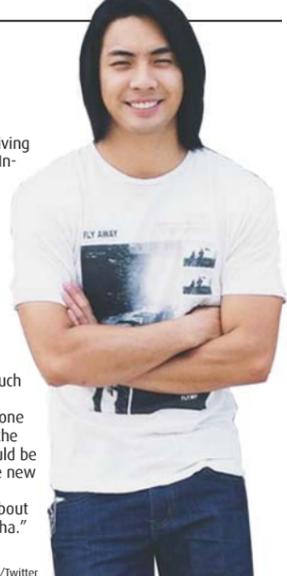
Jakarta son to become Power Ranger

JAKARTA: Yoshi Sudarso says that he's living his dream. The Hollywood stuntman of Indonesian descent is becoming a Power Ranger.

The 25-year-old, who was born in Jakarta but left Indonesia with his family in 1997 due to the financial crisis and the unrest that swept the country, will play the blue ranger in the series *Power Rangers Dino Charge*, which will debut in 2015, *tribunnews.com* is reporting.

"Today I fulfilled my childhood dream," Yoshi, who has acted in films such as the upcoming *The Maze Runner* and *Most Wanted*, said on Facebook. "I've done the suit acting for [Power Rangers] for the past 2/3 years and never thought I would be the actual actor. I'm so excited to be the new blue Dino Charge ranger!"

"I won't lie," Yoshi said on Twitter about his new role. "I fanboyed a little bit haha." **■**



Yoshi Sudarso/Twitter