

## Community Empowerment in Outermost Small Islands in Maintaining Territorial Integrity and Realizing Indonesian Maritime Defense

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### Abstract

Negara Kesatuan Republik Indonesia (NKRI) is an archipelagic country. Indonesia's struggle to gain world recognition as an archipelagic country was first obtained through the Archipelagic State Concept in the Djuanda Declaration on December 13, 1957. Indonesia's maritime territory is an area rich in resources that are beneficial for the welfare of society. So far the development of the outer islands has not shown good results. This is caused by many factors, among others, geographically the location of the outermost islands is difficult to reach, there are limited business scales, methods of exploiting marine resources that are not yet effective, limited facilities and infrastructure, limited ability to manage available natural wealth. This research aims to analyze community empowerment activities living on these islands as one of the efforts to maintain territorial integrity and realize Indonesia's maritime defense. This research is a qualitative research. The research design is descriptive analysis. The results of this study are community empowerment in the outermost small islands in maintaining territorial integrity and realizing Indonesia's maritime defense through the Service of the Indonesian Navy, Development of Regional Resilience and Social Communication and the Government of Natuna Regency providing various types of assistance, such as socialization of fish farming and fishing gear. The empowerment cooperation carried out by Lantamal IV Batam with the Regional Government of Natuna Regency has not gone well, the actors involved in implementing the empowerment cooperation have not worked together optimally and there are still obstacles faced, namely uniting community empowerment activity programs between Lantamal IV Batam and Natuna Regency.

**Keywords:** Empowerment, Community Empowerment, Outermost Small Islands, Maritime Defense.



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### INTRODUCTION

Negara Kesatuan Republik Indonesia (NKRI) is an archipelagic state with 17,480 islands. (Numberi, 2009), which is located from a geographical perspective is very strategic, because it is in a cross position, between the Asian and Australian continents and between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. Indonesia's struggle to gain world recognition as an archipelagic country was first obtained through the Archipelagic State Concept in the Djuanda Declaration of 13 December 1957.

Indonesia has 111 Outermost Small Islands where the islands are directly adjacent to neighboring countries starting from Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Palau, Australia, Timor Leste, India, Singapore and Papua New Guinea. The list of the 111 outermost islands in Indonesia has been determined based on Presidential Decree (Keppres) Number 6 of 2017 concerning the determination of the outermost small islands (Sasmini, 2009).

For an archipelagic country, the outer islands are very important in determining the jurisdiction of the sea area of the country's waters. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea III of 1982, namely the United Nations Convention On The Law of The Sea or UNCLOS 1982, which has been ratified in Law (UU) Number 17 of 1985 provides certainty that archipelagic states can draw straight baselines to determine the sea. territory, exclusive economic zone and

continental shelf as measured from baselines and where those baselines are on the outermost islands of the archipelago.

The release of Sipadan Island and Ligitan Island became the property of Malaysia on December 17, 2002 and the International Court of Justice (Justice, 2002), is a valuable experience in the history of the Republic of Indonesia, especially in the context of securing and upholding the sovereignty of Indonesia's land and sea territories. The International Court of Justice in resolving cases or international disputes often determines a dispute based on effective control or often referred to as Effective Occupation.

Based on experience from the release of ownership of Sipadan and Ligitan Islands, and realizing that the outermost islands bordering other countries are a sign of the archipelago's territorial boundaries which are the forefront of Indonesian sovereignty and are the door or page of the entire country's most accessible and most vulnerable territory to influences from outside, whether in the form of ideology, politics, socio-culture, economy or those related to national defense and security, the Indonesian government needs to anticipate as early as possible so that various things do not happen again which will harm the sovereignty of the national jurisdiction.

In addition, there are 12 (twelve) small islands that are designated as small islands which are a priority for management (Kemhan, 2010). This is because it has a very strategic value both in terms of defense and security as well as the potential wealth of natural resources. Related to the research that has been done, researchers took samples on one of the outermost islands which are within the administrative area of Natuna Regency. The selection of this sample was based on the fact that the island is one of the priority islands for management by the government and it is feared that the island will be used as a place for transnational crimes by irresponsible parties.

Natuna Regency is the outermost and foremost island of Indonesia which is located in the North Natuna Sea. Natuna waters are rich in fish and oil and gas resources. Marine fishery resources and gas fields in the North of Natuna Island (ZEE Indonesia), which are one of the largest sources in Asia, make Natuna Waters an attractive destination for foreign investors (Winarto, n.d.). On the other hand, weak supervision, especially on regional and territorial sea boundaries, also has an impact on the prevalence of cases of illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing by foreign fishermen in Indonesian waters.

Regarding Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning National Defence, in particular article 3 paragraph 2 which states that "The national defense is prepared by taking into account the geographical conditions of Indonesia as an archipelagic country." Referring to this article, the orientation of defense development in anticipating the growing cross-border crime, the policy orientation that is set should be archipelagic oriented, not land-based oriented (Rudiawan, 2019). Regarding the security of the outermost islands, the Indonesian Navy conducts patrols around the outermost islands in order to ensure the security of the outermost islands, and the Indonesian Navy refers to its universal role, namely the military, diplomatic and police roles (Mabesal, 2002). In Law Number 34 of 2004 concerning the Indonesian National Armed Forces, it is stated that one of the tasks of the Indonesian Navy is to implement Empowerment of the Maritime Defense Area (Dawilhanla).

With the fact that Indonesia's sea area is a resource-rich area that is beneficial for people's welfare. So far the development of the outer islands has not shown good results (As'ari, 2018). This condition clearly illustrates the lack of focus on development, utilization and utilization that is oriented towards the great interests of the local community or the people on the outer islands, as an effort to elevate the economic status and life of the people in the outer island areas, especially the people on Pulau Laut as Indonesia's foremost regency in the sea. North

Natuna. Taking research samples in Indonesia's Outermost Small Islands to be able to see and analyze community empowerment activities living on these islands as one of the efforts in Maintaining Territorial Integrity and Realizing Indonesian Maritime Defense.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Community Empowerment**

Community empowerment is none other than an effort to reduce poverty and underdevelopment (Rahim, 2014). Community empowerment does not make people more dependent on various charity programs. "The main approach in the concept of empowerment is that people are not used as objects of various development projects, but are the subject of their own development efforts." (Theresa, 2015).

Empowerment of coastal communities must be bottom up and open menu, but the most important thing is the empowerment itself which must directly touch the target community groups (Desmiyawati, 2015). Empowerment of coastal communities should be more directed to community empowerment related to the potential possessed by the village itself. Empowerment for coastal communities is intended to improve their economy by providing supplies and knowledge so that they can more optimally explore the potential of available natural resources.

According to Aprilia Theresia (Theresa, 2015), that community empowerment is an effort to make the community self-sufficient through the realization of their potential abilities. As for community empowerment, it always involves two interrelated groups, namely the community as the empowered party and those who care as the empowering party. Efforts to be able to build the power itself, by encouraging, motivating and raising awareness of the potential they have and trying to develop it.

### **Maritime Strategy**

A maritime country is a nickname for a country where most of its territory is water. But in general, a maritime country is a country that makes optimal use of its sea area in the context of shipping. In simple terms, a maritime country is a country that has a very wide sea territory. Usually, the waters in a maritime country are wider than the land area. Some people argue that a maritime country is a country that has many islands. This definition is also known as an archipelagic country. It can be said that a maritime country is a country that is surrounded by sea areas or waters that are wider than its landmass. The maritime country has various natural resources in the sea, and its geographical conditions are surrounded by waters. Some countries that are included as maritime countries are Indonesia, Canada,

These countries have long coastlines and a larger area of water than land. Indonesia is called a maritime country because the territorial waters in Indonesia are wider than its land. Indonesia has around 17,499 islands, with a coastline of 81,000 km (the second longest after Canada). In addition, the reason why Indonesia is called a maritime country is because of its strategic position in the waters (Shaid, 2022). Indonesia has waters such as seas and straits, which are often used as transportation routes, both nationally and internationally. These waterways connect Indonesia and surrounding countries with countries on other continents, such as the Americas and Europe.

The Maritime Strategy is a naval strategy whose position is under the state's grand strategy and military strategy which provides a framework and direction for the implementation of war at sea, provides a framework for the use of a naval force both in peacetime and in wartime and can be carried out both in offensive or defensive or a combination of both depending on the size of the military power possessed, the country's

strategic political goals, and the assessment of the potential combat power of the opposing party's Navy (Hattendorf, 2013). Naval strategy refers to the use of naval assets (fleets) to fulfill military objectives, such as fighting over, securing, deterring, defending and fighting for command of the sea or control of the sea (Sutanto, 2022).

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This research is a qualitative research. According to (Moleong, 2010) reveals that qualitative research is research that intends to understand phenomena about what is experienced by research subjects, for example behavior, perceptions, motivations, actions and others holistically and in a descriptive way in the form of words and language, in a special natural context and with using natural methods. In general, descriptive research uses surveys as a data collection method.

The chosen research design is descriptive analysis, while the understanding of the analytical descriptive method according to (Sugiyono, 2011) is a method that functions to describe or give an overview of the object under study through data or samples that have been collected as they are without conducting analysis and making general conclusions.

In research whose studies are reviewed from the perspective of community empowerment, the researchers attempted to collect data by means of interviews, documents or field surveys and after that analyzed Community Empowerment in the Outermost Small Islands in Maintaining Territorial Integrity and Realizing Indonesia's Maritime Defense inductively based on facts found in the field.

## **RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Research Result**

The results of data analysis were obtained from various informants who stated that the form of community empowerment activities is through the Social Sciences carried out by the Indonesian Navy as a form of marine area empowerment program that empowers maritime and maritime potential, where the aim of this empowerment is to realize national defense by optimizing resources. marine resources through fostering maritime potential and conducting socialization and pressuring the fishing community on Laut Island to provide legal understanding, territorial boundaries, environmental preservation and navigation and appeals, not to carry out illegal activities, such as crime and violence at sea. As well as the establishment of a supervisory group and fishermen groups in the area,

Aspotmar as the general staff of maritime potential policy carries out empowerment cooperation with stakeholder actors for coastal community empowerment, namely Ministries/Agencies and related institutions communicates that the Indonesian Navy has implementing actors for maritime community empowerment, namely the Navy's Dispotmar and 14 Main Bases The Navy and 52 Naval Bases spread throughout Indonesia are ready to carry out empowerment cooperation in the Province and local government. The empowerment cooperation carried out by Lantamal IV Batam with the Regional Government of Natuna Regency and coastal community empowerment stakeholders has not gone well,

In the aspect of demographic empowerment activities carried out by Lantamal IV Batam efforts are made to obtain fighting conditions for human resources who have nationalism, love for the motherland and awareness of defending the country and sensitivity of the community to problems that arise, both individually and in groups in the work area of Lantamal IV Batam. The role of the base is carried out through the provision of scouting education, mental and fighting development at school age and coaching for youth and water sports organizations. This

activity is intended to influence, instill positive things, improve skills and foster a fighting mentality at a young age in the surrounding community.

Aspotmar Lantamal IV Batam in empowering coastal communities to increase public awareness is to apply a strategy or method, namely Service to the Indonesian Navy, Development of Regional Resilience and Social Communication. Meanwhile, the Natuna Regency Government and Kesbangpol have a strategy or method for empowering coastal communities in their area by providing various types of assistance, such as socialization of fish farming and fishing gear.

## **Discussion**

The strategy of the Indonesian Navy, in this case Lantamal IV Batam, is in empowering coastal areas through the Service of the Indonesian Navy, Bintahwil and Komsos. The activities of serving the Indonesian Navy include community service, while the activities are physical and non-physical activities. Physical activities carried out by Lantamal IV Batam together with the community work together with the target of public facilities and social facilities that have strategic value, namely cleaning the beach from trash and coconut shell waste. While non-physical activities, activities that foster a sense of nationalism, have a national perspective, defend the country and love the motherland and improve community skills to support regional resilience by carrying out counseling.

The purpose and service of the Indonesian Navy is to assist the government in accelerating development and improving people's welfare as well as strengthening the unity of the TNI/AL with the people in early preparation of space, equipment and conditions for fighting for the sake of national defense. One of the Bintahwil activities is the demographic potential aspect which includes ideological, political, social, cultural, economic aspects directed at collecting data and fostering human resources prepared to become reserve components and defense supporting components that have awareness of defending the country, love of the motherland and sensitivity of the people towards problems that arise, both individually and in groups, in order to realize a formidable fighting tool. Bintahwil aims to strengthen regional resilience by increasing people's welfare and the unity of the People's Armed Forces in order to support the implementation of the duties of the Indonesian Navy. Development of social communication. One of its activities is strengthening social communication with the community as an effort to increase community participation in maintaining the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) in that region. The activities carried out by Lantamal IV Batam conducted counseling on awareness of defending the country. The purpose of social communication is to provide understanding in equating perceptions about empowering the maritime defense area to all components of the nation related to space, tools and fighting conditions as well as maintaining and increasing the unity of the Indonesian Navy and the maritime community in the framework of overall defense.

## **CONCLUSION**

The conclusion of this research about Community Empowerment in Outermost Small Islands in Maintaining Territorial Integrity and Realizing Indonesian Maritime Defense. Indonesia via Service for the Indonesian Navy, Development of Regional Resilience and Social Communication and the Natuna Regency Government provided various types of assistance, such as socialization of fish farming and fishing gear. The empowerment cooperation carried out by Lantamal IV Batam with the Regional Government of Natuna Regency has not gone well, the actors involved in implementing the empowerment cooperation have not worked together optimally and there are still obstacles faced, namely uniting community empowerment activity programs between Lantamal IV Batam and Natuna Regency.



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