

Ibrahim et al., 2019

Volume 5 Issue 1, pp.178 - 185

Date of Publication: 25th March 2019

DOI-<https://dx.doi.org/10.20319/pijss.2019.51.178185>

This paper can be cited as: Ibrahim, Haryadi, D., & Wahyudin, N., (2019). Between Fishing, Mining, and Suction Vessel: The Compromise of Teluk Limau People, West Bangka, on Tin Mining Aggression.

PEOPLE: International Journal of Social Sciences, 5(1), 178 – 185.

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BETWEEN FISHING, MINING, AND SUCTION VESSEL: THE COMPROMISE OF TELUK LIMAU PEOPLE, WEST BANGKA, ON TIN MINING AGGRESSION

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Abstract

Teluk Limau Village is a tin-rich coastal village located in the northern tip of Bangka Island and administratively is a part of West Bangka Regency. With its natural wealth, the people of Teluk Limau have long been known as an area rich with marine resources as they are known as fishing villages. As the tin has begun permitted to be freely mined; however, Teluk Limau Village faces three major situations, namely the temptation to mine, the desire to continuously wrestle the marine world, and the lure of suction vessel companies to extract tin in its coastal areas. This paper used qualitative research method to explore information by determining snowball sampling. This study resulted in an attitude crossing among the people in which a half remained

to be fisherman, some chose to become miners, and some other chose to compromise with the suction vessels existence that were visibly confronted with fishermen and community miners. After two major conflicts in opposing the existence of an offshore tin mining, the people finally decided to make peace, and even some of them decided to pursue the dual role of seasonal fishermen and seasonal miners. The study finally concluded that in situations where the benefits of all parties could be negotiated, in the end the dual attitude would not be a problem. Being agree to let them operate even disagree to each other's attitude has been the pragmatic choice of Teluk Limau Village people.

Keywords

Fishing, Mining, Suction Vessel, Compromise, Tin

1. Introduction

Teluk Limau area is located in Jebus District, West Bangka Regency. It stretches along the coastline integrated with other areas on the northern coast of Bangka Island. Administratively, it is included in Teluk Limau Village. Teluk Limau is known as a coastal area dominated by traditional fishermen. Since tin mining was released to the community after it was revoked as a state strategic commodity by the central government (Ibrahim, et.al., 2017; Susilo & Maemunah, 2009; Rahman, et.al., 2011; Erman, 2010; Sujitno, 2007; Stocklin-Weinberg, 2017; Haryadi, 2014 & 2015) the area was crowded with mining by the local people. The tin, widely found in this area, began to be off-shore mining operated by the local people themselves when tin mining shifted from land to sea.

Teluk Limau is known because of its resistancy history against the present of the production suction vessel (KIP) operating in this area. The waves of conflict occurred at least twice in 2012 and 2015. Resistance having implications for the widespread horizontal conflict in the regions not only has implications for social harmony, but also spreads the fact that the public finally resolves its own conflict in a pragmatic way (Sujitno, 2007; Zulkarnain, 2005).

This research revealed on how people behaved as they faced horizontal tin mining conflicts and how then the rational choices were taken by the people. Interestingly, after the conflict that divided the people into two groups between the pro and counter of the suction vessel present, were the Teluk Limau people then in a peace zone? What kind of peace and what choice looks like that finally run at present. In turn, this study revealed on how dual attitudes became a choice, some of them agreed to tolerate these differences.

2. Research Method

This research was designed in a qualitative one. In this study, the depth of data was obtained through observation and in-depth interviews (Marsh and Stoker, 2010). The informants were chosen by *snowball sampling*, namely by meeting the main characters who were considered as the most aware of the tin mining conditions in Teluk Limau area. Furthermore, the main character recommended some names that were considered as having capacity to provide research data. Self observation was done by observing the mining area directly in the coastal area of the research location. Then data triangulation was performed to ensure its validity.

3. Discussion

3.1 Tin Conflict

Tin mining in Teluk Limau region has actually been carried out secretly by the people with simple technology. Based on historical records, tin was indeed a prohibited item to be mined during the New Order period. At that time, local people mined using *dulang* and carried out manually and sold illegally. Changes, however, have occurred since tin was no longer a strategic commodity and therefore it can be freely mined. This took place in 1998. Due to the changes in regulation, the community began to mine in their own ways.

Tin in this area was first cultivated by PT. TIMAH on land, namely Mining 24. Mining was then operated in partnership with one of the businessmen who regulated the provision of the obligation to sell tin to PT. TIMAH. In subsequent developments, the local people also mined in the mining area of PT. TIMAH with the same conditions. But interestingly, not all people mining wanted to sell to PT. TIMAH, but some of them sold directly to other countries through smuggling. Not surprisingly, smuggling was very easy to occur in the early years of reform, in which most of it went to Singapore (interview Sam, Lah, Her 21-22 / 2/2018).

In further developments, as the offshore mining around Bangka islands began to develop, Teluk Limau area was also visited by the production suction vessel operated by one of PT. TIMAH partners in the tin mining area. It was here that the next development became interesting as finally the sea was mined by two major actors: the production suction vessel partnering with PT. TIMAH and the local people directly applying *Rajuk* technology. *Rajuk* technology is cheaper and easier to operate by people as the distance from the coastline is closer than that of the existence of production suction vessels.

Teluk Limau people, originally a fisherman and depend on the sea for life, was the divided into two. The first wanted to keep fishing with the comfortable condition for this sector. Another even supported the offshore mining, by both *raju*k mining and production suction vessel by assuming that people mining is really for the people interest, while production suction vessel operates in high price and only provide benefit for a few people (interviews Zai, Yus, Laj, Har, 2/7 / 2018).

Resistance then expanded and eventually led to a great conflict between the people who accepted the production suction vessel and those who refuse it. The latter departed from ecological awareness and hoped to return to their original conditions that are comfortable for fishermen, while those who receive are more tempted by compensation of Rp. 10,000 per kilogram of production suction vessels provided through village-owned businessman.

The tin mining conflict involving people who agreed and contradicted the existence of the production suction boat peaked in 2011. It was marked by demonstrations, pressure and threatening attitudes. The climax was then looting the production suction vessel and continued with the arrest of perpetrators of looting by the authorities (interview Man and Sam, 2/21/2018). Did the situation subside? In fact, the tension subsided and conflict receded, but the seeds of mutual suspicion still emerged. In order to reduce tension, the production suction vessel pauses. At the urging of various parties, the production suction vessel was suspended by the local government.

Interestingly, the suction vessel then resumed in 2016 with a different pattern. This time all parties were embraced, hired, and the crooked mines were still allowed to operate. Compensation for mosques, communities, and other assistance flowing from the profits of production suction vessels and community resistance then shrinks and shifts to acceptance by various parties (interview San, Man, Yus, 2/21/2018) .

Then where is the position of the government in the context of tin mining in Limau Bay? It is interesting to explain this. First, local government issued operational permits for production suction vessels. Instead of going to side with the interests of the community, the government actively encouraged the community to accept the existence of the production suction vessel. The security forces themselves seemed to leave on the pretext of being mediators. The businessmen themselves hoped for a middle way for this condition, but they used various pressure groups to carry out their wishes. Communities were left to separate themselves and found their own way.

When viewed from their contributions and expectations of the production suction vessel mining dynamics, here is the orientation scheme:

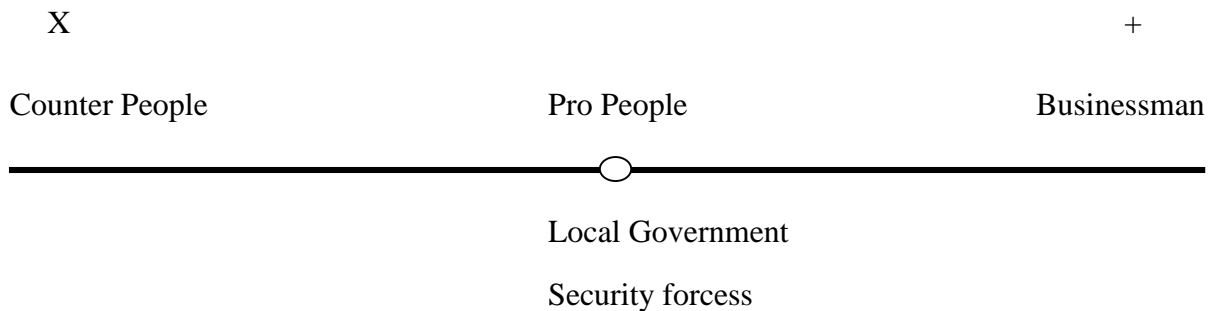


Figure 1: *Orientation of the Actors*

3.2 Compromise Model

After the conflict of interests had run quite massively, a compromise emerged. Tin mining, through the production suction vessel business, continues without interruption. Those who have mined using the crooked mines recently still operate, and the fishermen continue to sail. This compromise was then achieved at least with a number of fundamental reasons. First, the parties realized that benefits from all sides were obtained by all parties. Compensation flows, people can mine, fishing as fishermen can still run. To the extent that this interest is fulfilled, all parties seem to agree with the *status quo*. Secondly, some people have been pessimistic that even if the conflict continuously prolonged, they would still get nothing. If so, the choice would be then keeping everything running (Rosyida, et.al., 2018).

Then the compromise model is described as follows:

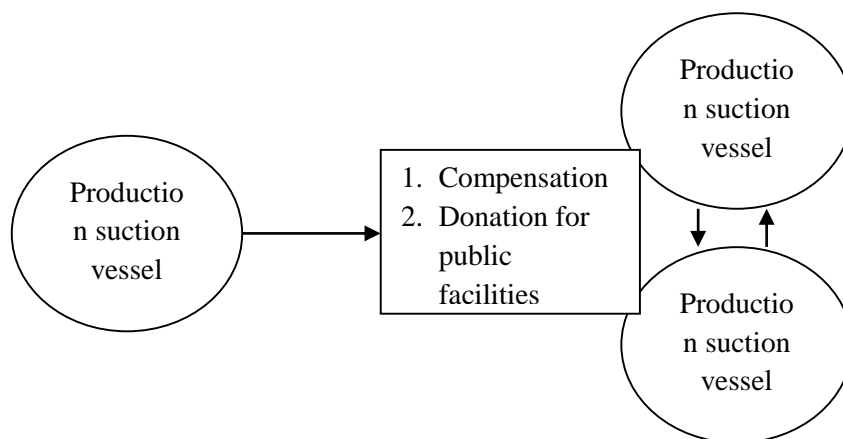


Figure 2: *The Compromise Model*

The compromise model above illustrates that people who work as miners continue to mine, fishermen continue to go to sea, and they get compensation from the profits of production suction vessels and construction assistance for facilities from production suction vessel businessman. The compromise model, of course, ultimately ignored the environmental damage problems, the fishermen working area has been increasingly moved to the middle of the sea, and the threat of tin resources will be run out in the future as quickly as it fought when the initial conflict of tin erupted. Are the parties aware of the environmental crisis thread? Yes, field interviews showed awareness in the context of ecological decadence. Mnsr (interview 2/21/2018) said that the water became cloudy and the coast was damaged. The compromise turned environmental concerns into pragmatism interests.

The following picture explains the compromising life atmosphere:



Figure 3: *The Picture of Teluk Limau Area*

4. Conclusion

After a long conflict splitting Teluk Limau people regarding the existence of production suction vessel and the tin mining handling in general, this study concluded that a compromise occurred after a long process. The compromise model chosen in the end was that the fishermen continued to go to sea, the crooked miners continued to operate, and the production suction vessels could continue to operate. It departed from the basic principle that interests are fulfilled each other and there is an awareness that a counter attitude will not solve the problem. At the same time, compromise attitude showed that in a certain point the resistance toward environmental saving movement will meet its saturation point, and this it will be accelerated by

the demands of pragmatic interests. Regarding to this topic, as the focus of the next research it's interesting to explore how the local people take care of their land after the era of tin mining.

Acknowledgement

Thank you to the Directorate of Research and Community Service of the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education for funding this research by Competency Grants scheme in 2018. Thank you also to colleagues, students, and parties who have helped in collecting data, especially to Ridwan Diaguna, Hary, Sandy, and Sarpin.

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