

Social Conflict Based on Palm Plantation Near to Riverside Area: Desa Dosan Siak Case, 2007-2012

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ABSTRACT

The focus of this research is to find out triggering factors of social conflict happening around riverside area in 2007-2012. Method of this research is to identify; (1) general and particular triggering factors. (2) actors involved in the conflict. (3) actors' interest about palm plantation policy. (4) conflict solving strategy that is to come and has already done. Result shows that the non-legal dominant factors of conflict in riverside area are: poverty and awareness of the economic factor of area.

Key word: social conflict, poverty, people's awareness.

INTRODUCTION

Social conflict is growing near to riverside of Siakriver based on palm plantation area. It is started since the application of decentralization policy. Study of Cason (2000), Ngadisah (2004), Khairul (2009), Bernhard (2012), Wawan (2012) and WahanaLingkunganHidup (Walhi) of Riau show that there are 1320 social conflicts based on palm plantation area in Riau. 650 of them happen between company and society. Factually, those conflicts can lessen from (1)the people's aggression of desaPaluh, Benayah, to the sailing ships in Siak river in 2005. (2)demonstration of people living in the area of Siak riverside to local government (Pemda) (Riau Pos, 7 Juni 2010). (3) people's demonstration of desaBenayah, Dosan, TelukMesjid, DusunPusaka in Siak's local government office, asking for sharing of palm plantation area in 2010 (Riau Pos, September 2010). (4) protestdesaPaluh, BentengHilir's figure for the flood impact caused by palm plantation near to Siak riverside in 2010.

It can be seen that the conflicts are growing. People near to riverside are getting more critical in denying government's policy. Early investigation shows that one of the most dynamic social-politic conflict in Siak riverside is related to palm plantation business. That is why writer use social-politic issue about palm plantation policy as the key to understand social-politic conflict based on the assumption that social-politic conflict based on human resource is the effect of politic², as stated by Muhaimin (2000), and Khairul (2009). Social conflicts occur in Siak riverside is assumed as the result of local and national politic conflict.

Based on background above, this research try to answer the main question of the research, which are: what is conflict map near to Siak riverside looks like? This main question can be formulated specifically as; (1) what are causing factors of land

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matters conflict, (2) who are the involving actors in the conflict, and (3) what is the best land matter conflict management to be applied in managing conflict near to Siak riverside year 2007-2012?

The purpose of this research is to make land matter conflict map and to find out managing management of conflict in riverside through the research of palm plantation conflict cases around Siak riverside 2007-2012 by: (1) general and specific factors from Bernhard Limbong (2012), (2) identifying the local actor of the conflict, the interest and way to manage using synergy model of Khairul's group (2012). Writer hopes that the result of this study can be basic data in formulating managing strategy of land matters, especially in Siak riverside.

In this research, Siak riverside year 2007-2012 is the focus of the subject for some reasons. First, Kabupaten Siak has the longest riverside. It is also the most favorite riverside for people to live, compared to any other riverside in Riau. These conditions make Siak riverside become the most intensive and extensive main target for application of policy about palm plantation. Beside great quantities of palm plantation resources⁷ (Anne Casson, 2000:1-2), this area also becomes susceptible to conflict and people's different reactions mainly about social effects. Even, since 2005, pro and con reactions do not come from government and non-government only, but also in the government circle itself (Riau Tribune, February 9, 2005).

Second, Desa Dosanis located in the most dynamic Siak riverside. As a traditional village and close to the center of governmental area, this area is an enterto Riau, after Batam become the area of Kepulauan Riau. This village is also the center of oil mining in Siak Riverside, Buton industry, and the center of changing for the people who used to work as fisherman. The change of environment condition (for example; pollution) forces people to work as farmer in the palm plantation. Since the opening of the plantation in 2005, conflict is increasing between societies, society and PEMDA (local government), society and company, company and PEMDA. These conflicts have to be managed.

Third, in 2001, Siak becomes an autonomous area among 16 unfoldment areas in Riau. This is the biggest number of unfoldment in Indonesia. Along with the process, power shifts happen in natural resources management. It was belong to central government, but, since 2001, local government has taken control in many areas. Lack of information and high number of pragmatic oriented political actors and even opportunistic emerge palm plantation policy that give positive value to big scale private business. This condition creates sustainable political tension¹⁰ in the area of Palm plantation in Riau. (Riau Tribune, June 13, 2005). Those three reasons show the importance of mapping strategy of social conflict managing in Siak based on riverside with palm plantation policy as the local political issue and give a strong focus for this research.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To understand the analysis of this research, the data covers: political condition in Siak after ODTA, palm plantation history in Siak, choice of policies about palm plantation of each local actor in 2005-2010. Actor's coalition with social institutions. Data contains primary and secondary data. Secondary data is taken from documents related to palm plantation, printed and electronic.

Primary data is taken from deep interview with local figures or interview done by printed media to the history actors and the building of palm plantation in Siak. Besides that, writer also got primary data from observation to the events related to policy issue about palm plantation. This observation contains: open meeting, demonstration, visiting to the palm plantation location. The purpose of the observation is to figure out the condition of relevant political environment and to get the characteristic of the cases (K. Yin, 1994:113). In this observation, data can be in the form of photos, flyer, notes, oration script or actor's oration, and messages written on banners.

1. Data Analysis Technique

Data was analyzed using *model identifikasi konflik pertanahan Bernhard Limbong* (2012) and *Modern Political Economy* approach by Jeffrey Frieden (2000) which contains 4 steps: first, identifying "supporting" or "rejecting" actors in discourse and the building of palm plantation industry in Riau, deciding the target, the importance, and the root of conflict. It can be assumed that actor is individual or institution which try to maximize utility, and do the profit or loss counting. Because of the difference of natural resources, conflict is emerged in the process. Those actors come from many background, such as: leader of local government (Bupati), Dinas Perkebunan, Dinas Kehutanan, Badan Pertanahan Nasional (BPN), Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah (DPRD) of Kabupaten Siak. Besides that, writer also analyzed the conflict attitude of the actors from Perusahaan Besar Swasta Negara (PBSN) like Perusahaan Terbatas Perkebunan (PTP) V, and also private companies.

Second, formulating preferences of each actors about the choice of policies that cause conflict in Siak. Data covers pattern, local government-society relationship, PBS, PBN, Perkebunan Rakyat, and Perusahaan Inti Rakyat (PIR). In choosing the plantation pattern, those actors are assumed facing at least four main considerations: land matter, work place, technology, and environment. In analyzing the data, those actors are illustrated as the party who love the pattern that can maximize the profit. Writer hopes that this analysis can tell us about triggering conflict: perception, resources, communication, or problems in Siak.

Third, identify how the actors can work together in achieving the target of conflict management. This coalition is done in term of consolidation and to strengthen bargaining point to other groups. Data contains how the actors compromise their need with other actors or groups. It is assumed to get support in strengthen coalition. Besides that, writer also analyze coalition built by supporting or rejecting group of palm plantation policy that come from local government, private,

and society. In this analysis, we will get some patterns of conflict direction happens among the actors.

Fourth, identify how local actors interact with other social institutions in achieving sharing target of conflict management. Will we use the approach of “bargaining”, “persuasion”, or “command”. Data to be analyzed contain importance, support base, place, and politic resources of each actors. Actor who “support” the building of palm plantation and has politic-economic resources, tend to bargain or “press” actor who “reject” the policy of palm plantation. From this analysis, writer hopes to get interaction pattern of local actors in the policy of palm plantation.

Next, data is analyzed by focusing attention to the interaction of conflicted local actors, individually or by group. Each of actors fight for individual and institutional interest in achieving the control of plantation resources. Conflict mapping of each actor and society can be classified as: supporting actor, receiving with certain condition, and rejecting actor. Those elite figures can be categorized into two groups: actor who has direct access to the policy making due to his/her position in the government. The other is non-government actor, who has a good reputation, knowledge, and related thing about policy of plantation. Those stated before make him/her has a good position. Based on the group classification, the target, interest, institutional base, and politic resources of each actor will be analyzed. Connection of each sub-politic actors will string up the strategy analysis of conflict management in Siak riverside.

DISCUSSION

1. General Factor

a. Poverty

Geographically, DesaDosan is divided into SiakKanan and SiakKiri. People of DesaDosan generally are Malay ethnic. The number of residences is 635 or about 168 families. Mostly people make a living by using natural resources, especially from Siakriver. But for today, being a fisherman in Siak river is far from enough. Some informants say that it is a bad idea to go fishing lately. They get small number of fish or shrimp only or even nothing to bring home. They don't have money for education of their children and also for medical needs. That's why they move and make a living in mainland.

This change happens because people try to hold out in easy to change environment. For example, people work as a farmer, especially rubber plantation. Generally, they start with 0,5-2 Ha rubber plantation. But, this choice is highly depend on season. From the interview, writer found that when rainy season comes, informant only get Rp. 150.000-Rp. 200.000/week, with 30-35 kg rubber. Informant said that this number is not enough. This poverty makes them find other income as construction worker or search for some fish for meal in the sea. If they get a big catch, they will sell some. Some other people search for some forest's wood.

b) High economic land value

Some people of DesaDosanget funded by local government, like the opening of 628 Ha people's forest¹. Besides, HGU land from PT. TUM that already reach it's final using, gives the chance for people to have a projection for a people's plantation. Problem comes when PT. AraraAbadi claimed that the projection land of people is belong to PT. AraraAbadi. That land is part of it's 200 Ha land. But, in the real situation, people have already work in that area since long time ago, where people pioneer that land by planting sago palm, but PT. AA destroy their plantation. Protest comes from DesaDosan party. People ask for reimbursement for their plantation.

2. Local actors rivalry

Palm plantation partnership program in DesaDosan is about 725 Ha, situated in about 1 km from Siakriver. There are pros and cons in planning process. What local actors know is that this program is a ownership program with a credit system. People will get 3 Ha land from local government of KabupatenSiak with credit system. Payment system will be done by taking 30% of the people's income. Supporting actors think that people's palm plantation can give a more prospective income resource. Because, rubber plantation is not enough, since it depend on limited production due to seasonal reason.

What cons actors know is that this program is only for people who have access to the policy making. Company actors think that this program can improve welfare and decrease land conflict possibility.

3. Actors' interest.

According to local government actors, this partnership program can improve people's welfare. This program is started on 2003. Before starting this program, BadanPertanahanKabupaten did a survey. After socialization I 2003 program- that was attended by Dinas Perkebunan and BadanPertanahanKabupatenSiak, people start to rebuild (measuring or kind of managing) their land that was ever cultivated using moving plantation system. This system creates a condition where people think that they don't have to have a legal certificate.

Lots of people don't know how to work on palm plantation. Some of the people say that there is possibility that local government or PTPN V will give coaching for this process. Besides, BPD leader- who have experience on palm plantation in Buatan, will give coaching for people in working on this program later.

4. Infrastructure

To manage palm plantation program, koperasidesa will do its part. DesaDosan has already have one, but it is not managed well. Writer got information that KoperasiDesa still in the ex Kades, while he is not there anymore. He lives in Bunga Raya now. People said that the Koperasi was only a tool for getting advantages like

project or things like that. People want to build a new koperasi to manage farmer's need. But, as BPD leader said, there is indication that incumbent leader (kepaladesa) does not agree with this idea. He said it is not allowed to have 2 koperasi in desaDosan.

It can be summarized that the causing factor of riverside based conflict in Siak riverside is poverty factor and the emerge of awareness among people to use land, especially the one that has high economic value.

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