

STRATEGIC BORDER REGION AND PALIKA POTENTIAL MAIN IN THE COASTAL MALAKA STRAIT, RIAU, INDONESIA

Muchid Albintani, Mayarni and Mimin Sundari

Lecturer Social Science and Political Science Faculty, Universitas Riau, Pekanbaru - Indonesia

ABSTRACT: *Kecamatan Pasir Limau Kapas [Palika], Rokan Hilir District, Riau Province, Indonesia, is a lagging, isolated and outlying area. This position causes welfare to be an important issue discussed. Key issues related to welfare are, for example, minimal and slow development of infrastructure, ambiguous development policies, abuses of territorial violations and fishing gear, and the issue of border security and defense. Based on important issues, this study aims, first, to explain the main potential of Palika as a strategic border region located on the coast of the Malaka Strait. Second, explaining the role of local government to develop Palika as a strategic border region located on the coast of the Malaka Straits. This study uses regional development [main potential and local government role] as a theoretical framework. The approach used is qualitative with descriptive analysis method. Data were collected based on documents supported by interviews. Once collected the data are analyzed qualitatively. This study concludes that, firstly, Palika's main potentials such as the geographic position relating to the strategic region and the resulting regulation are considered not to support the defense and security issues facing the country as a strategic border region located on the coast of the Malaka Strait. Second, the role of local government in developing border region is considered ambiguous: the border management agency is abolished, while in order to build the potential of natural tourist areas, the local government appeals for central government budgets. Practically this study shows that budget dependence has negative implications for the development of strategic border region.*

KEYWORDS: Border Development, Strategic Region, Palika, Welfare and Riau.

INTRODUCTION

It is not denied that almost all of Indonesia's border region are lagging and isolated areas whose condition is apprehensive as the face outside the country. As a strategic border region located on the Malaka Straits. Pasir Limau Kapas [Palika], Rokan Hilir Regency, Riau Province, Indonesia, welfare issues are the main issues that are always discussed.

Discussing the theme of developing the Palika border area as a study area there are several reasons that support it. [i] Palika is a district whose capital, Panipahan, is the only one in Rokan Hilir [Rohil] or Riau Province that can not be accessed by road while still on the island of Sumatra. [ii]. The only sub-districts that have direct border conflicts with neighboring countries, Malaysia, and North Sumatra Province. [iii]. Palika has not yet become a priority scale of border development in accordance with RPJMD [grand planing], Rokan Hilir. [iv]. Border Management Board that was liquidated [2016], after it was established [2014] due to government regulations on regional apparatus.

These reasons support academically if this study can contribute to [i] Creating equitable strategic border region studies that are only based around Kalimantan, and Riau Archipelago [Batam-Bintan-Karimun]. [ii]. As a comparison material if regulation leads to overlapping Batam Island [Pulau Batam] management [until now unfinished], while in Rokan Hilir, the border management agency was abolished. Based on the explanation, this paper aims, first, to explain the main potential of Palika as a strategic border region located on the coast of the Melaka Straits. Second, explaining the role of local government in developing Palika as a strategic border area located on the coast of the Melaka Straits.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous Study

In various studies of border region development especially in areas considered strategic (including this study), it needs to get serious attention, focused, and integrated. Thus this study becomes an integral part of contributing as input to the parties in need. However, other studies need to be considered as a comparison of the importance of the position of this study.

Related to this study, [i] BKPM Study [2011], Border Area Investment Development (BKPM, 2011). [ii] Study Mahendra Putra K [2010], Legal Politics of Development of Geospatial Technology Based Border Area (Putra, 2010). [iii] Partnership Study [2011], Border Area Management Policy (Partnership, 2011). [iv]. Sandy Nur Ikfal Raharjo's Study [2013], Indonesia-Malaysia Land Management Policy [Raharjo, 2013]. [v] Bappenas Study [2016], Asymmetric Policy Development Study on Development in Border Areas (Bappenas, 2016).

Based on these five studies, this paper focuses its study on the main potential and the role of local government to develop its potential. Compared to other studies, it should be mentioned several reasons that distinguish this study. [i]. Not many studies of the development of border region, especially in the Coastal Coast of East Sumatra [most of the land border areas Kalimantan, Sabang, Aceh and Riau Archipelago, [Batam-Bintan-Karimun]. [ii] Areas studied in the aspect of potential as a strategic border region [outer], Palika seems to be ignored by the central government and local government. [iii]. The experience of Simpadan and Ligitan Island separation to the Malaysian government made it clear that it was necessary to question the [central government] state concerns, manage and to build the outer islands at the border.

Theoretical Construction of Regional and Strategic Region Development

To make it easy the importance of examining the development of border region and the strategic potential of the region and their relationships can be explained theoretically. It is important to point out that the context of the use of the theoretical framework is an early attempt to understand the importance of the relationship of developing strategic border regions and the role of local governments.

Various literature mentions if the State border area is a region that has a strategic position (Prescot, 1987). This position is attributed to the existence of a neighboring country which is [adjacent] to the Melaka Strait. Therefore sovereignty becomes the strategic issue of the border region as the front porch of the state. It should be understood if the border area of the

state is contained in strategic potential, such as the border of sovereignty, defense and security and the utilization of the management of various resources for development (Joyodipuro, 1992). In the main potential relationships in Palika are geographical position, central government policy, planning, investment, infrastructure builder, security defense law (Iwan and Danuri, 20014). Context to this study, in Palika, there are three main potential issues that are considered prominent, such as geographic position, regulation related to border area, and security defense law.

Based on the explanation of the main potentials in the strategic border region it is important to know the existence of the [role] of the government. Generally, in many literatures, the role or function of government is classified into primary and secondary functions (Kencana, 2013) and (Rashid, 2000). Primary interpreted service and arrangement functions (Kencana, 2013). While the secondary role in development and empowerment (Rashid, 2000). In the context of clarifying the role of the [regional] government, for example, it is understandable that the management of border region is a mandatory responsibility.

In the context of developing border region in Palika for example, central, provincial and district governments have the same obligations in different proportions. The policy of Decentralization through regional autonomy certainly gives the district government considerable authority to develop Palika. In this development, it is considered in line with two important issues of government role, namely staple and welfare (Bappenas, 2016).

METHOD

The approach used in this study is qualitative with descriptive analysis method. Data were collected through documentation studies supported by interviews. Once collected the data are analyzed qualitatively. As explanation Palika strategic border region can be seen in the following figure 1 [a, b and c].

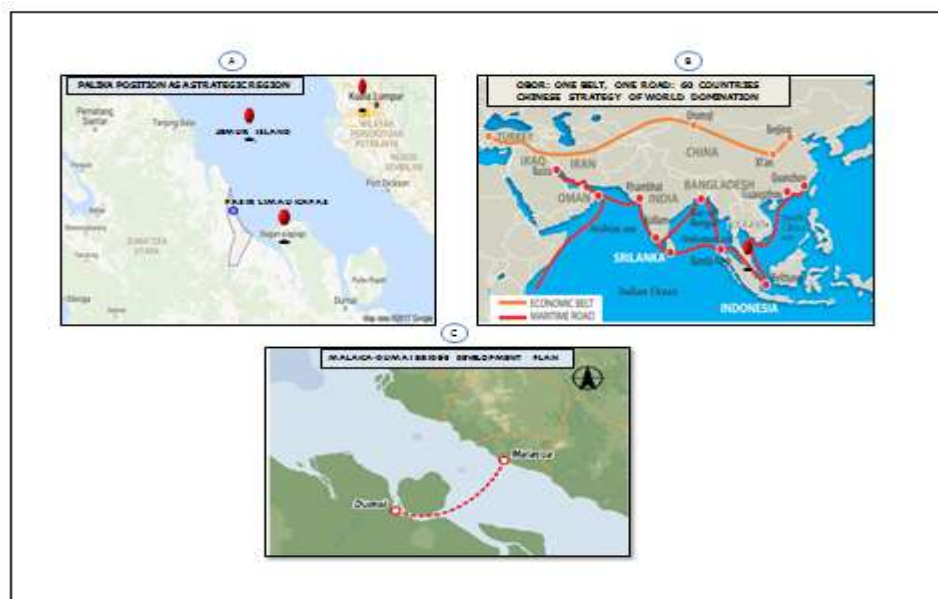


Fig. 1 [a,b, c] Position Palika as a Strategic Region
Sources: google.com and Albintani 2016

Border Resources Development

Part of this paper reviews first, the main potential of Palika as a strategic border region. Second, the role of local government develops Palika as a strategic border region.

Palika As a Strategic Border Area

Palika's main potentials as a strategic region on the border are prominent geographical position, regulation related to border development, and law, state defense and security. These three sections are explained useful for answering the two previously expressed objectives.

Geographical Position

Geographical position is the prime potential to become a strategic region. Strategic understanding in the geographical context is directly related to the perspective based on the power structure of the central government in the border region. The existence of various forms of special economic zones for example, with various variants of the decentralization era can be argued. In this case, the existence of Palika is not much different from Batam Island which is considered strategic because it is adjacent to Singapore (Albintani, 2016). While in Palika the presence of Panipahan as the capital, and Pulau Jemur are directly located in the Melaka Strait [see figure 1 [a]].

Based on figure 1 [a, Palika's Strategic Position, b OBOR policy: One Belt [one track], One Road: in 60 countries shows China's 'plan of dominance' in the world [the glory of the world trade Silk Road], c plan the construction of the Malaka-Dumai bridge, clarifies Palika's position as a strategic border region. In this study, geographical position shows that experience has not been a valuable lesson for the government to consistently implement policies and is responsible for securing and maintaining the territory of the state. The findings of this study are also proof that in this context, the [central and regional] governments are in a position to not develop, maintaining it still needs to be questioned again its sincerity.

Regulation of Border Region Development

The findings of this study indicate that various regulations related to the development of border region create conflicting policies. As a result for the local government of Rokan Hilir district set an ambiguous policy: the opposite. This can be observed after the establishment of the Border Management Agency [Local Regulation/Perda No.10/2013]. Then, based on Perda No.11/2016, the Border Management Agency was abolished. The reality of the study findings can be observed based on the chronological range of existing policies. Regulation begins with the Establishment of Border Management National Agency (BNPP) through [i]. Presiden Regulation/Perpres No.12/2010 [drafting the Grand Design] and the Master Plan for the Management of Boundaries of States and Border Region..

Then through the mandate Nawa Cita [ii]. Presidential Regulation No.2/2015 on the National Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2015-2019 [laying the foundations of the start of Asymmetric Decentralization. [iii] Ministry Regulation/Permendagri No.2/2011, on Guidelines for the Establishment of Border Management Bodies in the Region. [iv]. Head of BNPP Regulation No.1 / 2015 on the Master Plan of State Border Management 2015-2019. [v] Local Regulation/Perda No.3/2014 on the Organization of the Inspectorate, Regional Development Planning Board and Regional Technical Institute of Riau Province. [vi] Governor Regulation/Pergub Riau No. 21/2015 on the Details of Duties, Functions and Work

Procedures of Border Management Agency of Riau Province shall prepare the Master Plan [Renduk] PBWNKP [vii]. Local Regulation No. 10/2013 on Rokan Hilir District Border Management Board. [viii]. Government Regulation no. 18/2016 on Regional Devices. [ix]. Local Regulation No. 11/2016 on the Device Formation of Rokan Hilir District.

In this study, based on the chronology of various policies, found that inter-policy can eliminate the institutions that manage borders. Whereas in the Asymmetric Decentralization Review [2016], the second conclusion confirms that developing a policy of structuring the authorities and institutions in government administration in the state border areas is a strategy of strengthening the authority and institutional districts at the border. The importance of the strengthening of the kecamatan is in accordance with the mandate of Law/UU No. 43/2008 on the Territory of the State, and Law/UU No.23 / 2014 on Regional Government in which the role of authority and institution in the administration of state borders is in the hands of the sub-district [in district].

Law, Defense and State Security

The findings of this study relating to law, defense and state security indicators that result in different perspectives among governments. The central government, so far has not been shown any concern if Palika is a strategic border area that needs to be protected. While the policy of marine control, why the monitoring to be left uncovered.

Learning from the loss of Simpadan Island and Ligitan Island before for the government and community in the area becomes a very valuable lesson. In this case, Pulau Jemur as the outermost island which also has the beauty of nature's potential for Palika can bring negative implications. Moreover, the existence of the outer islands in the Straits of Melaka has ever claimed by the Malaysian government. This is of course related to the question of state sovereignty. In another context, the study finds it as if there has been an omission in relation to the practice of 'fish theft' in Palika by outside fishermen using trawlers. This incident has been reported several times by the public, but has not received a response. This is what is assessed if the central and local governments have not paid attention to the legal, defense and security issues in Palika

On the other hand according to figure 1 [b] Related to public complaints on drug smuggling to the attention of these findings. For if it is outlined in terms of state security and sovereignty, the OBOR route that passes through Myanmar has been known as the drug line of the golden triangle in Asia since the days of the Opium War is worth noting. Currently alone can be seen tons of drugs into Indonesia. In this context, if the golden triangle route of Southeast Asian drugs is integrated with the infrastructure path of OBOR, of course, need to be anticipated in Palika. It is concerned about China's global strategy through infrastructure development, invasion and investment in Southeast Asia. The Chinese international port will be built in Myanmar that has access to the Indian Ocean and will be equipped with a gas pipeline. China's sea access has to go through the South China Sea and the Malacca Strait [Selat Malaka].

Local Government and Strategic Border Region

In an effort to answer the second objective, in relation to the role of local government developing [managing] border region in Palika, the findings show something dilemmatic, ambiguous, as if not responsive and unconcerned. This dilemma is related to the condition of

the budget that continues to decline. This is for example in 2015 [Rp 2.27 trillion]. Meanwhile, in 2016 [Rp2,6 trillion more]. While in 2017 there was a significant decrease from Rp2, 6 trillion to Rp1, 5 trillion. This decrease in budget has become a dilemma and has an impact on ambiguous policy decisions. While the sincerity to develop the border region becomes delayed, or even without concern.

In the case of policy-making it was found that the existence of Border Management Bodies whose main tasks and functions [tupoksi] developed border areas [including Palika], was liquidated. The reasons are crucial due to budget constraints and reductions. Budget efficiency becomes the cause argument. This is supplemented with the reason for the issuance of government regulations on regional apparatus [Government Regulation/PP No.11 of 2016]. Although still debated, the question is if indeed the border governing body can actually join [merge] with the other work units [Satker, term in Indonesia]. Based on this argument, the seriousness of the Rokan Hilir regional government becomes questionable. This is motivated if the government through its officials on many occasions declared seriously to build border region. Even through the Local Head Region [bupati], the local government appealed for central government assistance to develop the potential tourism area of Jemur Island [Pulau Jemur] located in the Melaka Strait. On the other hand, local governments are reluctant to maintain border management bodies.

Learning from the above reality as an effort to clarify the role of local government in the border region, especially strategically located in the coastal and between the Melaka Straits, is considered to use the study of asymmetric policy development in build border region [Bappenas, 2016]. This is because if the asymmetric policy strategy in the field of state /regional finance, including is the policy of funding allocation [budget]. From this budget aid can be allocated.

CONCLUSION

The results of this study conclude that, firstly, Palika's main potentials such as geographical position, regulation and physical infrastructure development have not supported the country's defense and security issues on the border. Second, the role of the regional government in developing border areas is considered ambiguous: the Border Management Agency [Badan Pengeloa Perbatasan, term in Indonesia] is abolished, while to build the Jemur Island tourism area the local government appeals for central government budget assistance. Practically, this study shows that budget dependence has negative implications for the development of border region.

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