The Dynamics of Inter-Village Border Governance: A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

The ability of local governments to optimize existing resources is of course the key for regions in implementing regional autonomy. Law Number 23 of 2014 does not completely regulate the settlement of regional boundary disputes, but what regulates the determination and confirmation of territorial boundaries both on land and at sea is contained in the Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia Number 45 of 2016 concerning Guidelines for Determining and Affirming Village Boundary. Territorial border conflicts are things that often occur in several districts, cities and even villages. The dynamics of border governance between Penyengat Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village is a conflict that arises because of different views regarding the agreed boundaries. There are five indicators of border governance. The method used in this research is descriptive research method with a qualitative approach. Data collection techniques with literature study, in-depth interviews and observation. The results showed that the border management between Penyengat Village and Kampung Rawa Mekar Jaya had not been resolved as the government hoped, responsibility and equality in seeing the wishes of the community tended to be neglected. boundary.

Keywords: Governance; Border; Village

INTRODUCTION

Since the enactment of Law Number 22 of 1999 concerning Regional Government, Indonesia has embraced a system of regional autonomy, granting regions the rights, authorities, and the ability to manage their own affairs in accordance with prevailing laws and regulations (Saygılı & Çağmaz, 2022; Tzafestas, 2018). Throughout its development, the law on regional autonomy has undergone two amendments, in 2004 and 2014, leading to various dynamics emerging from these new laws (Yandra, 2017). Among these dynamics is the recognition of the significance of delineating regional boundaries with the goal of effectively managing the diverse potential resources possessed by regions across Indonesia (Harju et al., 2019; Lytras & Şerban, 2020).

The implementation of the regional autonomy system aims to empower regions to independently determine policies and required work programs, free from central government regulations or interventions. Prior to the enactment of this law, Indonesia adhered to a centralized or centralistic system where regional authority was controlled by the central government. This was deemed ineffective in evenly distributing development across regions, as local governments faced limitations in managing their areas (Srinivas et al., 2019). Therefore, local governments are expected to play a role in creating opportunities and advancing their regions by developing potential sources of local revenue (PAD) and establishing efficient, effective, and responsible
regional expenditures (Adyatma, Erdi, and Rachmawati Meita Oktaviani, 2015). Consequently, regions have begun to compete in building their local economies to increase PAD for the welfare of their communities.

With the implementation of regional autonomy, regions will have defined territories and boundaries that often result in conflicts and disputes between different regions or communities. These disputes are commonly observed among various districts, cities, and even villages in Indonesia, such as the case between the Penyengat Village and the Rawa Mekar Jaya Village in Siak Regency, particularly concerning border governance of each village (M. Rawa, 2021).

The dynamics of border governance between Penyengat Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village date back to before the existence of Rawa Mekar Jaya Village in 2004. This was after the issuance of the Siak Regency Head Decree Number 36 of 2005, which led to differing views and disagreements regarding the agreed-upon boundaries established by ancestors. The disputed area, measuring 594 hectares, has persisted since then. However, in 2008, the Rawa Mekar Village submitted a proposal for subdivision to the village government and community, facilitated by the Subdistrict Head of Sungai Apit. This subdivision was realized in 2010, resulting in the creation of the new village called Rawa Mekar Jaya. Consequently, the disputed area falls under the jurisdiction of Rawa Mekar Jaya Village, remaining a subject of dispute. The disputed territory between Penyengat Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village is described in more detail in the work.

The disputed area between Penyengat Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village encompasses the first hamlet of Penyengat Village and the second hamlet of Rawa Mekar Jaya Village, covering 594 hectares. This area is still subject to contention between the villages for management and utilization. Local online media reports indicate that the border issue between Penyengat Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village remains unresolved, leading to conflicts and even the potential for physical confrontations between residents of the two villages. The community is calling for a swift resolution to the border issue, as their daily livelihoods are hindered by their inability to cultivate the disputed land, fearing expulsion by the neighboring village, and vice versa.

Figure 1. Map of Penyengat Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village

The Google Earth map above illustrates the disputed boundary line between Penyengat Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village, covering an area of 549 hectares. There is currently no legal certainty concerning the issue of this boundary dispute. When observed from a cardinal direction, Penyengat Village is located to the west, and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village is located to the east. The management and control of this area are currently overseen by the Subdistrict Head of
Sungai Apit. This is done to prevent undesirable incidents. Additionally, the local government authorities have formed a boundary clarification committee, which includes mediating between the parties involved, creating tracking maps, and undertaking other tasks to resolve the dispute between the conflicting parties. However, up to this point, satisfactory results have not been achieved by either party (Epifanio & Plümper, 2018; Pemer & Skjølsvik, 2018). This issue becomes a matter that impacts the lack of clarity in the administrative boundaries between the two villages.

**METHOD**

The research methodology employed in this study utilizes a qualitative approach with the informant selection technique prioritizing the quality of data obtained through the delivery of information by individuals closely related to the research issue (Saputra et al., 2022). This means that the results of the qualitative research involve analysis, interpretation, and understanding of the meanings inherent in the collected data phenomena. The study aims to explore hypotheses regarding the boundary dispute conflict between Penyengat Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village. The qualitative method is chosen as it best suits obtaining in-depth information concerning the subject under investigation. The research takes place in Siak Regency, specifically in the Sungai Apit Subdistrict, focusing on the issue of the governance of the boundary between Penyengat Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village.

In this research, informant selection employs the technique of purposive sampling. Purposive sampling involves selecting informants based on specific objectives aligned with the research topic, considering individuals who are deemed to possess the necessary information for the study. The chosen informants are those believed to be knowledgeable about the issues being examined and capable of providing relevant information for the study's development and data acquisition (Jamaika, 2017). The informants selected have a strong understanding of the problems at hand and possess the capacity to provide information that can be further explored to determine the causes of the boundary conflict between the two villages.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Result**

After collecting data, the authors process the data obtained. By using theory in good governance or good governance and using the employee performance model Daniri (2014) which has five principles, among which are transparency, accountability, responsibility, independence and equality/fairness, based on these indicators to describe how the Dynamics of Governance of the Border Between Penyengat Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village (Saputri, Mimin, 2019). After doing an analysis based on the results of fieldwork, the authors found the cause of the boundary dispute conflict between Penyengat Village and Kampung Rawa Mekar Jaya that had existed before the village existed, was still part of Kampung Sungai Rawa area which was caused by the Siak Regent's decision Number 35 of 2005 concerning the establishment of the boundary between Penyengat village and Sungai Rawa village, so that was the beginning of the emergence of dynamics coupled with weak communication problems between residents and following the dynamics of conflict over territorial boundaries between Penyengat village and Rawa Mekar Jaya village.
The process of determining the boundaries of the disputed Village area at this time the Regional Government of Siak Regency tends to make decisions without involving the related community, so that the Regent's decision number 35 of 2005 is questioned by the community because the contents of the regulation have different views with the ancient ancestral agreement coupled with the lack of good communication between the people of Penyengan Village and Kanpung Rawa Mekar Jaya which was marked by mediations that had reached a stalemate, in management efforts and the efforts made by the government were quite good because the government was always present to mediate and facilitate the resolution of disputes between parties, but the problems What emerged was that the government was weak in making decisions and policies because it was too slow in acting which had an impact on the unresolved territorial disputes between Penyengan Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village.

The dynamics of border management between Penyengan Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village which is an issue that has not been resolved until now. Because there is still a conflict in determining the boundary between the two villages. Governance is what is important to do is to run the administration and there is certainty that the community gets their rights in government affairs (Abati, 2020; Alzahrani et al., 2017; Elston & Dixon, 2020; Kruyen & van Genugten, 2017; Radjab et al., 2019; Zhao & Lu, 2020).

The Dynamics of Border Governance Between Penyengan Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village. Analysis of the performance of the state civil apparatus in this study uses the employee performance model Daniri there are five basic principles contained in good governance. Where the five principles are transparency, accountability, responsibility, independence and equality or fairness. Based on these indicators, it can be described how the Dynamics of Border Management between Penyengan Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village are as follows.

1. Transparency

Transparency is very important in the government bureaucracy towards the community so that government administration runs well. Disclosure of information both in the decision-making process and in disclosing information, the most important effect of implementing the principle of transparency is the avoidance of conflicts of interest between various parties in management. In the management of inter-regional borders it is important for information disclosure (Akib et al., 2019, 2020), so that the community knows the boundaries of their area in determining village boundaries in Siak Regency, namely referring to Permendagri 45 of 2016 and Presidential Decree no 23 of 2021 and this rule of law currently there are 122 villages which are used as a reference in determining the boundaries of the villages in the Siak district (Alkadafi, Muammar Ammar, 2019). However, at present there are still several villages that have not received a decree regarding their territorial boundaries and for Penyengan village and Kampung Rawa Mekar Raya, the district head has already had a decision from the district head in determining the boundaries of their territory, but due to different views, the people of the two villages are currently claiming ownership of the territory and are in dispute status. This happened because when the Regent of Siak divided the region, there should have been an assessment of the boundaries of the area and also involved the relevant community before making a decision on the division so that conflicts would not occur. Based on the responses and efforts made by the Regional Government with mediation efforts between parties, even though the results are still not there, it can be assessed that the local regional government has satisfactory transparency because the government is always ready to attend and provide facilities for resolving territorial disputes between villages, including during the mediation process.
2. Accountability

Good government administration can certainly be seen from the accountability of good work as well. The village government and local government work together to carry out government administration, one of which is work accountability. Accountability is a form of obligation to account for the success or failure of implementing an organization's mission in achieving its goals (Gomezelj, 2016; Sedlacek et al., 2020).

Government accountability in managing the border between the village of Penyengat and Kampung Rawa Mekar Jaya, it was found that Kampung Rawa Mekar Jaya adhered to the Decree of the Siak regent No. 36 of 2005 which was issued so that this became the basis that this village did not take territory from the village of Penyengat, but in Penyengat village, they said that their territory was taken by Rawa Mekar Jaya village because Penyengat village claimed that the disputed area was their territory based on the agreement of their ancient ancestors.

In determining the boundaries of the area which is the legal basis, it must refer to Permendagri 45 of 2006 where in this rule it is explained that in determining the boundaries of each area. In the affirmation of regional boundaries, it is weighed from a strong history and given 6 months for deliberations to determine the boundaries of each region (Schomaker & Bauer, 2020). When there is no agreement, then tracking in the field and the minutes will follow. Where this can be decided in determining the boundaries of the area, but until now the deliberations between the Penyengat village and the Rawa Mekar Jaya village that have been carried out have not yet reached an agreement between the two parties. Meanwhile, the sub-district head or local government has been slow in settling boundaries. Because this boundary has been going on for a long time from previous years. So that the border management between the villages of Rawa Mekar Jaya and Kampung Penyengat has not written down the boundaries of each area in the regional administration and it can be concluded that the border management between the villages of Penyengat and Kampung Rawa Mekar Jaya in the aspect of accountability is not good because the boundary problems have been around for a long time but not yet. got a meeting point and not until now. The slowness of the regional government in handling the boundaries further slowed down the settlement process resulting in arguments such as the location of the boundary markers, the area of each village and small conflicts between the two village communities such as not greeting each other and a lack of friendship between the two parties. Course in this case the regional government has high authority in deciding this matter.

3. Responsibility

The administration of good government is of course principled with its responsibility towards regional problems. Issues that are strategic, the government must quickly solve the problem. Responsibility, namely conformity, or compliance in the management of institutions with sound corporate principles and applicable laws and regulations. The responsibility of the village government and local government in managing the border between Rawa Mekar Jaya village and Penyengat village is still slow to handle (Cochran & Wood, 1984; Mishra & Suar, 2010).

In order for this territorial dispute to be resolved, those who have the right to determine territorial boundaries and decide on them are the regional government and based on deliberations agreed between the two villages, however, there are differences of opinion between the people of Penyengat Village and Kampung Rawa Mekar Jaya regarding territorial boundaries. This problem has not been resolved until now and is still protracted, even though many efforts have been made including holding deliberations between parties in determining regional boundaries. The meeting
was held between the parties with the agenda of discussing the boundaries between the Penyengat Village and the Rawa Mekar Jaya Village. The first meeting was at the Village Community Empowerment Service office, the results obtained have not yet received a final decision. Followed by the second meeting, which went directly to the location of the disputed land right in the border area between Penyengat Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village, but did not get a clear agreement and decision and from this process the government as the decision maker seemed hesitant to make a decision. policy even though there is a legal basis for statutory regulations which stipulate that the regional government has the right to determine territorial boundaries and based on deliberations agreed between the two villages in Permendagri 45 of 2006.

4. Independence

Independence must be carried out so that the government can run well. When this is done, of course, border governance is easy to materialize and can achieve justice for both parties to the dispute. Independence That is a situation where the institution is managed professionally without conflict of interest and influence or pressure from any party that is not in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and the principles of a healthy corporation (Chen et al., 2021; García Osma et al., 2019; Oyewumi et al., 2018).

With the dispute over the village boundary area, however, this does not affect or eliminate land and customary ownership rights based on the decision of the Siak Regent and what has changed is only the management administration and from the mediation processes that have not yielded clear results, in fact it has a tough challenge, namely when during the the previous government had an agreement on the boundaries of the two villages but there was no written agreement. So that this is the work of the local government in deciding the boundaries of the two villages. So these considerations became the basis for deciding it and what is happening now is mutual claims to territory and because the people of Rawa Mekar Jaya who consider the disputed area their right to try to make boundaries, but were directly opposed by the people of Penyengat Village and almost a fight ensued. physical relationship between parties.

5. Equality or Fairness

All people in the eyes of the law have the same rights because of that the factor of good human resources can be implemented. Equality in simple terms can be defined as fair and equal treatment in fulfilling stakeholder rights that arise based on agreements and applicable laws and regulations (Nugroho Joshua et al., 2017; Srinivas et al., 2019).

The people of Penyengat Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village currently claim ownership of each other and have their own reasons where the people of Penyengat Village consider that the land is based on an ancient ancestral parental agreement and Kampung Rawa Meka Jaya considers the area to also belong to them based on the Regent's decision number 36 year 2005, regarding disputed land, the government emphasized that border communities were not only talking mouth-to-mouth, but also discussing administrative issues on their land and there were also land disputes between residents, in this case it was not a boundary problem anymore, the final solution was to keep waiting. decision of the Regional Government of Siak Regency, so it can be concluded that the management of the border between Kampung Rawa Mekar Jaya and Kampung Penyengat on indicators of equality or fairness of the government has been as fair as possible, but there are still differences of opinion from both parties. It is true that fair does not necessarily have to be the same, but the lack of communication and decisions that are final have made this boundary problem unresolved until now. For community land, later the management administration will
change, the government will provide detailed information and accelerate the management of conflict resolution between parties.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the researcher's analysis of border governance between Kampung Rawa Mekar Jaya and Kampung Penyengat in Siak Regency, the authors conclude that governance experiences various kinds of dynamics, including regarding the boundaries of areas that are still in dispute that have not been resolved because parties claim ownership of each other with reasons each of these things happened because of poor communication problems and the slowness and indecisiveness of the local government in making decisions that are still being awaited by both parties and also because of the SK. Regent Number 35 of 2005 without involving related parties first, so this is the beginning of the land dispute problems that are currently happening in Penyengat Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village which have not been resolved until now. However, in terms of governance and the efforts that have been made by the government, it is quite good and the government is always present and continues to try to facilitate mediating parties to get an agreement, but the government is weak in making decisions and policies because it is too slow in acting which has an impact on unresolved territorial disputes between Penyengat Village and Rawa Mekar Jaya Village.

REFERENCES


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