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## The Determinants of the Rise of Sand Mining on the Batauga Coast of South Buton Regency

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**Abstract:** This study aims to obtain information about the causes of the rise of sand mining on the coast of Batauga, South Buton Regency. This research uses a qualitative research design with a descriptive analysis method by describing it as it is about the reality obtained in the field. Data collection is done through observation and interview techniques. The results showed that the cause of the rise of sand mining in the Batauga District was caused by several factors, namely: 1). Low level of education and economic factors, sand mining activities do not require special expertise and can make money in a short time unlike farming or fishing, 2.) Lack of understanding and awareness, the community is relatively unaware of and aware of the long-term risks of mining sand, the conviction of the miners if the beach sand will never run out, and the belief that the coastal area is claimed the land as private property so that it has become the community's right to process it 3). Lack of socialization and no penalty (sanctions) for miners, 4). The existence of omission and granting of mining licenses from the government (legality) by withdrawing fees from sand mining.

**Keywords:** Determinants Factors, Sand Mining, South Buton.

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### Introduction

Batauga sub-district as the Capital of South Buton district is more famous as a sand supplier area. This sub-district has been known for several years as a supplier of mining materials in the form of sand for physical development in the surrounding area both for individual needs and for the construction of other public facilities. Good quality sand and distance that is not too far away is the cause of increasing demand for sand. This condition causes the rise of sand mining in this area, especially in the two urban-village that are the main suppliers, namely Masiri and Bandar Batauga urban village.

Sand mining activities in the Batauga subdistrict were first carried out in Bandar Batauga urban-village, which now has a very visible negative impact in the form of coastal abrasion that almost touches residential areas, followed by Masiri urban-village, which is currently the most widely mined. Pros and cons become a common thing we encounter in this region for miners who are in a position to support tend to look at the economic aspects and the existence of additional jobs as well as

alternatives as an excuse to agree on sand mining activities while those who refuse tend to look at the side of the sustainability of the coastal environment.

So far in the last 10 years, there have not been many research publications on sand mining activities, and even if there are published studies, they tend to look at two categories, first, from the policy side as conducted by Arsyiah (2018) regarding the implementation of mining excavation C management policies in Batauga District, similarly, Muhsin and Hidayat (2016) also discussed the policy of mining iron sand in Cianjur district. Second, in terms of the impacts of sand mining, both impacts on environmental damage and on the socio-economic life of sand miners as conducted by Siti Maulidah (2019) concerning the structure of work organizations and the impact on the economic and social environment of sand miners. Correspondingly, Anggraini (2013) in Tasikmalaya Regency. Likewise, the studies of Dini Widyasmarani Suherman et al (2015), Yudhistira et al (2011), Marini et al (2014), Laode Asmin (2013) and Candra Wijaya (2013) also conducted similar studies on the

effects of sand mining on environmental quality and the impact of sand mining on the socio-economic life of the sand miners.

Efforts to preserve the coastal environment by issuing policies in the form of sand mining management regulations and public awareness by providing information about the impact of environmental damage will not be effective if it is not supported by information on the causes why sand mining activities are still the only option for the survival of coastal communities, especially in coastal areas in Batauga sub-district.

The purpose of this study is to complement the shortcomings of the previous studies which will analyze the causes of the rise of sand mining activities in the Coastal region of Batauga District of South Buton Regency. Sand mining in Batauga District is influenced by many factors, both those from within the community or those from outside. Both of these things contribute significantly to the rise of mining actions which until now continue to be carried out either clandestinely or overtly, which are both legal and illegal to be difficult to distinguish, which impacts on the destruction of the ecosystem of coastal areas and can even damage the wider social structure.

## Materials and Methods

The approach used to answer the problem in this study uses a qualitative research design with a descriptive analysis method by describing it as it is about the reality obtained in the field. Data collection is done through direct field observation techniques at the location, interviews, and documentation. To check the validity of the data obtained also used triangulation techniques by comparing conditions and perspectives among informants to provide a comprehensive conclusion.

## Results and Discussion

The Batauga District is one of the sub-districts in the South Buton Regency. Before becoming the definitive area, Batauga District was within the administrative area of Buton Regency. South Buton Regency bloomed from Buton District in 2014 and was led by the Regent's Executive Officer for 3 years and only held the Regent's election in February 2017 so

that most of the Perda still refer to the Perda in Buton District. For the sand mining business up to now, it still refers to the decision of the Buton Regent No. 543 of 2010 which requires each mining business actor, both an individual or an institution, to have a mining permit called a community mining permit (IPR) issued by the Mining Service after obtaining a recommendation from the Regent of Buton.

The decree clearly states that IPR holders must carry out mining activities within 200 meters of the coast and before conducting mining activities to make sea waves to prevent abrasion, backfilling with overburden on the former mining area. Difficult and difficult licensing procedures, the low level of supervision, and the limited number of supervising personnel contribute to the emergence of illegal sand mining operations that operate surreptitiously or overtly.

Batauga District is more famous as a supplier area for sand. This happens because most of the people carry out sand mining activities. Sand mining activity from year to year has increased. Labor as a sand miner is generally dominated by men between the ages of 20 - 50 years of age which is very rare in older sand miners, although some of them are women and school-age children who help their parents who work as sand miners. Indirectly sand mining activities can create alternative employment opportunities for people in the Batauga region.

The rise of sand mining in the Batauga District is caused by several factors, both inside and outside, as follows:

### *Internal Factors*

Internal factors are causes that originate from within the community itself, namely as follows:

- a. Economic factors where the activity of mining sand does not require special expertise and can make money in a short time, unlike farming or fishing. The people of Masiri Urban Village have livelihoods as farmers, but due to the increasingly narrow plantation land, the distance to distant plantations and the absence of land acquisition from the government caused most people to switch professions to become sand miners.

Based on interviews with several mine workers, it is more profitable to be a sand miner than being a farmer because it

does not require a long time, even just a matter of days to get this income is more profitable than being a farmer whose results are sometimes not as expected, not to mention having to routinely maintain, clean and not infrequently spend money first before getting results that cannot be predicted.

- b. The low level of community education, where most of the people who work as sand miners do not receive tertiary education so that their understanding of the environment is not very adequate so that in their thinking is only how to meet their daily needs by earning money through work that directly results. Long-term business sustainability is not a burden on their thinking, even though some of them are aware of the importance of the environment, but economic pressure makes them forced to continue mining sand because that is all they can do besides farming or fishing.

The low level of education has implications for the lack of public awareness, especially business people and mining workers, to take responsibility for improving exploited land where the community is relatively ignorant and aware of the long-term risks of sand mining activities, there is a belief from miners that beach sand will never run out, and the belief that the coastal area is land that is claimed as private property so that it has become the community's right to cultivate it. This thinking is generally owned by landowners on the coast who consider inherited land from ancestors to the coastline, while in reality the amendments to Law No. 27 of 2007 concerning Management of coastal areas and small islands have been given clear boundaries on coastlines and land in which is defined as land along the edge whose width is proportional to the shape and physical condition of the coast, at least 100 (one hundred) meters from the highest tide point to the mainland.

#### **External Factors**

External factors are factors originating from outside the community, including consisting of:

- a. Lack of socialization and no penalty (sanctions) for miners. Mining business

management in Batauga District had been done long before the issuance of the Buton Regent Decree number 543 of 2010. Initially, sand management did not use workers but residents processed sand from their land with modest capital and equipment, but as the demand for sand from the surrounding area of Batauga District began the need for more miners was finally met, together with the emergence of negative impacts in the form of damage to the coastal environment, a Regent's Decree was issued on the management of mining businesses with a series of binding regulations. Nevertheless, due to the lack of socialization about the decree as well as the lack of awareness from relevant agencies about the negative effects of the logging activities taking part in the rise of sand mining, there has never been a single community that has been subject to strict sanctions in the form of confinement or fines for those who conduct mining.

- b. The existence of omission and the granting of mining permits from the government (legality) by withdrawing fees from sand mining, even information is obtained if unscrupulous law enforcement agencies participate in becoming sand miners. Sand mining activities that occurred in Batauga Subdistrict are also caused by the absence of regional regulations that regulate mining C minerals so there are no regulations that bind or prohibit them. It is known that South Buton District is one of the districts resulting from the division so that the implementing government is still focused on the preparation of physical development. Although there was a Decree of the Buton Regent in 2010 regulating mining business licenses, sand mining activities have long been carried out making it difficult to stop activities not to mention the limited human resources, funds and lack of integration in technical implementation in the field, so there are still difficulties and obstacles in the development, supervision, and control of the miners contributed to the cause of the ongoing sand harvesting activities in the Batauga District to date.

## Conclusion

There are several internal and external factors as discussed earlier as the cause of the rise of sand mining in the Batauga sub-district. Nevertheless, this research still needs further explanation, especially on external factors that have not gotten more comprehensive information so that it becomes one of the shortcomings of this study.

Another interesting thing that was also found was that this sand mining activity had triggered conflicts between communities triggered by land grabs or problems between fellow miners. In the beginning, sand mining workers were people in the surrounding area of Masiri or Bandar Batauga Urban Village, but as the demand for sand increased, many workers from outside the Batauga Sub-district were paid by landowners to be mined, which eventually became a problem. Besides, in the Batauga Sub-district, the phenomenon of new mining in the form of mining rock and logging is also the most discussed issue in recent years. Presumably, these issues can be made by research objects for other researchers.

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