

Political Commitment in Managing Border Tourism

Elyta^{*1}, Syarif Redha Fachmi Al Qadrie², Herlan³, Syarifah Nurma Afhiani⁴, Syarif Usmulyadi⁵

¹⁻⁵Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Tanjungpura, Indonesia

*Corresponding author E-mail: elyta@fisip.untan.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to analyze Political Commitment in managing border tourism in Kapuas Hulu District. The border is one of the potentials owned by Indonesia for the development of boundaries, such as tourism activities in Kapuas Hulu Regency, West Kalimantan. From this context, the explorative potential of the Regency is quite diverse, regarding nature, culture and adventure tourism. This is in line with the challenges encountered in the management of border tourism, such as the lack of supporting facilities, as well as the formation of cooperation and capital in managing exploration toward superiority. Furthermore, political commitment is needed in the management and development of border tourism, specifically through three aspects, namely verbal (expressed), institutional, and budgetary. By using a qualitative descriptive method, Political Commitment in the management of border tourism was analyzed. The data collection process also emphasized interviews with related parties, as secondary information sources included books, scientific journals, mass media, and documents from existing survey institutions.

Keywords: Political Commitment, Border Tourism, Potential, Challenges

INTRODUCTION

Tourism is a sector having great potential to increase national income and present economic recovery, specifically in Indonesia, which has an advantage in different regions. This advantage emphasizes the potential for tourism in the border areas of the country. From this context, border tourism was established from the globalization process that occurred due to geographical proximity, as well as cultural and ethnic similarities. The impact of globalization on the establishment of the tourism process is also the existence of visa-free rules, which prioritizes easy visitation to tourist destinations. Furthermore, border tourism is obtained from bilateral

cooperation having high interdependence. This collaboration reportedly has an output, regarding the increase of income from the tourism sector as foreign exchange. The tourism sector also has two perspectives as follows, (1) The border is an anomaly of the cultural landscape and the attractiveness of attractions, and (2) The border area has become a place for exploration activities (Timothy, 2015). Subsequently, the existence of physical and political boundaries is a sign that the civic community has reached a level of maturity and relative order, emphasizing the law-abiding stage. Boundaries also limit the internal political power integrating specific civic units within their territories based on definite values and loyalties, according to international law (Kristof, 1959).

According to the Ministry of Tourism data 2017, Indonesia had the opportunity to acquire a contribution of IDR. 223 trillion in 2018. This opportunity was obtained from the country's foreign exchange, which emphasized the visitation frequency of international tourists. For example, a total of 14.04 million people visited Indonesia for tourism purposes in 2017 (Ministry of Tourism, 2019). Despite the high visitation rate, the potential for foreign exchange earnings is yet to be appropriately maximized. Based on the national media, the foreign exchange potential presented by the Ministry of Tourism was far from the maximum achievement of the Indonesian tourism sector (Detik.com, 2018). This indicates that the potential obtained from the exploration industry is capable of exceeding the previous data of the previous Ministry of Tourism. From this context, the authoritative party predicted the foreign exchange value of the tourism sector to increase to US\$1.7 billion or around IDR 24 billion in 2022 (Menpan.go.id, 2021). Besides being a demarcation line, the border is also an area of economic and military defense for bordering countries, which shows sovereignty over their territory. From these descriptions, several conflicts are often observed on the boundaries, including the following (1) Colorado-River water management disruption

between the United States and Mexico (Bernal & Solis, 2000; Sánchez-Muguía, 2011), (2) A Sino-Indian border conflict involving India and China (Hoffmann, 2006; Vertzberger & India's, 1982), (3) Land conflicts on the West African boundary (Lentz, 2003), and (4) The South China Sea disruption between Malaysia and Indonesia (Druce & Baikoeni, 2016; Majumdar, 2015).

These issues are examples of various forms of border conflict in different parts of the world. According to several previous studies, border management emphasizing non-mutual benefits, territorial takeovers, and economic resource struggles were the main sources of conflict. However, other reports showed the methods by which mutually beneficial cooperation was able to resolve the boundary disruptions (Bernal & Solis, 2000; Horlick-Jones & Sime, 2004; Ikome, 2012; Majumdar, 2015; Sánchez-Munguía, 2011).

The tourism sector is one of the mutually beneficial cooperation, which minimizes conflict at the border. Based on several studies, tourism was capable of becoming a connecting sector between two or more bordering countries asides from contributing to the economy (Gelbman & Timothy, 2010; Ilbery & Saxena, 2011; Timothy, 1995), specifically in conflicted border areas (Gelbman, 2008; Mansfeld & Korman, 2015). Subsequent arguments also stated that the industry was influenced by political boundaries and State/Government policies, regarding the administrative management and physical barriers on both border sides. Moreover, borders have several dynamic effects on tourism, such as tourist attraction and barrier development, as well as landscape modification. This explains that boundary lines are capable of reflecting human socio-political values and attracting visitors (Gelbman & Timothy, 2010). As a very wide territory bordering many countries both land and sea, Indonesia is yet to obtain wide attention regarding border tourism. The mainland of the country is also geographically bordered by Malaysia (Kalimantan), Papua New Guinea (Papua), and East Timor in the north, east, and south, respectively. In Indonesia, the

development of recent tourism studies include the following, (1) community-based rural tourism with an empowerment approach (Halid & Abdul, 2018; Hijriati & Mardiana, 2014; Sudarmadji & Darmanto, 2014), (2) marine exhibition (Andriyani, Hardi, & Husnita, 2012; Sutono, Briandana, Doctoralina, Rekarti, & Dwityas, 2018), (3) ecotourism (Arida, Baiquni, Janianton, & Ahimsa-putra, 2014; Firdaus & Tutri, 2017), (4) cultural tourism (Firdaus, 2018; Latupapua, Pudyatmoko, Fandeli, & Baiquni, 2015; Picard, 2005).

West Kalimantan is one of the areas having border tourism potential, regarding its tourist attractions yet to be optimally used to attract foreigners, specifically citizens of neighbouring countries. Several destinations also serve as the main attraction for border tourism, such as Kapuas Hulu, which borders Malaysia. This destination has a land area of 29842 km² and great potential in the natural tourism field (Kapuashulukab.go.id, 2020). It also has several objects that are potentially leading border tourist destinations. From this context, at least eight leading destinations are found in Kapuas Hulu, including Tourism in Danau Sentarum (TNDS) and Betung Kerihun National Parks, Tegenang, Pelaik, Meliau, Kalimantan Forest Exploration, Potan, and Nanga Bungan to Tanjung Lokang (Equator.co.id, 2016). The existence of tourist destinations amidst the border communities between countries is also responsible for specifically providing opportunities to local people, regarding the introduction of the existing culture in Kapuas Hulu. Moreover, the cultural wealth of the local community continuously complements the beauty of existing tourist objects. From these contexts, tourism and cultural objects are capable of complementing and perfecting each other. This indicates that Malaysians are capable of visiting Kapuas Hulu for cultural and ecological enjoyment when both objects (tourism and culture) are appropriately managed. Trade-economic activity and interaction are also quite high in the border areas, as observed from the long-term traditional business between

Indonesia and Malaysia. In addition, the behavioural interaction of border communities in the two countries is triggered by similar customs, ethnicity, and language, which are capable of being the basic capital for mutually beneficial communication. Regarding the development of tourism potential in the border area, various challenges are still encountered by all parties, specifically in managing the existing prospects.

In Kapuas Hulu, appropriate management needs to be considered as a strategy for accelerating tourism development. Management is a distinctive process, which consists of planning, organizing, and monitoring, to determine and achieve goals through human resources and other sources (Terry, 2006). This is considered the art of planning, organizing, directing, coordinating, and controlling human and national resources to achieve predetermined goals. It is also an activity process that includes planning, organizing, implementing, and controlling (Terry & Leslie, 1992). For the development of tourist objects in Kapuas Hulu Regency, the management of border tourism potential is needed, indicating the requirement for commitment between various administrative parties. This is specifically required in coordinating the formation and implementation of appropriate policies, which are capable of assisting the management and development of border tourism. The importance of building political commitment in advancing the agenda of the government is also related to the management of border tourism, leading to future potential development. In managing the potential and challenges of border tourism, management and processes are supported by three factors, namely knowledge and basic issues, politics and government, as well as capacity and resources. In tourism management, politics and the government are considered crucial factors as the owner of power in forming policies. This shows that the political commitment of bureaucrats is important in implementing border tourism management policies. Political commitment also consists of three dimensions, namely (1) Verbal (expressed)

commitment, oral support for issues by authoritative political leaders, through the level of existing problems in Kapuas Hulu, (2) Institutional commitment, which includes the specific policies and organizational infrastructure supporting the management of the upstream Headquarters potential in tourism objects, and (3) Budgetary commitment includes the allocation of financial resources.

Therefore, this study aims to analyze Political Commitment in managing border tourism in Kapuas Hulu District. From this context, the following question was formed, "how does political commitment influence the management of border tourism in Kapuas Hulu District?". This specifically emphasizes the effects of verbal, institutional and budgetary commitments on the development of tourism in the district. The results obtained are also expected to determine the situation of political commitment in managing and developing border tourism.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a descriptive qualitative method, which was carried out due to the analysis of Political Commitment in the management of border tourism (Komariah & Satori, 2011). The implemented data also emphasized interviews with related parties, as secondary information sources prioritized books, scientific journals, mass media, and documents from existing survey institutions. Based on the interviews, literature review, and previous reports, the data obtained were descriptively analyzed to determine and evaluate Political Commitment in managing border tourism. Subsequently, this study was conducted in Kapuas Hulu District, one of the boundary areas having several tourist and cultural destinations not owned by the neighbouring country, Malaysia. The study participants were also the heads of the Betung Kelihun National Park.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Verbal commitment (expressed) in the management of border tourism in Kapuas Hulu District

Commitment is the act of pledging to undertake a specific action or responsibility for oneself, another person, a group, or an organization (Kreitner & Kinicki, 2010). It is also interpreted as the strong recognition and involvement of a person in a specific organization (Darmawan, 2013). Furthermore, verbal communication is commonly conveyed by the sender to the recipient of the message, through oral and orthographic words (Nurudin, 2016). From this context, a verbal commitment is then interpreted as a political obligation emphasizing the oral support for issues by civic leaders, through the level of existing problems and several communication media (Boli, Baliwati & Sukandar, 2018). In this case, the issue of managing border tourism in Kapuas Hulu Regency was analyzed, especially in the implementation of verbal political commitments. These commitments were executed through speeches by the concerned parties, outreach efforts, and the establishment of discussion forums among the stakeholders. From this description, the role of the government was specifically prioritized, regarding the provision of a border tourism management policy.

In Kapuas Hulu, several political figures conducted verbal commitments, such as the speech of the District Head during the inauguration of the rafting tourist attraction in Rantau Kalis Village, Kalis District, Kapuas Hulu Regency, West Kalimantan Province, Indonesia. This proved that the political figure was always committed to the development of tourist attraction rafting, a leading tourism potential in Kapuas Hulu Regency (Diskominfo.kapuashulukab.go.id, 2022). Besides this, the regional government and hundreds of youths were committed to promoting the tourism potential of Lake Sentarum on Malay Island, in the Danau Sentarum area (Kalbar.antaranews.com, 2018). These verbal commitments were positive steps in the development of tourism in Kapuas Hulu District,

although the management process encountered various problems regarding the present government. In this case, infrastructural facilities were the most crucial problem hindering the development of tourism. The main supporting facilities, such as easy tourist accessibility, was also hindered in this developmental process. Although many tourist destinations have high attractiveness, adequate connectivity was still unavailable. From these descriptions, Betung Kelihun National Park was found to lack supporting facilities, specifically accessibility.

This led to the emphasis of the location head on the accessibility limitation, through the following interview session. "In general, the limitation of supporting infrastructure for Betung Kelihun National Park tourism is accessed. Since tourism development in the area is difficult, accessibility is still a major problem, leading to the isolation of the community. Moreover, the availability of electricity is limited, causing the low capacity and distribution of power, specifically in the Kapuas Hulu border area. In this case, the community depends on purchasing electricity from Malaysia in the Badau area". The Head of Betung Kelihun National Park also stated that foreigners experienced difficulties in visiting the tourist destinations due to expensive transport costs besides from the need to widen access roads. Regarding standard prices in the area, the cost of chartering a Kijang car from Kapuas Hulu Regency to Pontianak was around IDR. 1,500,000 with a distance of 12-14 h. Several complaints about the high cost of location arrival were also conveyed by Italian tourists. This was caused by the expenditure of approximately IDR. 1,500,000 during the visit with their families, leading to various comments emphasizing the high costs incurred. In this case, prices were not competitive because local operators were unable to suppress the large costs prioritizing state or government policies. Besides non-standard access, the cost of arriving to these destinations was also expensive. This indicated that affordable vehicle rates became expensive immediately the

tourists arrived, causing the hesitation of people to visit the location (Kalbar.antaraneews.com, 2019).

Distance and time are also validated as the main barriers hindering the participation of tourists in tourism (Weaver, 2015). This indicated that the assessment of distance, fast travel time, and low cost were tools for evaluating the impact of exploration (Lupoli, Morse, Bailey & Schelhas, 2015). Furthermore, the conditions of inadequate accessibility and the high cost of transportation were emphasized by Indra, the Head of the Division, which stated that expensive expenses and access difficulty in Indonesia triggered the interest of foreigners in visiting other tourist destinations in external border areas, such as Singapore, Kuching, Kuala Lumpur, etc. In Kapuas Hulu, the supporting facilities for tourism activities still have many amenity limitations in sanitation and shopping centers. From this context, sanitation was generally inadequate and not standardized, specifically in the villages around the tourist area. Regarding the souvenir or shopping center, the condition emphasized being situated in a narrow area, where market expansion had not been conducted. In addition, the economic development potential of tourism activities was determined by the operational environment, as well as the managerial decisions of local administrators and State/local government.

Based on the development of Kapuas Hulu exploration sector, the inadequate quality of Tourism Human Resources was the dominant hindrance factor. These challenges impeded the communication between the tourism service providers and foreign tourists visiting Kapuas Hulu. From this context, the improvement of human resources was needed to support tourism development while reflecting good and more attractive conditions (Sanak, 2012). Since human resources occupy a strategic position in an organization, they should be effectively and efficiently mobilized toward achieving high-level efficiency (Rivai & Sagala, 2009). Besides this, the

establishment of comfort in tourist visits need to be considered, according to the Head of the Betung Kelihun National Park, Gunawan. The need for companion or guide services was also inversely proportional to the skills or abilities of the community, because those with higher education preferred to work outside the area. This perspective was justified based on the statements of Indra, where the residents that had completed high school education in Kapuas Hulu district moved outside the area to work. In this case, only parents and young children in elementary or junior high schools were remaining in the village, causing inadequate capacity and expertise.

Based on these descriptions, the problems encountered were quite serious in the management of border tourism in Kapuas Hulu Regency. This proved that the government responsible and committed to advancing the border tourism in Indonesia did not appropriately conduct verbal commitments. The inappropriate performance was also accompanied by the unavailability of a forum for mutual coordination and socialization, which emphasized participation in promoting and determining solutions to existing problems.

Institutional commitment in the management of border tourism in Kapuas Hulu district

Institutional commitment is another part of political obligation, including specific policies and organizational infrastructure (Boli, Baliwati & Sukandar, 2018). This is because good institutions were unable to be separated from their obligations toward goal achievements (Irfan, 2017). From this context, commitment is needed in an institution, specifically in supporting the management of border tourism. It is also required in the smooth sustainability of the boundary exploration improvement. Therefore, a good institution is expected to support and commit to the advancement of institution or organization potential (Mutmainah & Sumardjo, 2014). In

Kapuas Hulu, the tourism potential was quite diverse from tourist objects with a background in regional culture and customs, nature and culinary exploration, etc. This enabled tourists to select attractions according to their wishes. When the tourism sector is appropriately developed, it subsequently affects the environment. This confirmed that sustainable tourism development was needed to maintain existing exploration (Ruhanen et al, 2015). According to the World Tourism Organization 1998 sustainable tourism was considered the exploration development capable of meeting the demands of tourists and society while preserving and increasing opportunities for future improvement (Qian, Shen & Law, 2018).

Kapuas Hulu is a district located on the border between countries, namely Indonesia-Malaysia. This district has various tourist destinations and is not owned by Malaysia. Based on the data obtained from the Youth, Sports, and Tourism Office, various exploration objects managed by the State or government and community were observed in Kapuas Hulu. These objects included the following, (1) Natural tourism, regarding a trip in the forest containing various flora and fauna, (2) The landscape of the Danau Sentarum National Park or DSNP, (3) The wildlife remaining in the nature, (4) The life of the Lake Sentarum community, (5) Local culture, such as betang houses, dances and music, (6) Adventure or natural tourism, such as white water rafting, etc. Furthermore, the number of visits to the Kapuas Hulu tourist destination was dominated by natives and foreigners. This showed a positive trend of tourism activities on the border, especially in Kapuas Hulu. The interest of foreign tourists, especially those from Malaysia, had also continued to increase in recent years. The following is the data emphasizing the visitation of tourists to Kapuas Hulu in 2020.

Table 1. Information on Arrivals from Overseas During 2022

No	Month	Foreign Tourists	Domestic Tourist	Amount
1	January	849	1976	2825
2	February	742	608	1350
3	March	485	594	1079
4	April	0	0	0
5	May	0	0	0
6	June	0	0	0
7	July	46	597	643
8	August	28	399	427
9	September	33	478	511
10	October	54	693	747
11	November	39	446	485
12	December	63	1014	1077
TOTAL		2399	6805	9144
Margin of Error (5%)		116,95	340,25	
TOTAL		2222	6465	8687

Source: (Statistiksektoral.kapuashulukab.go.id, 2021)

Based on Table 1, more than 2,000 foreigners visited the tourist destination in 2020, indicating that tourism in Kapuas Hulu was quite attractive for people from other countries. The development of sustainable tourism destinations also attracted considerable attention from several experts over the years, specifically in the positive and negative impacts exploration on resources and society. Although tourism positively and negatively affected society, its development still depended on the patterns by which destination residents understood the effects (Statistiksektoral.kapuashulukab.go.id, 2021). Local tourists also performed many visits to Kapuas Hulu Regency, to carry out tourism activities. From the existing data, continuous increase were observed regarding the visitation of tourists to Kapuas Hulu district yearly. This was in line with the observation in 2019, where 23,852 people conducted tourism activities at various tourist objects in the district.

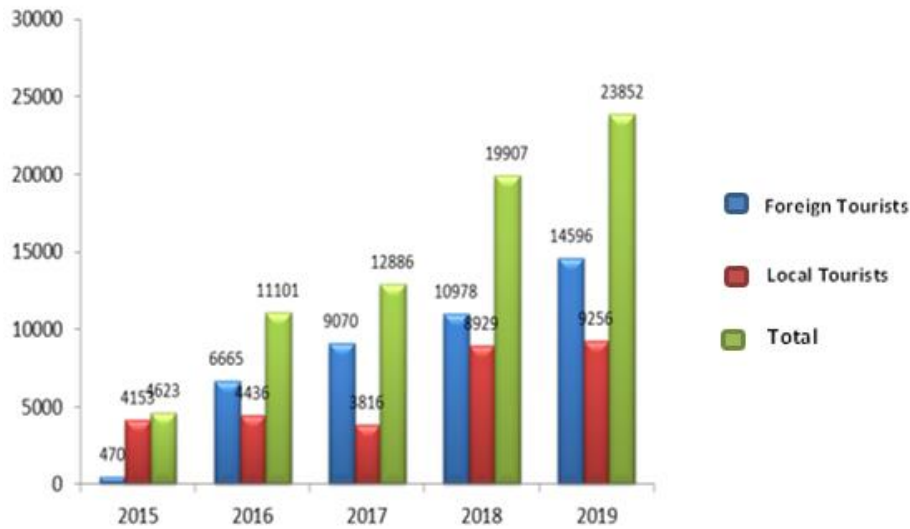


Figure 1. Data on Tourist Visits to Kapuas Hulu

Source: (Data.kalbarprov.go.id, 2020)

In Figure 1, the tourism potential in the Kapuas Hulu border area had a great attraction for foreign and local tourists due to the high number of visits. Existing data also showed that the potential contained natural tourist destinations, such as national parks, lakes, hills, etc. In addition, adventure tourism destinations such as Tubung Hill, Datah Diaan Hiking, etc, were supported by cultural exploration from the local community.

Furthermore, the West Kalimantan Kapuas Hulu Youth, Sports, and Tourism Office noted 115 tourist attractions in the Kapuas Hulu area (see table 2). Out of the 115 tourist objects, four became the leading tourist attractions in Kapuas Hulu Regency, namely Kedungkang Tourism around the Danau Sentarum area, Batang Lupar District, Berunyau Waterfall Tourism, Bunut Hulu District, Beluan Tourism Complex, Hulu Gurung and Empangau Districts, and Bunut Hilir District (Kalbar.antaraneews.com,2021). In addition to increasing visits, the Kapus Hulu government also holds various festivals to attract local and foreign tourists, including the Danau Sentarum Festival, which is packed with multiple activities such as displaying local wisdom of Kapuas Hulu's natural potential through cultural customs carnivals, lake walks, and exploration of Lake Sentarum, among others

(Mediaindonesia.com,2022).

Table 2. Number of Tourism Objects in Kapuas Hulu Regency (Situation as of 30 April 2019)

No	Tourist Attraction Name	Location	Type Of Attractive
1	Taman Nasional Betung	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism, Cultural Tourism, Adventure Tourism And Special Interest Tourism
2	Taman Nasional Danau Sentarum	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism, Cultural Tourism, Adventure Tourism And Special Interest Tourism
3	Bukit Batu	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
4	Bukit Lebur	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
5	Bukit Libang	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
6	Lintas Alam Datar Diaan	Kapuas Hulu District	Adventure Tourism
7	Danau Banin	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
8	Danau Kambuan	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
9	Danau / Bendung Besua	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
10	Batu Bagantung	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
11	Bukit Ampan	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
12	Bukit Penampak	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
13	Bukit Beluan	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
14	Bukit Raya	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
15	Bukit Baeik Sampei	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
16	Bukit Mandi Awan	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
17	Bukit Talay	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
18	Bukit Tubung	Kapuas Hulu District	Adventure Tourism
19	Riam Bendak	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
20	Bau Lintang	Kapuas Hulu District	Adventure Tourism
21	Riam Delapan	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
22	Liang Kuang	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
23	Ait Terjun Makkong	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
24	Gurun Makai	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism
25	Danau hadir Perantau	Kapuas Hulu District	Nature Tourism

Source: (Kapuashulukab.go.id, 2019)

Lake Sentarum is one of the most frequently visited tourist attractions, whose natural conditions are still appropriately preserved presently. This National Park consists of Lanjak and Tekenang Hills, as well as Nanga Kenelang where the panoramic view of the lake is observed. Most local tourists also use transportation such as boats, with canoeing being a uniqueness rarely found in other areas. This is because because the natural beauty of Lake Sentarum is enjoyed during canoeing. Moreover, the lake, which has a vast area on the largest continent in Asia, contains millions of species of flora and fauna. Every year for 10 months, this destination is often filled with water, whose withdrawal leads to the development of a small pond

containing fish. Besides being famous for its natural beauty, Lake Sentarum also has some uniqueness. In the development of tourism, the commitment of the government was observed from the formation of the Regional Regulation Number 20 of 2015, concerning the Designation of Kapuas Hulu District as a Conservation Regency. This indicated that the establishment of the area as a conservation regency led to the provision of various positive impacts on the development of tourism destinations. From this context, the upstream tourism conditions need to be maintained naturally. In addition, the designation of the Betung Kerihun National Park and Danau Sentarum presently have the status of a biosphere reserve granted by UNESCO. This was realized after a long process of cross-sectoral collaboration between the Kapuas Hulu Regional Government, as well as the Betung Kerihun National Park and Danau Sentarum Center (Info.kapuashulukab.go.id, 2020).

Budget commitment in the management of border tourism in Kapuas Hulu Regency

Budgetary commitments are also included in the field of political commitment, regarding the allocation of financial and other resources (Boli, Baliwati & Sukandar, 2018). This commitment is very influential on a business, specifically in the development stage. Besides being a financial plan as incomes and costs, it is also employed as a communication, motivational, and coordination tool. This is accompanied by delegating authority from superiors to subordinates, processing budget and control, as well as evaluating performance (Damayanti, 2007). In managing tourism, budget is one of the keys to developing border tourism, which requires several support from various parties. This includes the commitment of government to providing a budget for the management and development of existing tourism potential. Budget is also one of the important variables in tourism development, where sufficient support leads to the correction of various deficiencies in facilities, infrastructures, etc.

According to the existing data, a proposal was observed for a National Medium-Term Development Plan, regarding the establishment of the tourism sector in Kapuas Hulu District. From the statements of the Betung Kelihun National Park Head, the submission of the National Medium-Term Development Plan and the Toll Road Regulatory Agency had three pillars verified to advance the Kapuas Hulu area. Based on the Regional Finance Agency (2018), the total funds reached IDR. 1,694,329,049.70, including PAD, Balancing Finance, and other incomes (Kapuashulukab.go.id, 2016; Diskominfo.kapuashulukab.go.id, 2018). In its implementation, the success rate only reached a specific percentage per year, implying that physical development was still experiencing difficulties in enhancing border tourism in Kapuas Hulu Regency. According to the Head of the Kompakh community social institution, Hermas, development practices had not reached the core or implementation level of development. This emphasized the role of the involved parties, which did not provide intense attention and were fully committed to developing the border tourism sector. As the Head of the Tourism Sector at the Youth, Sports and Tourism Office of Kapuas Hulu Regency, Indra also mentioned that the main problem was related to areas that should be conservation districts.

Indra also emphasized that tourist attractions need to be the spearhead of welfare improvement, although the general contribution to development is yet to be observed. This proved that the construction was worth 1 billion, damaged, and unable to be completed, verifying its reputation as a burden and challenge. From this context, the difficulties in physical development were completely reflected, with the condition subsequently exacerbated by the lack of aid funds obtained. However, a channel of assistance was observed from the center after experiencing a long and difficult process. This was to develop the Lake Sentarum included as a National Tourism Strategic Area, with the state attempting to be present in

the border tourism management and development in Kapuas Hulu Regency. Based on the results, the commitment adopted by the state or government emphasized the implementation of the agreed rules and policies. The provision of the maximum possible service was also considered without causing difficulties for tourists travelling abroad. Subsequently, the provision of maximum facilities was prioritized to serve the foreigners visiting West Kalimantan. From these descriptions, state or government commitment is very interesting and highly needed in Indonesia presently, specifically in the political obligation toward managing border tourism. In this case, the tourism sector often requires attention from various parties. Development should also be evenly distributed for people to experience prosperity. Despite the improvement of road infrastructure or other physical matters, development still includes many aspects such as increasing education guarantees,

From these results, the state or government is capable of contributing to the improvement of regional or original income through local tourist destinations. This is conducted by opening new jobs and helping the economy of the local community. Based on the implementation of change or development for smooth operation, good cooperation is also required between the community and adequate government commitment. This is because development was unable to be separated from the role of the community and policy owners. To increase the political commitment of government in tourism management, direction needs to be provided while acquiring input from the community, and vice versa. In this case, the community is capable of carrying out appropriately implemented policies. This form of participation reflects the unique nature of the state or government, accompanied by a renewal. Besides this, the goal of the involved parties to develop tourism areas also led to the welfare of its people. From this context, strengthening the consistency of the State or local administration is needed for the encouragement of border tourism

management perceptions.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results, several challenges were observed in the border tourism development in Kapuas Hulu, due to the three weak indicators of political commitment, namely verbal, institutional, and budgetary obligations. This indicated that the government had several commitments from various factors, such as the verbal obligations conducted through speeches, discussions, etc. Additional commitments were observed through policy measures, including the establishment of conference areas and allocation of expenditures for tourism development costs in the regional budget. Proposals were also provided to the central government for the development of tourism-supporting infrastructure. Although inadequate government concern were found for the formation of policies to accelerate the improvement of tourism support facilities, a very weak political commitment was still illustrated. Regarding the management and development of border tourism in Kapuas Hulu Regency, the challenges encountered were resolved through the government political commitment improvement. Additional resolution was also carried out concerning the central government, by considering tourism a priority sector for development and empowerment. To enhance an ideal and competitive Kapuas Hulu exploration governance, the State or local government should establish a Border Tourism Management Agency, which is capable of becoming the main actor in the management and development processes.

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