

***KELEKAK*: A LOCAL WISDOM to SUSTAIN
COMMUNITY'S LEGACY. A CASE STUDY from
BELITUNG DISTRICT, BANGKA BELITUNG PROVINCE,
INDONESIA**



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Preface

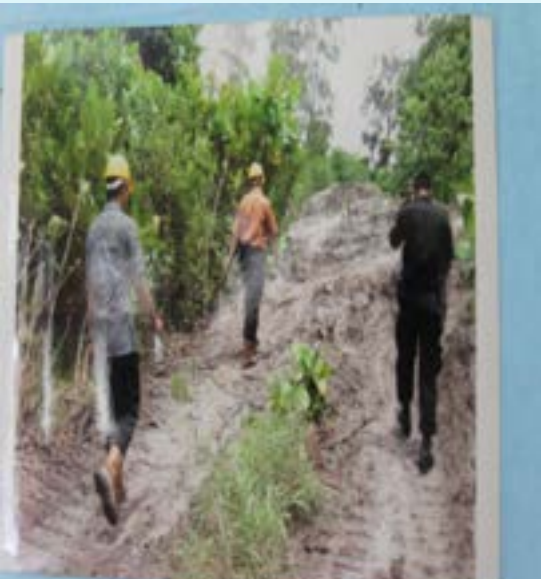
Site Map



□ Bangka-Belitung Province was established in 21 November 2000, used to be part of South Sumatra Province (Law Number 27 of 2000).

□ Bangka-Belitung (BB): as sites of mining exploration, since the Dutch Colonial Period in 19th, under Bangka Tin Wining Bedriff (BTW), NV Singkep Tin Exploitatie Maatschappij (NV Sitem), then taken over by BPU Tambang Timah and PN Tambang Timah.

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❑ Two types of mining activities: legal (government and its collaborators), and illegal (local peoples and capital owners). As a consequence: a massive environmental destruction (cf: *Kolong*)

❑ Subsistence: *lada/sahang* (Muntok white pepper), rubber, palm oil, tin , fishery, and other agricultural products.

❑ Ethnic composition: Melayu, China, Java, Batak, Bugis, Makassar, Buton, Timor and other ethnic groups from Indonesia.



Local Wisdom

- ▶ *Kelekak*: literary means an area of fruit garden.
- ▶ Planted by parents as family heritage for their descendants.
- ▶ *Kelekak* consists of: durian, lychee, mango, and other fruit tress (multi purpose fruits).
- ▶ Parents prepared *Kelekak* for the next generation, despite they, sometimes did not harvest the fruits (futuristic ideals).



Significance of Kelekak

1. Ecology: to sustain a water (reservation) zone, and minimize drought (environment's vision).
2. Economy: as an additional income for the owners (market's value).
3. Social: to maintain social nexus among members of a community groups, linked through kinship lines (social values).
4. *Kelekak*: rooted deeply in local people's social life, but undergoing changes.

Function of Kelekak

- ▶ *Kelekak*: Accepted and treated as local heritage and legacy of the past.
- ▶ Found in 9 villages in Belitung District with 73 sites. Aside *Kelekak* there are two heritages:
 1. *Hutan Pemalian* (forbidden forest): sterilized from all human activities, used only by village shaman.
 2. *Riding* forest (as village border).

Sustaining the Legacy: Mangrove Issue

- ▶ Political factor: Regional Autonomy Policy issued in 1999: Role and authority of the local government. Central–periphery (power) relations.
- ▶ Natural resources, political and economic aspects. Do not ignore local knowledge.
- ▶ Participatory dialogue: stakeholders involved.
- ▶ Outcome planned: sites, local counterparts, upcoming agenda, and commitment.

Participatory Process

- A. Considering the condition of environment.
- B. LIPI (organizer) as scientific institute takes initiative to organize dialogue. It needs a forum.
- C. Consultation on conservation, sites, legal aspect, stakeholders, continuity of conservation of mangrove and seedling of shrimp. Setting agenda for further actions.
- D. Agreement between LIPI and local partners.

CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED

- I. Establishing trust and responsibility among stakeholders (including local government).
- II. Main issues to be settled down.
- III. Conservation of mangrove needs funds and its future sustainability (to have same perception).
- IV. Skilled personnel to preserve the program.
- V. Continuous support from local peoples and government (local village to provincial level).

On Going Process of Negotiation

1. Collaborative works take time: pros' and cons'.
2. LIPI has completed the following steps: discussing with local people and local government (related institutes).
3. Conservation site, local support, local personnel, and mangrove saplings.
4. Further negotiation: political will of the local government, protecting conservation site, etc.

Future Improvement

- ▶ Collaborative in the future process covers the following possibilities: to convince local people about the importance of environment: via education and agricultural extension. Design alternative jobs for local people, build market for local products, and increase local capacity in economic developments.
- ▶ Involving more stakeholders in the negotiation process, and sharing the responsibility.

Attracting Issue

- A. Globalized world has attracted people attention more, to be compared with local wisdom (local legacy).
- B. *Kelekak* is a neglecting cultural element, and has its multi functions.
- A. Synergizing modernization approaches, and traditional values will be (more) productive in local context. This needs agency and structure.

Closing Remarks

- A. Indonesia so rich with hundreds of ethnic groups, languages/dialects as well as local wisdom that shapes Indonesia as a nation state. Political will play important role too.
- B. *Kelekak* is one among many cultural riches, to be adopted for local people's welfare (not simply economy).
- C. Respect and sustain local legacy, as it is a must.

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